

## Israel - Wanderers Among the Nations Hosea 9

### Introduction:

1. **Hosea 9:9** sums it up perfectly - Israel had deeply corrupted themselves.
2. God had blessed Israel by planting them in their land and prospering them, yet in greed and covetousness they had chased after other gods. 9:1
3. God had sent prophets like Hosea to warn Israel of impending judgment (days of recompense, retribution), yet they viewed the prophets as fools and madmen. 9:7
4. Because they had strayed from the Lord, soon they would be judged and scattered, wandering among the nations. 9:17
5. The war machine of Assyria would come and destroy this once great kingdom. Many would be slaughtered, many would be taken captive to Assyria, and some refugees would flee to Egypt, where they would die in shame. 9:3, 6
6. Hosea proclaims in verse 17, "*My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him.*"
7. Israel failed to listen to God's Word. They rejected God's Word as illustrated by three different geographical locations mentioned in this chapter.

### Gibeah - an illustration of defiant self-will

1. Hosea said that Israel had corrupted themselves, as in the days of Gibeah. vs. 9
2. The tragic story of Gibeah is found in **Judges 19-21**.
  - Gibeah was a city located in the territory of the tribe of Benjamin.
  - Gibeah was the scene of a terrible crime of lewdness, obscenity, and violence.  
**Judges 19**
    - When the other tribes of Israel attempted to bring the criminals to justice, the tribe of Benjamin rose up in defiance. **Judges 20:11-14**
    - **Judges 20:13** states that they "...*would not hearken to the voice of their brethren.*" This is the same phrase Hosea used to describe Israel in 9:17.
    - Because of their defiant self-will, over 40,000 soldiers of Israel were killed, Gibeah was destroyed by fire, and virtually the entire tribe of Benjamin was annihilated.
2. Hosea proclaimed that this was what the future held for the nation of Israel. Just as the other tribes visited the iniquity of Gibeah, God would remember the sins of Israel and visit their iniquity. vs. 9
3. What is the answer to defiant self-will? The answer is humility and repentance. Gibeah would not bring themselves to a place of humility and repentance. They continued unashamedly in their evil and wickedness.
  - In Hosea's day, the nation of Israel refused to repent and turn to God.
  - The result would be the same as Gibeah - utter destruction. 9:6
4. Christian, when God's Word uncovers and confronts areas of self-will in your life, the answer is to quickly repent and turn humbly to God. **2 Corinthians 7:9-11**

### **Peor - an illustration of evil companionship**

1. Peor was a mountain northeast of the Dead Sea, in the land of Moab. The Moabites worshipped a pagan god called Baal-peor. They did filthy, wicked, and abominable practices in the worship of this god.
2. Before Israel crossed the Jordan River into their promised land, they were encamped at a city at Mount Peor. The tragic story of Israel's idolatry is recorded in Numbers 25.
  - The men of Israel began to associate with the daughters of Moab and this led to their soon demise. They joined themselves to the heathen god Baal-peor.
  - The anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and 24,000 men died in judgment.
  - They fell in love with a pagan god because of the influence of the Moabite women.
3. Hosea mentions this event because it had great application to the current state of Israel. Hosea cried, "...for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God..." 9:1
4. Instead of being a spiritual light to the pagan people around them, Israel had joined themselves to the false gods and idolatrous practices of these people.
5. Israel was to be a separate people, set apart unto the Lord. They were special to the Lord (9:10), and God desired their affection and devotion.
6. Christian, God's call to us is very similar today. God expects us to be a separate people unto Him. Just as evil companionship destroyed Israel, it will destroy the believer today. **2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

### **Gilgal - an illustration of true worship turned corrupt**

1. Gilgal had a glorious history for the nation of Israel.
  - It was the first place Israel camped after they crossed the Jordan River and entered their promised land. **Joshua 4:19-24**
  - It was at Gilgal Israel obeyed God and renewed their covenant of circumcision with God. **Joshua 5:2-8**
  - It was at Gilgal that God said that He had rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off of them. **Joshua 5:9**
  - It was at Gilgal that Israel observed their first Passover in their new land. They worshipped their God who had safely led them to this new land. **Joshua 5:10**
2. Yet in Hosea's day, Gilgal had become a center for idolatry. It was now known for its terrible wickedness. Gilgal stood as a symbol of true worship turned corrupt. 9:15
3. Christian, the Bible says that God is looking for true worshippers who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. **John 4:23-24**
4. Like Israel, our worship can turn corrupt. It can simply become a ritual that we perform, or it can even become an exercise in covetousness, trying to manipulate God to give us what we desire. How sad it is when we leave the true place of sincere worship.

**In Conclusion:**

1. Hosea uses three geographical locations to press home a point to Israel. These three places should have served as vivid reminders to Israel of the dead end street they were heading down.
2. It wouldn't be long and Israel would no longer have the opportunity to go to the house of the Lord and worship Him. They would be wanderers in foreign lands. 9:3-4
3. The reason was really very simple - they would not hearken unto Him. 9:17
4. Christian, never turn away from the Word of God. Believe and heed it!