

BROKEN HEARTS

HOSEA 6 2-19-2020



The confession of the nation of Israel sounded good, but God could see through it. He could see they were concerned about healing but not cleansing. They simply wanted happiness not holiness, a change of circumstances rather than a change in character. Hosea heard them shedding tears of remorse over suffering from sin, but not tears of repentance from sin. They needed revival!

THE ROAD TO REVIVAL

The ministry of the prophet Hosea was somewhere between 755-710 BC. This would place him delivering his messages just after the powerful preaching of Amos.

Hosea served primarily during a very turbulent time in the northern kingdom just after the death of Jeroboam II in 753 BC. The nation went through six kings in 30 years with four of these monarchs being assassinated.

Society was spiraling downward morally and spiritually with vices such

as lying, theft, bloodshed, oppression, perverted justice and immorality being seen everywhere throughout the land.

The root cause for this decline, of course, was idolatry. Hosea would compare it to spiritual adultery.

We pick up the study this week in Hosea chapter 6 with a call to repent so that revival rather than ruin can be in the future for Israel.

Unfortunately, when God issued this call to Israel through His prophets, they ignored the servants of God. 2 Kings

17:5-23 tells us the stiff consequences for their resistance to the prophetic urging and pleading of Hosea.

The capital city of the Northern Kingdom was Samaria. Although they chose not to walk down the road to revival during the time of Hosea, the Scripture gives us at least two revivals or spiritual awakenings that took place several generations later in Samaria in John 4:28-43 and Acts 8:1-25. This is a great reminder that God will lead any person, city or nation toward better things if they will just walk His way.

1904 Revival in Wales

Elmer Towns wrote in his book, *The Ten Greatest Revivals Ever*, that the revival that took place in Wales was the greatest revival in history. 200,000 were saved in 2 years. As the revival spread to the United States, the Southern Baptist Convention experienced a dramatic increase (25%). FBC in Paducah, KY saw 1,000 saved in two months while Atlantic City only had 50 unsaved left in the entire city.

Corridors toward Revival, 6:1-3

Hosea begins the chapter by pointing in the direction of the corridors that lead to revival. 2 Chronicles 7:14 is the old standby for a biblical channel leading to revival, but Hosea 6:1-3 is another that clearly shows the way forward.

Returning in Personal Devotion, v. 1a

Come, let us return to the Lord...

Hosea 6:1 urges the people to shift from a pathway marked by religious rituals for God to one of a heartfelt relationship with Him.

Samuel reminded King Saul that God is looking for obedience not sacrifice from His people (1 Samuel 15:22-23). Jesus also confronted the religious elite over placing the traditions of man above a relationship with God (Mt. 15:1-9).

Restoring Spiritual Health, v. 1b-2

...for He has torn us, that He may heal us; He has struck us down, and He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us...

Hebrews 12:5-13 states that discipline from God hurts at first, but His only intention is to heal after we return to Him to restore the broken relationship.

Refocusing Our Mental Attention, v. 3

Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord...

The Bible speaks clearly of the use of our mind in pursuing God. Jesus included the mind when He urged us to love the Lord with everything we have. (Mt. 12:37; Mk. 12:30; Lk. 10:27). Paul also spoke of the importance of the mind in following the Lord (Rom. 12:1-2; Phil. 4:6-9).

Chaos without Revival, 6:4,7-10

The road that nations travel without revival is bumpy and treacherous. The Northern Kingdom was struggling beneath the social chaos of collective sin and rebellion.

Unfaithfulness, vs. 4, 7

...your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away...they dealt faithlessly with Me.

Evil, v. 8

Gilead is a city of evildoers...

Violence, vs. 8-9

Gilead is a city...tracked with blood...they murder on the way to Shechem; they commit villainy.

Theft, v. 9

As robbers lie in wait for a man, so the priests band together...

Idolatry, v. 10

In the house of Israel I have seen a horrible thing; Ephraim's whoredom is there; Israel is defiled.

Counterfeits of Revival, 6:6

There are many types of crimes of deception these days. For example, the most common is identity theft. There were 14.4 million victims in 2018. There are many ways of criminals fake their way through life.

Hosea 6:6 is an example of when God exposed a "counterfeit ring" among His worshipers.

For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

The people were still going through the motions of religious ceremonies and offering sacrifices like usual, but their hearts were simply not in it.

Malachi addressed the same thing in the closing book of the Old Testament. The prophet spoke way later than Hosea (437-417 BC), and yet, his message was very similar. The people were ceremonially active but spiritually apathetic as they offered God the leftovers of their lives.

Jonah: Case Study of Revival

The revival that came to Nineveh is a perfect example of how God can turn a place of wickedness into a place of worship.

About 20 years before Hosea preached across the North, Jonah preached to them (2 Kings 14:25).

The Lord, however, interrupted the comfortable world of Jonah by sending him to the Assyrian capital of Nineveh, known for its wickedness (1:2), violence (3:8) and lack of morality

(4:11).

One can hardly fathom the movement of God in Nineveh as Jonah declares such a simple message (8 words).

Jonah 3:5-10 describes the incredible changes that can take place in any society that repents when they hear the truth of God. Jonah 3:10 says,

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that He had said He would do to them, and He did not do it.

Cambuslang, Scotland: Case Study of Revival

Two men were burdened over the lack of spiritual power in the community of Cambuslang, Scotland long before the revival came in 1742. William McCulloch and Josh Welsh would get together and plead with God to awaken their city.

Churches were beginning to fill up by February of 1742 with people crying out for salvation, but the most dramatic move of God took place on July 6, 1742 when George Whitefield preached in an open field to a gathering of 20,000.

400 were saved in six months from Cambuslang alone! On the weekends four men would be preaching, but on Sundays, 15 men would be declaring the Word of God.

Consequence apart from Revival, 6:1,4-5,11

There is an article entitled, *The World's 12 Most Dangerous Roads*. The one at the top of the list is located in Bolivia and is called, *The Old Yungas Road*. Apparently, more than 200 people per year accidentally drive off the road and plunge down the cliff to their death. Tragic, huh! Why even take a chance by driving on that road!

Israel chose to ignore Hosea's warning about the dangers of the road of sin, so within thirty years Israel was gone. There are consequences for refusing to take the road that leads to revival.

Before Discipline Comes, vs. 4-5

What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of My mouth, and My judgment goes forth as the light.

Remember warnings given by your mother or father when you were growing up?

After Discipline Comes, v. 1

...for He has torn us...He has struck us down...

Jesus once spoke of pruning in John 15:2. What was the issue of why He said that a vinedresser prunes a branch?

Delay in the Coming of Discipline, v. 11

For you also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed.

Hosea 6, ESV

¹ *“Come, let us return to the Lord; for He has torn us, that He may heal us;*

He has struck us down, and He will bind us up.

² *After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up,*

that we may live before Him.

³ *Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord; His going out is sure as the dawn; He will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”*

⁴ *What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah?*

Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away.

⁵ *Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of My mouth,*

and My judgment goes forth as the light.

⁶ *For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.*

⁷ *But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with Me.*

⁸ *Gilead is a city of evildoers, tracked with blood.*

⁹ *As robbers lie in wait for a man, so the priests band together; they murder on the way to Shechem; they commit villainy.*

¹⁰ *In the house of Israel I have seen a horrible thing; Ephraim's whoredom is there; Israel is defiled.*

¹¹ *For you also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed.*

Additional Notes