

# REAPING THE WHIRLWIND

## HOSEA 8:1-14

Text: Hosea 8:7

### **Hosea 8:7**

<sup>7</sup> For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up.

Introduction:

Obviously there has been much discussion this week regarding the results from Tuesday's election. Some were happy while others were disappointed.

I had a discussion Wednesday with an individual who stated that it was God's Will for each individual who won their race in the election.

I'll say more about this but let me say that as Christians, we have allowed ourselves to be deceived about our duty as citizens. We have allowed ourselves to be lulled into believing the lie of separation of church and state.

As we begin to consider this – Is it God's Will for all who are elected to serve as an elected official?

Its important that we have an understanding o God's Will.

- There is the Proclaimed Will of God

This is God's eternal, foreordained plan and purpose, which will not change and cannot be thwarted.

Example: His choice and calling of Israel

### **Genesis 12:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: <sup>2</sup> And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: <sup>3</sup> And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

### **Romans 11:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, *of* the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, <sup>3</sup> Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. <sup>4</sup> But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to *the image of* Baal.

- There is the Perceptive Will of God

This is God's will, expressed in the form of principles or precepts given to men.

Example:

The command not to steal makes it clear that God's will for us is not to steal. If I say, "I have discerned that it is God's will for me to rob banks, and to kill those who get in my way", we can confidently say that is not God's will His written Word is the expression of His will.

Many people are seeking God's will when it is already obvious.

- There is the Preferential Will of God

This has to do with what gives God pleasure, and what does not.

Example:

We know that God loves to show mercy, and yet He will execute judgment.

**Exodus 34:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, <sup>7</sup> Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.

God takes pleasure in the salvation of sinners; He does not take pleasure in pouring out His eternal wrath on sinners.

**Matthew 18:14**

<sup>14</sup> Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

**1 Timothy 2:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

<sup>4</sup> Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

**2 Peter 3:9**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

**Ezekiel 18:32**

<sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn *yourselves*, and live ye.

**Ezekiel 33:11**

<sup>11</sup> Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

- There is the Perfect Will of God

This is God's best for our lives.

**Romans 12:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this

world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

This is brought about by the renewing of our mind – having the mind of Christ, being holy and acceptable unto God.

There is one more part of God’s Will. It this that we will consider this morning, it is the:

There is the permissive will of God

This is what God permits, but it’s not His perfect will.

Notice again our text:

**Hosea 8:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> Set the trumpet to thy mouth. *He shall come* as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law. <sup>2</sup> Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee. <sup>3</sup> Israel hath cast off *the thing that is good*: the enemy shall pursue him. <sup>4</sup> They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew *it* not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off.

Notice:

# 1. THE CALL TO JUDGMENT

Hosea's name means "God's salvation", or "God has saved us." Hosea declares that God is going to bring judgment on His people, specifically, the nation of Israel, because they have failed to live up to their obligations.

He says the judgment has already been called for. The behavior of the nation has brought them to the point where they can expect nothing except the judgment of God to fall upon them.

As I see our great country today, I see that we, too, stand on the threshold of the judgment of God. I see that we are at a place where we have rejected God. We know what God has called us to, and we know that what God's Word says is right, and yet we allow our leaders, we allow our government to tell us it's wrong, or to tell us we cannot do it.

We've let the leaders of this nation tell us that we cannot pray to God in school.

I believe that prayer, public prayer, and prayer in public places is a very important and crucial Christian liberty that we have.

I feel that prayer at school is better than a shooting at school.

You may be thinking, if you let the Christians pray then you have to let the Muslims pray and you have to let the Buddhist pray, and to that I say, "So what?" Let them pray.

Illustration:

Remember on Mt. Carmel that the prophet of God stood up and challenged the false god and challenged the believers of the false god and said you pray to your god and I'll pray to God and we'll see which God answers!

Not only has the call for judgment come now, but the cause for judgment is before us.

## **2. THE CAUSE FOR JUDGMENT**

Look at the last part of verse number one.

### **Hosea 8:1**

<sup>1</sup> *Set the trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law.*

It says, "Because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law."

Transgressed means to go beyond

They have stepped beyond the boundaries.

The cause for judgment was because of their rebellion.

We, too, are a rebellious people. Any time that we take God out of our decision making process we are rebelling against God.

God wants to be involved in everything we do. God wants to be a part of every decision that we make. God wants to be in control of every thought that we think, every word that we speak, every deed that we do.

When we take God out of any part of that we are in rebellion against God! And Hosea said the cause for the judgment is that very rebellion!

The cause for judgment is rebellion. Notice thirdly:

### **3. THE CRY FROM JUDGMENT**

#### **Hosea 8:2**

<sup>2</sup> Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee.

Israel is in the midst of judgment. They are being chastened by God. They are soon going to be taken away by the Assyrians, to be led off into captivity.

What worse chastisement could a nation endure than that they be taken away from their homes, separated from their families, and taken to a godless nation?



And now God says when that happens they'll call out to me, "My God, we know you," as if simply knowing God is enough to prevent the calamity that is about to come to them.

Sometimes we think the same way. We think that God won't allow something bad to happen to us because "we know Him." We know God, and since we know God, He certainly wouldn't let bad things happen to us.

But we fail to recognize, maybe we know God but often many are not obedient to God! Maybe we know God but many are not serving God! Maybe we know God but many don't love God!

Matthew Henry once said: "What good is it if we say My God, I know thee, if we cannot say, My God, I love thee, serve thee, and cleave to thee only?"

Let's move on. We not only see the Call to Judgment, the Case for Judgment, and the Cry from Judgment, but notice also:

## **4. THE CASE FOR JUDGMENT**

### **Hosea 8:3**

<sup>3</sup> Israel hath cast off *the thing that is good*: the enemy shall pursue him.

Whatever was good, they had turned their back on. Whatever was right, whatever was fair, they turned away from that.

Remember Paul's warning to those at Thessalonica.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:15-22**

<sup>15</sup> See that none render evil for evil unto any *man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*. <sup>16</sup> Rejoice evermore. <sup>17</sup> Pray without ceasing. <sup>18</sup> In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. <sup>19</sup> Quench not the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Despise not prophesyings. <sup>21</sup> Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. <sup>22</sup> Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Israel knew what was good. They knew what was right, yet they turned their back on it anyway.

Because of turning their back, God said "The enemy shall pursue him."

Then in verse number 4, God says:

### **Hosea 8:4**

<sup>4</sup> They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew *it* not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off.

To me, that almost describes the political process that we have today.

We have elected officials to office, and many fail to pray about their decision, never asking God to give us wisdom.

Instead of saying, "God give me wisdom to choose the candidate You would have me choose, God, give me wisdom to vote for the person you would have me vote for," we say, "God, bless my decision. God, bless the person I chose."

But that's not the way God operates.

What we see next, though, is even worse, and that is the idolatry that is involved.

**Hosea 8:4**

<sup>4</sup>They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew *it* not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off.

If this was all there was in the book this would leave us with no hope, but note chapter 14 gives us:

## **5. THE CURE FOR JUDGMENT**

Hosea explains to Israel the cure for the judgment that is coming upon them and I share with you this morning the cure for the judgment that America most certainly faces.

**Hosea 14:1**

<sup>1</sup> O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

I think it could easily say “Oh God’s people return unto the Lord.”

Isn’t that simple?

Isn’t that the way God does things?

When things are so far out of hand that we can’t do anything; when things are so far out of control that we are at our wits end, God gives us something so simple to do.

Return to Him, which simply means repentance.

Close:

The only hope for our nation today is return to Him.

**2 Chronicles 7:14**

<sup>14</sup> If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

If we refuse to return to Him we are certain to reap the whirlwind.