

# Consequences of Backsliding

## Hosea 9

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*Relentless (Book of Hosea)*

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“It hurts when God has to PRY things out of our hand!”

- **Corry Ten Boom**

**Introduction:** Open your Bible to Hosea 9. I want to bring a teaching to you tonight entitled: "What Happens When We Drift from God."

### **Sanctification is Hard Work!**

Brothers and sisters, we are in the midst of our study in Hosea. It is a book about God's love for us and about how easy it is to fall away from God. We must understand that while being justified is free and by grace and takes no effort whatsoever on our part, that sanctification is HARD work!

Charles Haddon Spurgeon put it this way:

"If you begin to slip on the side of a mountain of ice, the first slip may not hurt if you can stop and slide no further. But alas, you cannot so regulate sin! When your feet begin to slide, the rate of the descent increases, and the difficulty of arresting this motion is incessantly becoming greater. It is dangerous to backslide in any degree, for we know not to what it may lead. The Christian life is very much like climbing a hill of ice. You cannot slide up. You have to cut every step with an ice ax. Only with incessant labor in cutting and chipping can you make any progress. If you want to know how to backslide, leave off going forward. Cease going upward and you will go downward of necessity. You can never stand still."

### **Outline**

Tonight we are going to learn that Hosea 9 presents us with five signs of drifting away from God, like Israel of old...

When we drift from God, we are going to experience...

1. the death of joy (vs. 1-2)
2. the removal of God's protection (upheaval), vs. 3-6
3. the loss of spiritual discernment (vs. 7-9)
4. the breakup of the family (vs. 10-14)
5. the removal of God's blessing (vs. 15-17)

When we drift from God, we are going to experience...

## I. The Death of Joy, vs.1-2

### Hosea 9:1-2

Rejoice not, O Israel!

Exult not like the peoples;

for you have played the whore, forsaking your God.

You have loved a prostitute's wages

on all threshing floors.

### Earthly Joy is Always Temporal

According to what follows it is rejoicing over a bountiful harvest. It was this that Israel expected and for which they would rejoice. But such joy was to be taken from them. כְּעִמָּוִתַי Keil: "Israel, after the heathen fashion, attributed the blessing of harvest to the gods, and rejoices in it as in a gift of the gods, after the manner of the heathen."<sup>1</sup>

The people of Israel had been rejoicing like the heathen nations around them. They gave glory to false gods. They "played the whore."

**Hebrews 11:25** - how easy it is to "enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season," but they do not satisfy.

**Mark 8:36**, "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?"<sup>37</sup> For what can a man give in return for his soul?"

Mankind tries to feed his soul with counterfeit "food" which leaves him empty. Ecc. 1:8  
Deut. 8:3

- Material wealth. Pr. 23:4-5 Ecc. 2:4-8 4:8 5:10 Ezek. 7:19
- Substance abuse. 5:11-12 Ecc. 2:3 Pr. 20:1 31:4-5 23:21
- Earthly pleasure and entertainment. Ecc. 2:1-2, 10-11 Pr. 21:17
- Food. Pr. 23:20-21 Phil. 3:19
- Sensuality. 2 Sam. 11:1ff Pr. 2:16-19 5:8-14 6:24-35 7:22-27 Ezek. 16:28-29
- Friendship and popularity. Ecc. 7:28-29 Jer. 17:5-6
- Worldly accomplishments. Ecc. 2:9-11,22-23
- Human wisdom and education. Ecc. 2:12-17

### Idols Never Satisfy

<sup>2</sup>Threshing floor and wine vat shall not feed them,  
and the new wine shall fail them.

Free yourself from idols. Paul says in **1 Cor. 10:14**, "So, my dear friends, flee from the worship of idols" (NLT). There will be a lifelong battle over faith in Jesus vs. faith in idols.

There will be unique or predominate idols of the heart. "But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own [peculiar] lust." Jam 1:14 1. Idols of the heart are also dynamic as they are numerous, evolve, and interplay with each other.

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<sup>1</sup> Lange, J. P., Schaff, P., Schmoller, O., & McCurdy, J. F. (2008). *A commentary on the Holy Scriptures: Hosea* (p. 76). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

1. Recognize the Idol(s). Name the idol so it is clear (e.g., security, money, control). Take time to consider how the idol applies to the sin, bad results, and harm done in your life; and especially how it has usurped the place of God in your heart.

2. Take it to the Cross. Do not despair because you are spiritually alive and God is working in you when there is a desire to change in this way. Remember that Jesus died to give you freedom from the old sinful desires. No idol died for your sins!

Repent by hating the idolatry and disloyalty to God (not just the consequences). Pray to seek God's forgiveness and help as well as to express gratitude for what He has done for you. Because of Jesus, the idolatry has been paid for and there is the power to be set free. Pray because only God can cause heart-level change.

### **Rejoice in God Alone**

Sincere Christians should, in the blessings of God, so rejoice in the Lord, as to acknowledge that all good is from Him alone, to whom they must therefore give thanks, and so use them as not abusing them, but employ them to God's glory. Then will God the Lord not cease to do them good.<sup>2</sup>

### **Real Joy Comes from Knowing the Lord**

Don't waste your life seeking what will never satisfy - junk food. The LORD offers you a rich banquet. v. 1 Pr. 9:1-6 Matt. 22:1-14

God doesn't merely tell you to quit your pet sin, but rather He offers you something much better.

- Water to satisfy your thirst. Isaiah 5:13; 41:17 44:3 49:10 58:11 Ps. 42:1-2 63:1 Am. 8:11 3.
- Wine to make your heart glad. 16:10 Ps. 104:14-15
- **Isaiah 55:1-3**, "Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and he who has no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
hear, that your soul may live;  
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David."
- Again, we hear the words of Spurgeon, "Remember that if you are a child of God, you will never be happy in sin. You are spoiled for the world, the flesh, and the

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

devil. When you were regenerated there was put into you a vital principle, which can never be content to dwell in the dead world. You will have to come back, if indeed you belong to the family."

When we drift from God, we are going to experience...

## II. Removal of God's Protection (upheaval), vs. 3-6

### Hosea 9:3-6

<sup>3</sup>They shall not remain in the land of the Lord,  
but Ephraim shall return to Egypt,  
and they shall eat unclean food in Assyria.  
<sup>4</sup>They shall not pour drink offerings of wine to the Lord,  
and their sacrifices shall not please him.  
It shall be like mourners' bread to them;  
all who eat of it shall be defiled;  
for their bread shall be for their hunger only;  
it shall not come to the house of the Lord.  
<sup>5</sup>What will you do on the day of the appointed festival,  
and on the day of the feast of the Lord?  
<sup>6</sup>For behold, they are going away from destruction;  
but Egypt shall gather them;  
Memphis shall bury them.  
Nettles shall possess their precious things of silver;  
thorns shall be in their tents.

### Their Land Overtaken by Nettles

The immediate effect of God's withdrawal from Israel's affairs is to be the fall of the people to their enemies. God is their strength; if he is withdrawn, their fortresses must inevitably be taken, and they will be taken from their land.

Their land will be inhabited by foreigners and unkempt weeds and briars. So sad.

### Whom the Lord Loves He Disciplines

Hebrews 12:6-11, "For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives."  
<sup>7</sup>It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup>If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup>Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup>For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup>For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

John Piper comments on these verses, "The book of Hebrews is a very mature and sober book when it comes to the pain and stress of Christian living and the endurance that it takes to run the race and fight the fight and finish well. It's not a book that people (especially teenagers

and strong young adults) gravitate toward - unless they have suffered and struggle for some explanation of how that relates to God. In other words, the more easy and pain-free your life has been, the less you will cherish the kind of spirituality taught in this book. And the more you have suffered, the more you will cling to the precious teachings of this book - if you are willing to believe them."<sup>3</sup>

### **Corry Ten Boom**

Corry Ten Boom said, "It hurts when God has to PRY things out of our hand!"

### **Is Discipline Punishment?**

"Is discipline the same as punishment?" We learned yesterday that the answer is NEVER. God condemned Jesus for our sins, and Jesus said, "It is finished."

Yet we read in 1 Corinthians 11, many true Christians were sick and dying because of God's discipline. They were taking the Lord's supper lightly and acting as if it were just another party. Some were even given to drunkenness.

**1 Cor. 11:30-32**, "That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. <sup>31</sup> But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. <sup>32</sup> But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world."

God's "discipline" of His children is never retribution or condemnation, but rather **correction**. We know that we are indeed His beloved children, sharing in the discipline that all children share – for a high purpose, namely that we may some day share in His holiness, "attain life, and be conformed into the image of His dear Son" (Rom. 8:30).

When we drift from God, we are going to experience...

## **III. The Loss of Spiritual Discernment, vs.7-9**

### **Hosea 9:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> The days of punishment have come;  
the days of recompense have come;  
Israel shall know it.

**The prophet is a fool;**  
**the man of the Spirit is mad,**  
because of your great iniquity  
and great hatred.

<sup>8</sup> The prophet is the watchman of Ephraim with my God;  
yet a fowler's snare is on all his ways,  
and hatred in the house of his God.

<sup>9</sup> They have deeply corrupted themselves  
as in the days of Gibeah;  
he will remember their iniquity;  
he will punish their sins.

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<sup>3</sup> John Piper. *The Painful Discipline of Our Heavenly Father*, from sermon manuscript preached on August 24, 1997 at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN.

## God's Visitation

Vs. 7a, "The days of punishment [visitation] have come;  
the days of recompense have come;  
Israel shall know it."

The word "punishment" in verse 7 is often translated: "visitation" [AV]. God is going to arrive on the scene to discipline His beloved people. How shall they know that God has come? They will lose all spiritual discernment.

Vs 7a

Yahweh marches with Tiglath-pileser's Assyrians. The carving up of the land that has begun (cf. note at 5:8–7:16) is God's work. Its character is also 'just retribution' ('complete payment'; Heb. šillum; cf. Isa. 34:8; Mic. 7:3).

## Moral Depravity Remains

Centuries have run their course since the times of Hosea, and the conditions of life to-day are, in a thousand and one details, entirely different from the conditions of life then ; but human nature is exactly the same. In the profound and elemental things of human life there is no change. We change the manner of our dress. If you deny that, all you have to do is to get down the family album, and look at your grandmother's picture! But you are just the same sort of woman your grandmother was. The elemental things of human nature abide the same through the running centuries. Mothers had broken hearts millenniums ago, as to-day. Youth was exactly what it is.

## The Prophet is a Fool

Vs 7b

The whole picture of exile had seemed so absurd that they labeled the prophet a fool (i.e. blabbering mindlessly; cf. Prov. 10:8) and even mad or 'crazy' (i.e. cooing endlessly).

Beyond that, it mockingly echoes Israel's cry in 8:2, My God, we Israel know thee. Israel purports to know Yahweh but does not. Let them know assuredly, then, that judgment is coming and is here.

"The prophet is a fool." The word there translated fool (euiyl) is a somewhat rare one in the Old Testament Scriptures. As a matter of fact it only occurs twenty-five times. There is another word, also rendered "fool" in our versions. For instance, "The fool has said in his heart." That is not the same word, and the idea is not the same. In the statement, "The fool hath said in his heart there is no God," the word for fool (nabal) has a moral element. It means morally depraved.

The word in Hosea is different. It means simply inane, or, as we should say, nonsensical - speaking in contempt. The prophet is an idiot. He knows nothing. He is literally "blabbering mindlessly" or others have translated it "cooing endlessly." His words are foolishness - nonsense.

## The Things of God's Spirit are Foolishness

And then the "man of the Spirit is mad..." He is the spiritual man. What is the matter with him ? He is "mad" ; and here the simple meaning is, he is "raving."

**1 Cor. 2:14**, "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."

So we come to the realization that without the new birth, spiritual things are nonsense to the unsaved person. That's not to say they cannot understand the logic, but that they hate the things of the Spirit of God. They do not want to submit. They are in direct rebellion against the Almighty's direction in their life.

Or, in a positive way, we can say the Christian is under the control of the Spirit of God. **Romans 8:9** says it this way (NLT), "But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to [Christ] at all.)"

Vs 7c

The Israelites say what they do to Hosea because their iniquity (cf. on 8:13) is too great to face and consequently their hatred ('hostility'; *mašṭēmâ* is used in the Qumran scrolls and the Book of Jubilees to describe the work of the enemies of God).

### **The Watchman is Being Shot at by His Own People**

The prophet Hosea is trying to rescue the people, but instead he is being trapped. Verse 8, "The prophet is the watchman of Ephraim with my God; yet a fowler's snare is on all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God."

Given the alerts the prophet has already sounded (5:8; 8:1), the title of **watchman** is well-chosen. He has spotted the impending disaster, thanks to divine revelation, and has relayed the warning to God's people.

Hosea is trying to warn Israel of the coming enemies, but instead the tragedy is compounded by the fact that the *watchman* cannot give full attention to the dangers that loom before the people. He has to watch his own step. Israel's bird-traps are laid for him (cf. on 5:1; 7:12)<sup>4</sup>

Vs 8 backslidden people sometimes the tech the ones that want to help them.

### **The Days of Gibeah**

<sup>9</sup>They have deeply corrupted themselves  
as in the days of Gibeah:  
he will remember their iniquity;  
he will punish [visit] their sins.

Vs 9

Text lighting leads to a radical lack of spiritual discernment as in the days of Judges - the rape and murder and vengeance of the concubine. Everyone did that which was right in their own eyes.

To say the "days of Gibeah" is to say "the days of the judges." This is referring to Judges 19-21, in which the most depraved act in Israel took place. A concubine of one of the men of Gibeah from the tribe of Benjamin was given to depraved Israelites there and gang raped. She died as a result, and the Israelite cut her up and sent her to the twelve tribes, which started a civil war. That war resulted in the almost utter annihilation of the tribe of Benjamin. Hosea declares that the people of his day have fallen to the level of this most corrupt generation of Israel's history<sup>5</sup>

God says he will "punish" or again, "visit" their sins.

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<sup>4</sup> Hubbard, D. A. (1989). *Hosea: An Introduction and Commentary* (Vol. 24, p. 170). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>5</sup> Garrett, D. A. (1997). *Hosea, Joel* (Vol. 19A, p. 196). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

### **How Do We Lose Spiritual Discernment?**

God visited their sins with a lack of godly wisdom and spiritual discernment. Think of Simon Peter - Jesus said, "You need to watch and pray..." What happened when Peter did not listen? He ended up denying the Lord three times.

We are the same way. In **Ephesians 4:29-31**, we read that we need to "let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth" but only edifying language. We are to put off "bitterness, wrath, anger, shouting, slander, and malice" and put on "tenderness, forgiveness, and kindness." Why does Paul tell us this? Because it's easy to drift.

He says in James 3 and 4, that we are to demonstrate heavenly wisdom through a humble conduct of life. That we can lose discernment by giving in to "selfish ambition." Do we ever do that?

It is possible for a believer to lose all spiritual discernment by grieving and quenching the work of the Holy Spirit in his or her life (Eph. 4:30, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.").

## **IV. The Breakup of the Family, vs.10-14**

### **Hosea 9:10-14**

<sup>10</sup> Like grapes in the wilderness,

I found Israel.

Like the first fruit on the fig tree

in its first season,

I saw your fathers.

But they came to Baal-peor

and consecrated themselves to the thing of shame,

and became detestable like the thing they loved.

<sup>11</sup> Ephraim's glory shall fly away like a bird—

no birth, no pregnancy, no conception!

<sup>12</sup> Even if they bring up children,

I will bereave them till none is left.

Woe to them

when I depart from them!

<sup>13</sup> Ephraim, as I have seen, was like a young palm planted in a meadow;

but Ephraim must lead his children out to slaughter.

<sup>14</sup> Give them, O Lord—

what will you give?

Give them a miscarrying womb

and dry breasts.

### **The Lies of Idols**

In this text Yahweh declares his dismay at the apostasy of Israel to the Baal of the shrine of **Baal Peor** and his anger over the sins at Gilgal. *Baal-peor* holds a prominent place in Israel's



geography of shame (Num. 25:1–5; Deut. 4:4; Ps. 106:28). Originally the title of the Baal venerated at Peor (cf. Josh. 22:17)<sup>6</sup>

The irony is that infertility and the death of children dominate this section of Scripture when YHWH is speaking of the false deity of Baal. The irony is a mocking of the Baal cult, a religion that was purported to guarantee fertility for people, their livestock, and their crops alike.<sup>7</sup> Idols promise everything, but deliver very little.

### **The Slavishness of Idols**

Idols are like that. **Edward Welch** says it this way, “Either we will love and serve God, or we will love and serve our idols. Idols exist in our lives because we love them and invite them in. But once idols find a home, they are unruly and resist leaving. In fact, they change from being the servants of our desires to being our masters.”<sup>8</sup>

Blaise Pascal said, “There is nothing so abominable in the eyes of God and of men as idolatry, whereby men render to the creature that honor which is due only to the Creator.”

### **What is the Baal of Today?**

Many drift from God and their families are destroyed.

**Peace in the home.** They seek peace from children instead of peace for children. What ends up happening is that TV and worldly friends end up raising our children instead of mom and dad. Mothers and fathers don't want to raise their children. So they give them over to others to raise. Listen, if moms and dads don't want to raise their children, the devil is always glad to help out.

**Financial Security.** Many moms and dads want financial security, so mom leaves the home for work, and children are given a nice home and money with their parents barely involved in their lives. At the end of the day, parents have a nice home and a couple of nice cars, but their children have apostatized.

**Education.** All parents want their children to have a good education. But we must be careful. The Scripture says in **Jer. 10:2**, “Thus says the LORD: “Learn not the way of the heathen...” It is not only math and language arts that schools are teaching. There is a godlessness in our schools that we must protect our children from. This does not mean that home school or Christian school are the right way. But what it does mean is that all parents are the ultimate ones responsible to train their children. **You need to have a connection with your child.**

**Entertainment.** Sometimes parents turn to entertainment and neglect their children. They have time to do their own things, but don't have time to train their children.

We can get to the place where life becomes so hectic because of the idols, that we have no time with our families to hear God say “be still and know that I am God.”

### **Hosea's Prayer**

And what is Hosea's prayer?

<sup>14</sup>Give them, O Lord—  
what will you give?

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<sup>6</sup> Hubbard, 174-175.

<sup>7</sup> Garrett, 197.

<sup>8</sup> Edward T. Welch. *Blame in on the Brain* (P&R Publishing, 1998), 194.

Give them a miscarrying womb  
and dry breasts.

What Hosea prays for is not the march of ravaging armies or the swinging of their swords but the cessation of birth and infant nurture. For this reason, many interpreters (Wolff, p. 166; Jeremias, p. 123; Mays, pp. 134–135) have read the prayer as *intercessory* after the fashion of Amos (7:2, 5) or Isaiah, who cried ‘How long?’, when the judgment was announced (6:11). They have read it as a tragic prayer for barrenness, stillbirth, or death in infancy as less grim alternatives than death by military *slaughter* (cf. Job 3:11–19; Luke 23:29).<sup>9</sup>

How sad, that we might say even in our day, that it is better for some homes not to have children than to bring a child into a mire of hypocrisy. This was the desperate situation that was in Hosea's day and remains in our day.

Finally, when we drift from God, we are going to experience...

## V. The Removal of God's Blessing, vs.15-17

### The Blessing of Godly Leaders Removed.

Verse 15, "<sup>15</sup>Every evil of theirs is in Gilgal;  
there I began to hate them.  
Because of the wickedness of their deeds  
I will drive them out of my house.  
I will love them no more;  
all their princes are rebels."

God again speaks, reaching back into history to show the continuity of Israel's present crimes with those of their fathers. *Gilgal* is targeted as the centre where *all their evil* (cf. on 7:2) was concentrated. Gilgal is most prominently known for the rejection of Saul's monarchy by Samuel (1 Sam. 15:12–26). Saul was not YHWH's king, but the people's king.

The context suggests that the monarchy is viewed as the heart of Israel's evils: kings established the Baal cult (1 Kgs 12:28–30); kings promulgated the foreign policy which resulted in the *slaughter* (v. 13), *Princes*, the court officials (cf. 7:3, 5, 16; 8:4), are specifically mentioned as the leaders of rebellion (v. 15; note the pun in Heb. between *šārîm*, *princes*, and *sōrēîm*, *rebels*). This may be Hosea's sharpest blow against the monarchy; its very birth began to incur God's hatred.<sup>10</sup>

This is strong language. God *hates* the leaders. They are like the weeds in the NT planted among God's wheat. They are from the devil. God hates them. They are not saved though they live in Israel. They are not regenerate, though they worship at the temple. They are mere politicians.

Do we have such "wolves in sheep's clothing" in the church? Yes. Jesus says on the day of judgment to them, "Depart from me I never knew you" (Mt. 7:21-23).

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<sup>9</sup> Hubbard, 177.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

## **The Blessing of Financial Stability Removed**

<sup>16a</sup> Ephraim is stricken [blighted];

their root is dried up;

Again a metaphor of Hosea has a double meaning. The words “Ephraim is blighted, their root is withered, they yield no fruit,”<sup>77</sup> taken literally, is an agricultural term and describes famine conditions and the failure of the Baal cult to secure a good harvest.

We do not believe in the prosperity gospel. But we do believe that if you follow godly principles, God will bless your finances. Wise people are going to make better decisions and therefore make more money. We don't become wise for this reason. In fact if we begin trusting in money, we will be idolaters.

But when we do not serve God well, we often make poor financial decisions. When we drift away from God, sometimes the sign is financial ruin.

## **The Blessing of Children Removed**

<sup>16b</sup> they shall bear no fruit.

Even though they give birth,

I will put their beloved children to death.

Metaphorically, however, “fruit” refers to children, as is made explicit in the second half of the verse.<sup>11</sup>

What does this mean? That the Lord will allow the foreign armies to invade. Children will die in the Israel - Assyria War of old.

But understand, God did not order things this way. Israel chose to leave their children unprotected by making bad choices. We also do the same. How?

**By walking away from marriage.** We leave our children with several fathers or mothers. We break apart the structure of the home.

By not intervening and **connecting** to our children when they are young.

## **The Blessing of a Good Testimony Removed**

<sup>17</sup> My God will reject them

because they have not listened to him;

they shall be wanderers among the nations.

The curse of Deut. 28:65 comes to pass, "And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the Lord will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul."

No longer do backslidden believers give light to the nations, but they are "wanderers" among the nations.

## **God's Whip (Spurgeon Quote)**

CH Spurgeon said it this way: “No matter how dear you are to God, if pride is harbored in your spirit, He will whip it out of you. They that go up in their own estimation must come down again by His discipline.”

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<sup>11</sup> Garrett, 203.

## **Conclusion**

Hosea 9 is not the end of the story. Jesus comes in the New Testament. One of the great stories is the Samaritan woman. She is the leftover of the northern kingdom. What happens? Jesus confronts her sins, and she tells her whole village about Christ.

## **Don't Drift from God! Wake Up!**

When we drift from God, we are going to experience...

1. the death of joy (vs. 1-2)
2. the removal of God's protection (upheaval), vs. 3-6
3. the loss of spiritual discernment (vs. 7-9)
4. the breakup of the family (vs. 10-14)
5. the removal of God's blessing (vs. 15-17)