

BROKEN HEARTS

HOSEA 8 3-25-2020



This is the second time that Hosea calls for the trumpet to sound. We heard the trumpet rally the troops in Hosea 5:8. Now, once again in Hosea 8:1 we hear the old prophet declare, "*Set the trumpet to your lips!*" This was an alarm because the enemy was coming. It was God's way of giving His people time to repent before the terror of judgment fell upon the nation. The eighth chapter of Hosea is where the Lord pronounces His sentence upon a rebellious people.

GOD IS SOUNDING THE ALARM

Have you ever thought about the various alarms that we have today?

- smoke or fire alarms
- burglar alarms
- car alarms
- alarm clocks
- tornado sirens.

The Scripture often refers to blowing a trumpet as an alarm system. In the Old Testament they blew through a ram's horn called a *shofar*. This Hebrew term is used 72 times in the Bible.

In Numbers 10:1-10, the Lord told Moses to have trumpets by his side to gather the people or to have them advance.

Overall, horns were blown publicly for various purposes in the Bible:

- alert the camp of an enemy
- assemble tribes for a feast
- announce special news
- acclaim a king
- awaken for worship.

In Hosea 8:1 God is warning His people

of impending judgment.

It is interesting that Hosea 8 refers to a trumpet warning of judgment as does Revelation 8, where a series of terrible judgments begin with a trumpet blast.

Could the current Coronavirus be a wake up call from the Lord to the entire world? Many around the world ignore God as if He doesn't even exist. Now, the world has come to a stand still. To what shall we turn our attention? I submit that we should turn to the Lord.

When the Trumpets Sound

Revelation warns of seven trumpet judgments that are coming to this planet. Rev. 8:7 speaks of the loss of 1/3 of the vegetation. Rev. 8:8-9 describes the destruction of 1/3 of the sea. 8:10-11 discloses a scary scenario where 1/3 of the fresh water becomes polluted. Rev 8:12 moves the discipline to space as 1/3 of the sun, the moon and the stars are removed. The remaining three trumpets foretell even worse expressions of God's wrath.

Arrest, 8:1

Hosea begins the chapter by referring to either an eagle or a vulture coming over the house of the Lord. This is a metaphor of the Lord's "perch" over the rebellious nation.

The average grip of a man is 20 psi, but the Bald Eagle has a grip of 400 psi. Plus, consider the speed of an eagle. National Geographic claims that an eagle can reach a speed of 150 mph in a dive for prey. Of course, the vision of the eagle is also way beyond our comprehension. For example, humans have 200,000 cones that are located within the fovea of the retina, but the Lord gave the eagle 1,000,000 cones within their retina!

So, what would be the prophet's point? He is saying to us that since the Lord can see farther, move faster and squeeze tighter, we might as well give it up! If the Lord is in pursuit of a nation, it is better to surrender than to try and run.

The Crime, 8:1

If the Lord is going to arrest us, then we can rest assured that He has reason, and He has evidence to support His claim.

Israel had done the crime, and now they must do the time. What had they done? The primary issue was the breach of contract or covenant with the Lord. They had walked away from God and had broken several of His laws along the way. In this chapter we will learn some of the specific ways they had disobeyed the Lord.

For now, Hosea begins the chapter in verse 1 with this statement, "...because they have transgressed My covenant and rebelled against My law."

Plea Bargaining, 8:2-3

Plea bargaining may work in the court rooms of United States, but it doesn't work in God's court room.

Listen in verse 2 as the defendants try to settle their case out of court for a reduction of sentence or a favorable concession.

"To Me they cry, 'My God, we--Israel-- know You.'"

The problem was that they had just rejected the season of grace the Lord had given to them, so now, they could only anticipate the arrival of the enemy as God removed His hand of protection.

"Israel had spurned the good; the enemy shall pursue him."

Another prophet named Ezekiel spoke some sobering words in Ezekiel 14:14, 20 when he told the people of Jerusalem that He would not change His mind even if Noah, Daniel and Job prayed for mercy for the city. Yikes!

The Charges, 8:4-6, 9-14

The Lord's indictment records at least seven specific charges against Israel.

Charge # 1: They Had Chosen the Wrong Kind of Leadership, 8:4

Charge # 2: They Were Practicing Idolatry, 8:4-6

Charge # 3: They Entered into Alliances with Unbelievers, 8:9-10

Charge # 4: They Were a Stumbling Block for Sin to Others, 8:11

Charge # 5: They Were Questioning the Word of God, 8:12

Charge # 6: They Were Consuming What Should Have Been Given as Tithes & Offerings on Self, 8:13

Charge # 7: They Had Forgotten God and Had Placed Their Trust in Man, 8:14

Look back over this list and place a checkmark by any of these charges that could be said of America in 2020. It is time for us to repent as a nation.

The Verdict, 8:5, 13

The Lord hands down the verdict after having heard the facts from both sides and having carefully and sufficiently examined the evidence.

The verdict was obviously guilty of the charges. It reminds us of when Daniel stood before a young Babylonian king named Belshazzar in Daniel chapter 5 and declared that his case had been weighed in the scales of justice and found wanting (Daniel 5:27).

Before we pick up stones to cast at

Israel or Babylon, we might want to take a look at the truth about our own guilt before God.

Oh, how we love to quote Jesus' words from John 3:16, and we should. God does love the world! This is huge! But, we just need to face the truth of what He said just after His statement about His love for the world. Jesus said that any man who refuses to place his faith in Christ is already condemned (John 3:16-21). Romans 3:9-26 confronts us with the same reality and truth of our sin.

When Did Hosea Preach?

Dr. John MacArthur

Obadiah	850-840 BC	Zephaniah	635-625 BC
Joel	835-796 BC	Jeremiah	627-570 BC
Jonah	784-774 BC	Habakkuk	620-605 BC
Amos	763-755 BC	Daniel	605-536 BC
Hosea	755-710 BC	Ezekiel	593-570 BC
Isaiah	739-680 BC	Haggai	520-505 BC
Micah	735-710 BC	Zechariah	520-470 BC
Nahum	650-630 BC	Malachi	437-417 BC

The Sentence, 8:1, 3-4, 6-8, 10-14

It can be devastating when a nation that has persistently resisted the Lord learns their sentence from the Lord.

When the sentence was handed down...

Conflict with the Assyrians, vs. 1, 3
...one like a vulture is over the house of the Lord...the enemy will pursue him.

Destruction of the Idols, vs. 4, 6
*...they made idols for their own destruction...
 The calf at Samaria shall be broken to pieces.*

Lack of Production / Prosperity, v. 7
For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. The standing grain has no heads, it shall yield no flour; if it were to yield, strangers would devour it.

International Irrelevance, v. 18
Israel is swallowed up; already they are among the nations as a useless vessel.

Sorrows in Exile, vs. 10, 13
Though they hire allies among the nations, I will soon gather them up. And the king and the princes shall soon writhe because of the tribute. ...Now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins; they shall return to Egypt.

Destruction of the Nation, v. 14
For Israel has forgotten his Maker and built palaces, and Judah has multiplied fortified cities; so I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour her strongholds.

Hosea 8, ESV

- ¹ *Set the trumpet to your lips! One like a vulture is over the house of the Lord, because they have transgressed My covenant and rebelled against My law.*
- ² *To me they cry, “My God, we—Israel—know You.”*
- ³ *Israel has spurned the good; the enemy shall pursue him.*
- ⁴ *They made kings, but not through Me. They set up princes, but I knew it not. With their silver and gold they made idols for their own destruction.*
- ⁵ *I have spurned your calf, O Samaria. My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of innocence?*
- ⁶ *For it is from Israel; a craftsman made it; it is not God. The calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces.*
- ⁷ *For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. The standing grain has no heads; it shall yield no flour; if it were to yield, strangers would devour it.*
- ⁸ *Israel is swallowed up; already they are among the nations as a useless vessel.*
- ⁹ *For they have gone up to Assyria, a wild donkey wandering alone; Ephraim has hired lovers.*
- ¹⁰ *Though they hire allies among the nations, I will soon gather them up. And the king and princes shall soon writhe because of the tribute.*
- ¹¹ *Because Ephraim has multiplied altars for sinning, they have become to him altars for sinning.*
- ¹² *Were I to write for him my laws by the ten thousands, they would be regarded as a strange thing.*
- ¹³ *As for My sacrificial offerings, they sacrifice meat and eat it, but the Lord does not accept them. Now He will remember their iniquity and punish their sins; they shall return to Egypt.*
- ¹⁴ *For Israel has forgotten his Maker and built palaces, and Judah has multiplied fortified cities; so I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour her strongholds.*

Additional Notes