

Exchanging Blessing for Judgment

Text: Hosea 9:8-17

Date: 9-13-26

1. A total rejection of the blessing of God's prophets (Hosea 9:8-9).

One possibility is that God gave Ephraim the role of watchman, as a protector of all that He had given to His people. The watchman was helped by God and – to begin with – in fellowship with God. The watchman should have been a light to the godless nations around them, but instead he chose the deceptive path which opened the door for hostility against the house of God (Jerusalem/Temple). In this way, the prophets were watchmen against God.

The second possibility is that the watchman is God's prophet. As the prophet proclaimed God's judgment against Israel, the people responded with hostility. They laid traps for him and hated him with open animosity, even in the house of God. In this way, the prophets were watchmen for God.

2. Reversal of blessings into curses. (Hosea 9:10-13).

Soon, this beautiful rich fruit quickly became corrupt.

A person becomes like that which he chooses to worship. The people chose to separate themselves then not to God but to the corruption and shame of Baal. In doing so the people became as detestable as that which they loved the most: Baal. See Jer. 11:13; Ps. 81:12.

The nation's honor, hope, position, and plans would be taken by God and they would lose their privileged position.

Application: Hosea pronounces a woe upon the people for he knows the severity of God turning away from His people. Woe unto any person, especially people of God who turn their back on Him. He will turn away from that person or people. "The climax of all their woes and calamities is that God will depart from them" (Feinberg 47).

3. Results of God's judgment (Hosea 9:14-17)

****Barrenness of Israel's offspring (9:14)**

Hosea pleaded with God to stop the women from having children.

Hosea's prayer was a merciful prayer; that of saving these children from great grief and the woe of Jehovah upon them.

****Departing of God's love (9:15)**

If there ever was a place that signified the people breaking the covenant, it was most clearly in Gilgal. Gilgal was one of Israel's most important covenant sites.

- Israel camped there after crossing the Jordan (Joshua 4).
- Twelve memorial stones were erected there to remember God's faithfulness.
- The men of Israel were circumcised there, renewing the covenant (Joshua 5).
- The Passover was celebrated there.
- It served as Joshua's headquarters during the conquest.
- Saul was confirmed as king there (1 Samuel 11:14–15).

But, the city was turned over to idolatry under King Jeroboam I.

Gilgal became the center of grave wickedness and was the example of unfaithfulness towards Jehovah.

****Empty home (9:15b-16a)**

The nation would face God's retribution as He would drive them out of their land, and Ephraim would be struck down and their land become barren with no crops.

****Barrenness of God's protection (9:17)**

Final Word: These are the most difficult words to hear. God will cast them away. There is not a more brutal, final word than to hear that on judgment day.