

HOSEA

– THE PROPHET OF GOD'S HEART –

Misplacing God

HOSEA 8:14 For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof.

THEIR FALSE CONFIDENCE

HOSEA 8:1 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. Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee. Israel hath cast off the thing that is good: the enemy shall pursue him.

THEIR FALSE INDEPENDENCE

HOSEA 8:4a “They set up kings, but not by Me; they made princes, but I did not acknowledge them.”

THEIR FALSE GODS

HOSEA 8:4b “From their silver and gold they made idols for themselves—that they might be cut off.⁵ Your calf is rejected, O Samaria! My anger is aroused against them—How long until they attain to innocence?⁶ For from Israel is even this: A workman made it, and it is not God; but the calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces.”

THEIR FALSE EXPECTATIONS

First, they expected fruitfulness.

HOSEA 8:7 “They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no bud; it shall never produce meal. If it should produce, aliens would swallow it up. ⁸Israel is swallowed up; now they are among the Gentiles like a vessel in which is no pleasure.”

THEIR FALSE EXPECTATIONS

Second, they expected protection.

HOSEA 8:9 “For they have gone up to Assyria, like a wild donkey alone by itself; Ephraim has hired lovers.
10 Yes, though they have hired among the nations, now I will gather them; and they shall sorrow a little, because of the burden of the king of princes.”

THEIR FALSE EXPECTATIONS

Third, they expected powerful worship.

HOSEA 8:11 “Because Ephraim has made many altars for sin, they have become for him altars for sinning.¹² I have written for him the great things of My law, but they were considered a strange thing.¹³ For the sacrifices of My offerings they sacrifice flesh and eat it, but the LORD does not accept them. Now He will remember their iniquity and punish their sins. They shall return to Egypt.”