

Israel - A Nation Reborn Hosea 13: 9-16

Introduction:

1. Israel was a nation that was enjoying outward prosperity under King Jereboam. Little did they know that a storm of God's judgment was brewing and was not far away.
2. The people of Israel had long left the place of worship and devotion to their God. They had forsaken God and gone whoring after false gods and idols. 1:2, 4:12, 13:2
 - As far as God was concerned, Israel was dead. 13:1
3. Israel was in desperate need of spiritual life, but they were too stubborn and rebellious to listen to the prophets. They were prosperous, arrogant, and self-willed. 13:6
4. They were walking dead men, with God's judgment imminent. This describes millions of people on the earth today.
 - They are dead in trespasses and sins (**Ephesians 2:1**), with God's wrath and judgment imminent (**Romans 2:4-5**).
5. Will Israel stay dead? Will they ever be raised up and given spiritual life again? Will they be born again at some time in the future? Let's look into God's Word and find the answers!

Israel - a nation destroyed. vs. 9-12, 15-16

1. Hosea sums it up concisely by declaring, "*O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself...*"
 - The word "destroyed" means "to decay, ruin." This same word is translated "corrupted" in **Hosea 9:9**.
 - Israel had died, was decayed and rotten.
2. Many years previously, Israel, in self-will, had demanded a king in **1 Samuel 8:4-8**. They rejected God and turned to man for safety and deliverance. God gave them King Saul, but he rebelled against the word of the Lord and was removed. vs. 11
3. History had repeated itself and Israel had been led into idolatry by one wicked king after another.
4. God simply wanted them to turn to Him as their King and turn to Him for help. God was their only hope. He was the only King that could save them from the coming judgment. vs. 10-11
5. Outwardly, Israel was wealthy and prosperous, but internally, they were dead and decayed.
6. Hosea warned that God would soon bring **outward** death and destruction that would reflect their **inward** condition. vs. 15-16

Israel - a nation travailing. vs. 12-13

1. Hosea prophesies that "*the sorrows of a travailing woman shall come upon him.*" Many of the prophets used the illustration of birth pains to describe a terrible time of travail that Israel would endure.
 - **Isaiah 26:16-18** - Isaiah prophesied that Israel would turn to God in their time of travail.
 - **Jeremiah 30:6-11** - Jeremiah prophesied also that after their time of travail, Israel would be saved. The context is the last days. vs. 24 cf. 13:21, 25

2. When Jesus came to Israel during His earthly ministry, He found Israel in the same condition as they were in Hosea's day - outwardly prosperous, but inwardly dead. **Matthew 23:27-28**
3. Jesus prophesied that Israel would pass through this time of great travail. It was still yet future in Jesus' day. **Matthew 24:21-22**
4. How do we know that this wasn't already fulfilled when Jerusalem was destroyed in A.D. 70? It's very simple. The events of Matthew 24 that were to follow this time of travail never happened. **Matthew 24:27-31**
5. Instead of Israel being delivered and dwelling in peace forever as the prophets prophesied, Israel was scattered among the nations for centuries.
6. Israel has certainly gone through much travail since Jesus' day, but the 3 ½ year time period of travail, known as the Great Tribulation, has never occurred yet.

Israel – a nation reborn. vs. 14

1. Hosea describes Israel as a child in trauma in the birth canal. vs. 13
 - This is what is meant by the phrase, “in the place of the breaking forth of children.”
2. Israel has stored up sin and iniquity (vs. 12), and God's judgment will come suddenly, as a woman going into labor.
3. But in the midst of this pain and travailing, God has given a blessed promise of hope and deliverance.
4. He says that Israel won't have to stay long in this place of pain and travail. vs. 13
5. The result of the travail and birth pains is that God will cause Israel, to break forth and be born. Death and the grave will deliver up the believing remnant of Israel and a nation will be born again. vs. 14
6. Israel's first birth was in **Exodus 4:22. cf. Hosea 11:1**
7. When Israel forsook God, they **died** in Baal. Their only hope is a rebirth. They desperately need spiritual life. Christ came with this message to Israel during His earthly ministry. **John 3:1-10**
 - Jesus came as Israel's Messiah and was ready to give rebirth to Israel. He desired to take them by the hand and walk back in that promised land and reclaim it all back to God.
 - Nicodemus represented Israel and its confused state. Israel was a fleshly nation, full of pride, hypocrisy, and self-will.
 - Israel needed a spiritual rebirth in order to enter into and establish that glorious kingdom on earth.
 - This should not have been a foreign concept to Nicodemus (**John 3:10**). This was the clear teaching of the Old Testament prophets. **Hosea 13:14, 6:1-2**
8. There will be a national resurrection that takes place of the believing remnant of Israel. **Ezekiel 37:1-14; Isaiah 26:16-19**
9. Because Jesus defeated death and the grave, this insures the fact that one day those within believing Israel will be resurrected. A nation will be reborn with spiritual life. **Isaiah 66:7-9**
10. Israel will become a born again kingdom of priests on earth. **Exodus 19:6; cf. Revelation 20:4-6**