

How to Escape the Coming Wrath of God Hosea 5-6

Introduction:

1. God commissioned the prophet Hosea and sent him with a solemn and sobering message to the nation of Israel.
 - It was not a message of love and grace. It was a message of judgment. 5:1
2. Many people fail to realize that God hates sin as much as He loves sinners. God is righteous and holy; therefore, He cannot allow sin to go unpunished. Romans 6:23
3. God must pour out His wrath against those who sin and disobey Him. 5:10;
cf. Hebrews 10:30-31
4. The Bible paints a vivid description of the Day of Judgment and wrath that is coming to this world after the dispensation of grace. **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**
5. Hosea was sent to Israel with a similar message - "Judgment is coming. You'd better prepare!"
 - Israel had been living in a time of wealth and prosperity. Hosea's message must have seemed outlandish, yet they were to soon find out that it was true.
6. How could Israel escape the wrath of God that was prophesied through Hosea?
7. This is the subject of tonight's lesson, and the principles will apply to any people of any age.

First, recognize your great need.

1. Israel had offended God and was in deep trouble with God, yet there appears to be no awareness of the dire situation they were in.
2. Did they somehow think that God did not see their wickedness? 5:3
 - God cries out to Israel through Hosea, "*I have seen...*" 6:10
3. Israel had broken the covenant of the law and "dealt treacherously against the Lord." 5:7, 6:7-9
 - This simply means that they had deeply offended God with their sin and idolatry.
4. Did they somehow think that religious acts would atone for their sin? 5:6, 6:6
 - Israel appears to have still been going through the religious rituals of the law, offering up sacrifices to the Lord.
 - But it was absolutely meaningless to the Lord. God wanted their hearts, not their external religious actions. **Isaiah 1:11-17; Mark 11:15-17**
 - God would not share their affection with pagan idols and false gods. 5:6
5. What wonderful lessons for people today!
 - God sees every sin that mankind commits - nothing escapes His sight. **Romans 2:16; Hebrews 4:13**
 - Just as Israel may have felt like they were getting away with their sin, judgment day was coming. The same is true today. **Romans 2:5**
 - Religious acts cannot appease the wrath of a holy God. They cannot deal with the sin issue that faces us all. **Romans 3:20; Titus 3:5**

Second, heed God's warnings.

1. God had graciously tried to warn Israel of impending judgment. God's prophets, like Hosea, were God's warning signs to the nation. 6:4-5

2. God clearly warned Israel of coming judgment. Hosea told the king, the priests, and the people, "*Judgment is toward you.*" 5:1
3. God did not try to hide the approaching Day of Judgment (day of rebuke). God said, "I've made it known." 5:8-12, 14
4. In the same way, God has warned those living today of coming judgment.
 - The apostle Paul warns of the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God. **Romans 2:5-6**
 - He warns of the day of the Lord and the sudden destruction that is coming. **1 Thessalonians 5:2-3**
 - He warns of a day in which everlasting destruction will come upon those who refuse the gospel. **2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**
 - God has warned us of a day of final judgment of all men who refused the Lord. **Revelation 20:12-15**
5. Paul said, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." (**2 Corinthians 5:11**) Like Hosea, we must proclaim God's Word and warn the world of impending judgment.

Third, turn in repentance to the Judge.

1. In the midst of all the judgment, God simply wanted Israel to repent and turn to Him. The hewing of the prophets and the affliction God sent was meant to cause them to seek Him. 5:15
2. God would withdraw His fellowship from Israel (5:6) until they repented and acknowledged their offence. 5:15
 - This is what Jesus did when Israel rejected Him. He withdrew Himself to the right hand of the Father until the day when Israel repents and turns to Him.
3. Hosea prophesies of a future day when Israel will finally seek the Lord (5:15). In 6:1-3 God gives us a glimpse of this future day and the voice of the restored remnant of Israel.
 - They finally realize that the source of their trouble is with God. 6:1
 - God inflicted the wounds, and God alone could heal the wounds. 6:1
4. Just as their Messiah (Jesus Christ) was dead, but raised to life on the third day, Israel will appear dead as the nations of the earth gather against her.
 - On the third day, Israel will be born again (John 3:1-10). God will resurrect and breathe His very life into this nation. A national resurrection will occur when Christ returns. 6:2; **cf. Ezekiel 37:4-14**
 - We will assume that 6:2 refers to literal days (like Christ's resurrection) at the end of the tribulation. It appears from the prophets that Christ's return will be over a period of two days and it isn't until the third day that Christ will enter Jerusalem to establish His throne and kingdom for Israel. **Romans 11:26**
5. In 5:15 God goes away to His own place, and in 6:3 God comes back to them and brings the times of refreshing.
6. What was the difference? What came in between these two events? The repentance of Israel (**cf. Acts 3:19**). God responds to their repentance with salvation and deliverance.

In Conclusion:

1. Did you know that anyone today can be delivered from the judgment of God by simply turning in faith to Jesus Christ? This was the message Paul preached everywhere. **Acts 20:21**
 - Christ has made a full payment for your sin on the cross. God is offering you His very own righteousness if you will but admit your need and turn in faith to His Son. **Romans 3:21-28**
2. The moment you do this, God does for you **individually** what He will do for Israel nationally in the future. He comes to you and He lives within you. He breathes His very life in you, and you become a member of His family forever! **Galatians 4:6-7**