

Israel's House of Cards

Text: Hosea 10:6-15

Date: 10-4-26

1. The faulty foundation of idols will be destroyed (Hosea 10:6, 8).

Whatever honor or glory, riches and reputation attributed to these idols was instantly destroyed when the idols and the gold/silver associated with them were taken to Assyria.

The idol had become nothing more than a burden—an object that offered no value, provided no help, and served no useful purpose.

Application: With the nation in ruins, the king destroyed, the priests and people helpless, now the object of their trust is also destroyed.

The sin of idolatry produces nothing but noxious, unproductive, and destructive growth. This is a tragic conclusion to a godless, hopeless life. As the Lord's judgment befalls His people, they run to the mountains and hills and beg for them to cover and fall on them.

2. The fall of the leadership (Hosea 10:7).

3. Israel's fixated rebellion will be chastised (Hosea 10:9-11).

The sin of the entire northern kingdom will bring a greater and just punishment: at God's timing, a complete overthrow and dethronement of Israel will unfold at the hands of Assyria. **Application:** God will vindicate Himself on the basis of His righteousness.

4. The fervent call to righteousness has been rejected (Hosea 10:12-15).

The Lord sends another word, a word of hope and pleading. The Lord beseeches Israel through three commands: 1) Sow righteousness through faithfully pursuing the God of righteousness. 2) Reap steadfast love and God's goodness which is predicated on sowing righteousness. A person who sows to the glory of God will always reap a bountiful harvest of blessing, prospering and fruitful joy. 3) God begs the people to plow the fallow ground; that is of their hard-hearts.

Final Word: The nation was like a house of cards. Israel had built a foundation of earthly treasures, idols, and trust in other nations. What looked impressive on the outside was built on everything except God. Friend, the same danger exists for us today. We may choose to build our lives on money, possessions, success, relationships, reputation, politics, how much education and knowledge we have, or on our own qualifications and abilities. While we may have a temporary stability and support, not one of these things can bear the burden of life and solve our problems that belong to God alone. Whatever we build without God may appear strong for a time, but when the difficulties and adversity comes, only what is built on the sure foundation on God Alone will hold up. What are you building upon?