



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Amos, Jonah, Hosea, Micah Sermon Series

Supports Session 8: The Hollow Promises

Sermon Title: “The Destruction of Deceit” (Hosea 11:12-12:6)

Connection to Hosea 6:1-7:2

For healing to occur, Hosea preached for Israel to turn from deceit to true repentance (6:1,6). Though injured by deception, the nation could be healed by honestly seeking restoration from God. The hurting had hope if they would turn from falsehood to truth.

Introduction/Opening

A local newspaper carries a column every Sunday entitled, “NOT REAL NEWS.” The column gathers stories that circulated widely on social media the previous week. Each story presents the false claim, where it was published, and why it is false. Readers might discover a particular tale that inflamed their emotions the prior week. If so, they have relief in reading the truth of the matter. We all understand that fake news is destructive, but more so is fake repentance. Hosea called for true repentance.

Outline

1. Corruption Revealed

- a. Worship of idols revealed the depth of Israel’s rebellion as their idolatry was a clear disregard of the second commandment: no graven images (Ex. 20:4, Deut. 5:8).
- b. The priests were involved in the falsehood just as much as the people (4:7). The false priests lead the people to bow down to false gods (10:5). As a result, the Torah was ignored, and the people were destroyed by lack of knowledge (4:6).
- c. Sacrifices became empty rituals (8:13). Instead of representing a penitent heart seeking forgiveness, the offerings were nothing but an empty gesture.
- d. Worship of the true and living God is to be like a healthy highway leading to knowledge of a loving and righteous God. Instead,
- e. Our practices can become empty when we make the practice the focus and not the God who loves us.

2. Results Exposed

- a. A breakdown in faith resulted in a collapse of life in Israel. The people would lose their grain, vineyards, and flocks (2:9). Merchants cheated with dishonest scales (12:7). The joy of celebrations would vanish, and wild animals would ravage the once beautiful land of promise (2:11-12). Instead of joy there would be shame and no escape from their enemies (2:10). Instead of a land of peace, Israel was a painful land. There was lack, not abundance, and there was humiliation instead of contentment.

- d. Their hope was in restoring their identity as God's people. Due to the love and faithfulness of God, they could still turn back to Him. There was the promise of healing with a return to the Lord (6:1).
- c. The message of Hosea rings true today. A people turned away from God are an injured, ailing populace, reeling from the loving discipline of God.

3. Hope Presented

- a. Hosea sprinkles promises of hope throughout his prophesies. Instead of sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind of sin (8:7), Hosea promised faithfulness and rain to righteous (10:12).
- b. As Joel preached the rending of hearts not just garments (Joel 2:13), so Hosea could promise that God would bless the true mourning for sin by the seeker, not just an empty ritual symbol of grieving.
- c. We might be tempted to do as little as possible to reunite with God, however our insincerity is an inadequate offering. We must come to Jesus in full confession ready to turn completely from our sin.
- d. When Zacchaeus, the former corrupt tax collector offered his sincere repentance and restoration of financial resources, Jesus gloried that salvation had come to his house and that he too was a son of Abraham.

Conclusion

Jesus said the truth would set us free (John. 8:32). We can deceive ourselves in to thinking that all God wants is an offering or ritual sacrifice. Self-deception will hamper and cripple us. God desires us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. It is about a growing and real relationship with Him.

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