

## Hosea 10                    Israel : empty vines are cut off

1/29/2020

In this chapter the prophet charges Israel with corrupting their worship of God, their public offices and their families through images, idols and false altars. Severe judgement will fall if they do not repent and reform. The various charges are woven throughout the chapter as outlined below.

### I. Godless religion

v 1-2, 5-6 + 8

v 1-2            God had likened his nation to a vineyard (Isa 5:1-7, Jer 2:21). It was to evidence *pure religion before God...To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and keep unspotted from the world* (James 1:27). That is the spiritual fruit that pleases God : caring for others in God's name. But Israel degenerated because their motive was wrong (v 2) : *Their heart is divided*, see James 1:8.

Wrong motives lead to wrong methods : *altars, images...* i.e. idolatry (v 5-6, 8).

v 5    *Beth - aven* ('the house of iniquity') was the place where the golden calves were made by the order of wicked king Jeroboam, 1 Kings 12:28.

*the glory is departed from it* (8:6) ~ *Ichabod*, 1 Sam 4:21-22

v 1 note : This is a good verse to show that different bibles are not the same !

King James Holy Bible : *Israel is an empty vine*

NIV            : Israel is a spreading vine

RSV            : Israel is a luxuriant vine

NLT            : Israel is a prosperous vine

fact:    Different bibles say different things; this leads to divisions (1 Cor 1:10) and confusion (1 Cor 14:33).

spir. truth: There is only one God of the Bible; and only one Bible of God.

spir. application: The modern 'bibles' are today's idols; and today's church is becoming an *empty vine* as it drinks from the polluted water of translation committees words. Where is the fruit of the last 40 years since these perversions have flooded the Laodicean church?

### II. Godless government

v 3-4 + 7

v 3    Israel (Northern kingdom) had suffered through sixteen consecutive wicked kings, not one was a godly ruler. The people had lost confidence in their leadership.

v 4    These godless kings had joined heathen worship services and *swore false covenants* (Isa 28:15) with their idolatrous priests.

*thus judgment springs up as hemlock ... in the furrows of the field* (12:11, 10:10)

science: Hemlock is a poisonous herbaceous flowering plant in the carrot family.  
It is attractive; but it's also known as devil's bread or devil's porridge.

v 7 *Samaria...her king is cut off as the foam upon the water.*

Foam is caused by the troubling of water. It makes a great show upon the face of the water; yet it is no more than a heap of bubbles which burst and disappear. Such was the fate of the Northern kings (v 15); and of all godless rulers and voters since.

truth: *For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.* James 4:14

### III. Godless parenting

v 9 - 11

v 9 The prophet reminds them of the civil war of Judges 20-21 when the children of Israel wiped out the wicked *sons of Belial* from Gibeah. The wicked men were gone, but their sin remained.

v 10 God foretold Moses of spiritual adultery and apostasy along with His *chastising* judgment (Deu 31:16-17) *when they bind themselves in the two furrows.*

hx: Each golden calf was in a furrow of the field; one in Dan, one in Bethel.

v 11 *Ephraim is as an heifer that is taught.*

def: heifer - a young cow before she has had her first calf

hx: The young children of Israel were learning to love carnal pursuits, earthly pleasures and idols from their parents example. God *passed over them* at first, but now *will make them ride, plow and break his clods* as judgment comes.

### IV. \*\*\* God's Call \*\*\*

v 12

This is one of the greatest revival verses in either testament.

It emphasizes spiritual sowing (Lk 8:5+11), real repentance (Eze 18:31), seeking God (Deu 4:29) and spiritual blessings.

### V. God's Warning

v 13 - 15

v 13 (a) God's spiritual law at work, Gal 6:7-8

(b) *A multitude of mighty men* are liars; e.g. scholars, popes, politicians, actors....

v 14 *Shalman* = Shalmaneser (2Ki 17:3) had brutally attacked *Betharbel* (in N. Galilee) a few years earlier, slaughtering women and children.

fact: The Bible records the truth of mankind's horrors of war, Ps 79:1-3, Jer 6:22-25.

v 15 The godless sin of idolatry (*Bethel*) brings the retribution of spiritual loss, which is greater than the physical suffering of war. Read our Lord's warning in Matthew 10:28.