

Hosea 13 - God Will Ransom His People

2/19/2020

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| I. The Character of Sin | v 1, 2, 6, 10, 12 |
| II. The Consequence of Sin | v 1, 3, 7-8, 11, 13, 15-16 |
| III. The Cure for Sin | v 4-5, 9, 14 |

The prophet plays his harp strings the same manner as in the prior chapters: with minor chords darkening the verses. People don't like to be told of their sin and it's danger, yet it is both necessary and it's for their own good. So God sends faithful messengers while there is still time, and the hearers may turn and escape the coming danger. For those who have *ears to hear*, the song has a single truth (end of v 4) and it ends with a joyful chorus (v 9, 14). But for *the unbelieving*, the doleful dirge of a funeral march awaits (v 16).

The Character of their sin

- v 1 *When Ephraim spake trembling* - hx: Exo 33:11 (Num 13:8)
...he exalted himself doct: 1 Peter 5:5-6
 They started well, but went 'off the rails'. Gal 5:7

Their error was both religious (v 2) and political (v 6, 10-12).

- v 2 The sin of *idols* hx: 1 Kings 12:25 & 28-9
 spir: *according to their own understanding* Ps 115:4-8
 "When men have clouded the vision of God, they make a god according to their own understanding. The idols are like themselves." G. Campbell Morgan
 doct: *the craftsman* Rev 18:22 & 13:14-15

kiss the calves - Historically, men have kissed idols and objects that represent long held religious tradition. "Kissing the pope's ring indicates reverence for his dignity as a successor of the apostles ." *Catholic Herald*, 28 March 2019

doctr: It's the 'kiss of death' !

- v 6, 10-12 They wanted a monarchy of men (*kings and princes*, v 10) rather than the Theocracy God had given them. They figured they could influence the rulers with their riches (v 6), men can be bribed; God can't.

Over time both the religious and civil leaders covered their *sin* so it wasn't outwardly apparent (v 12). Jesus rebuked such behaviour, Matthew 23:27-28.

The Consequence of Sin

- v 3 The sinner will be cut-off, Ps 37:1-3, 21-22, 38; Ps 55:23; Pr 10:27

v 7-8 The manner of judgment is ferocious: *as the fiercest predators known to man.*
 The *lion* is the king, there is no resisting him.
 The *leopard by the way* is crafty and vigilant (*...will I observe them*).
 The *bear...bereaved of her whelps* is vengeful, fierce and final.

hx: God is giving Hosea a preview of Daniel's vision of the coming gentile nations which will *tear and devour Israel like a lion, and rend the caul of their heart* (i.e. their temple and throne, v 11), see Daniel 7:2-7.

doctr: During the 7 year tribulation God will release the wild animals of their *dread* (Gen 9:2) *of man* and they will attack and kill with reckless abandon, Lev 26:22, Rev 6:8.

v 13 is connected to v ¹⁵⁻¹⁶14-15 as the prophet describes the misery and desolation of the judgment on sin. He describes the horrors of war which have plagued every century and will be intensified in *the day of the Lord*, Joel 1:15. A preacher once said : war is God's judgment on sin here, and hell is His judgment on sin in the here-after.

The Cure for Sin

v 4 the saviour - Isa 43:11 (note the full paragraph, v 8-13); Titus 2:13 & 3:6

These verses establish the doctrinal truth : Jesus Christ is the Saviour !

{ these are useful with religious cults : JW's, Mormons, muslims... }

v 5 *I did know thee ...* The saviour has a knowledge of his people; John 10:14 & 27

v 9 *...in me is thine help* Psalm 40:17 & 54:4; Isa 41:10 & 50:9; Heb 13:6

v 14 *I will ransom...I will redeem*

These are the words of the Lord and they reach their high point here. In chapter eleven He said, *I loved and called my son* (v 1)...*how shall I give thee up* (v 8)...*I will not...destroy* (v 9) that is the mercy of God. But here he transcends his mercy as He promises to *ransom and redeem* those whom He loves from the greatest enemy : Death and the power of the grave. Hosea was beginning to see the wonderful love of the saviour that would marvelously unfold in the apostle's New Testament writings .

Mark 10:45 1 Tim 2:6 1 Cor 15:21-22, 51-57 2 Tim 1:10