

# Reaping the Whirlwind

Hosea 8:1-9

By Scott Huckaby

5/12/2024

**BIG BEND  
BIBLE  
FELLOWSHIP**

## **Hosea 8:1-9 (NIV)**

*“Put the trumpet to your lips! An eagle is over the house of the Lord because the people have broken my covenant and rebelled against my law. <sup>2</sup> Israel cries out to me, ‘Our God, we acknowledge you!’ <sup>3</sup> But Israel has rejected what is good; an enemy will pursue him. <sup>4</sup> They set up kings without my consent; they choose princes without my approval. With their silver and gold they make idols for themselves to their own destruction. <sup>5</sup> Samaria, throw out your calf-idol! My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of purity? <sup>6</sup> They are from Israel! This calf—a metalworker has made it; it is not God. It will be broken in pieces, that calf of Samaria. <sup>7</sup> “They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no head; it will produce no flour. Were it to yield grain, foreigners would swallow it up. <sup>8</sup> Israel is swallowed up; now she is among the nations like something no one wants. <sup>9</sup> For they have gone up to Assyria like a wild donkey wandering alone. Ephraim has sold herself to lovers.*

## **v1 – Why is God calling for a trumpet to be sounded?**

Trumpets were used to assemble God’s people and to call troops to battle. Here, God commands the trumpet to sound to gather the mighty Assyrians against Israel for judgment, because they have transgressed My covenant.

## **How is it the Lord will come like an eagle against the house of the Lord (NKJV)?**

God often used the imagery of an eagle in issuing warnings to Israel and other nations who did evil (e.g., Obadiah 1:4; Jeremiah 49:22). He chose the bird they considered powerful and unstoppable to demonstrate His sovereign control over everything.

## **What else comes to mind when eagles are present?**

Eagles are carrion-eating birds and represent the ultimate judgment of God in the Olivet Discourse...

Matthew 24:27-28 – *For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.*

## **v2-4 – Why did God judge Israel despite their crying out to Him?**

Israel will cry to Me, “My God, we know You!” But their cry is not sincere, because Israel has rejected the good. They set up rulers and princes against the Lord, and were steeped in idolatry.

## **How may Christians be insincere today?**

Just saying you are a Christian doesn’t make it so...

Matthew 7:22-23 – *Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’*

True Christians have a relationship with the Lord (*I never knew you*).

## **How do you know you have a relationship with the Lord and are not just a professing Christian?**

You commune with one-another... prayer and Bible study. A good self-evaluation is...

1 John 5:13 – *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life*

We have these 12 characteristics...

Trust in Jesus – fellowship with God – sensitivity to sin – obedient to Him – reject the world system – eagerly anticipate the return of Jesus – have a decreasing pattern of sin – experience the world’s rejection – love the brethren – prayers are answered – discern truth and error – exhibit fruit of the spirit

## **v4 – How are we doing the same as Israel today, setting up kings without God’s consent?**

The rampant voter fraud that is rarely prosecuted or even acknowledged that puts people in power against the will of the people.

- If enough people act in the will of God, the will of the people will be aligned with God.
- God is still sovereign and allows the fraud to serve His purposes... there will be consequences.

### **v5-6 – What angered God?**

Their calf idol... When the nation divided, Jeroboam, the first king of Israel made two golden calves:

1 Kings 12:28 – *Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!”*

About 50 years after Jeroboam died, Jehu became ruler of Israel and instituted many reforms in Israel. He destroyed the house of Ahab; killed the ministers and priests of Baal and destroyed the temple of Baal. He did not destroy the golden calves:

2 Kings 10:29 – *However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, that is, from the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan.*

Hosea writes of just one calf in Samaria, intentionally ignoring the reality there are two present at the time he is delivering his message. When He does this, he uses the same word used in Exodus.

- Therefore, Hosea has been purposely written to make a connection to the golden calf in Exodus (and not Jeroboam's calves).

### **What would God do about Israel's calf idols?**

He would break them into pieces, the same as He would do to the nation of Israel.

### **v7 – What does it mean, *they sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind*?**

It will seem to Israel that the judgment they receive is worse than the sin they committed. This isn't true in the sense of God being worse to us than our sin deserves, but it is true in how judgment feels. This is usually because our sin is sown over a long period of time, but often reaped in a contracted period of judgment.

### **How do people today *sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind*?**

By going along with the world and not embracing the Truth as revealed in God's Word.

Ephesians 4:14 – *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine*

People who don't know the Truth will believe anything and thus will find themselves on the broad road to destruction.

- It is a small thing to embrace the Truth today, there are great consequences in eternity for not doing so
- Embracing the Truth is so logical, only a fool would reject it (Pascal's Wager)

### **How does Pascal's Wager encapsulate *sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind*?**

- It is logical to live regarding God's Word as True  
gist of the Wager is that, according to Pascal, one cannot come to the knowledge of God's existence through reason alone, so the wise thing to do is to live your life as if God does exist because such a life has everything to gain and nothing to lose.

- If we live as though God exists, and He does indeed exist, we have gained heaven.

- If He doesn't exist, we have lost nothing.

If, on the other hand, we live as though God does not exist and He really does exist, we have gained hell and punishment and have lost heaven and bliss.

- If one weighs the options, clearly the rational choice to live as if God exists is the better of the possible choices.

### **How would the judgment of God be like a stalk with no head?**

Their productivity will be severely reduced. They will not be able to produce anything of lasting value for themselves. The product of their work would be taken by foreigners.

### **v8 – What would become of Israel?**

She would lose her nation and be swallowed up by the Gentile nations.

- The descendants of Israel taken into captivity by Assyria would assimilate with the nations where they went so thoroughly, they'd lose their culture and even forget they were descendants of Jacob.
- Their continued unfaithfulness to God would cause them to no longer be the people of God; effectively, they would become Gentiles... that is what happens after multiple generations of intermarrying.

### **How would Israel be *among the nations like something no one wants*?**

They would be regarded as foreigners wherever they went. This would put them under pressure to either yield to total assimilation, congregate in isolated enclaves, or return to their own land when they could.

- Given that they had already started to compromise with the nations around them even before the Assyrian invasion, the overwhelming majority would succumb to assimilation.

### **Would God's promises to regather Israel apply to people who forgot they were Israelites?**

Why would it... they would essentially be Gentiles? These promises are for those descendants of Jacob who were faithful enough to not compromise with the nations and hold onto their culture despite the Diaspora.

Deuteronomy 7:3 – *Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son.*

God always preserves a faithful remnant of His people:

Malachi 3:6 – *For I am the Lord, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob*

It would be the descendants of God's faithful remnant who experience the Kingdom blessings of restoration.

### **v9 – What would it be like for Israel when Assyria took them into captivity.**

*like a wild donkey wandering alone* – They would become slaves and not have a home or even companions. This would rule out their congregating in like-minded enclaves... so there would be intense pressure to assimilate.

### **How had Ephraim sold herself to lovers?**

Israel had prostituted themselves to other nations, worshipping their worthless gods hoping to curry favor.

### **How can Christians sell ourselves to other lovers?**

Whenever we set something else in our lives above God. We are too sophisticated to have little statues to worship... today we can worship our careers, family members, our money, our health, politics, our digital devices, or any number of things that distract us from our Maker.

### **What applications come to mind from this passage?**

- Just saying you are a child of God doesn't make it so... it is necessary to have a relationship with Him
- There are consequences for acting against God's will... He will turn us over to ourselves.
- Compromising with the world puts us on the broad way to destruction.
- Pascal's Wager is logical; it is the smart move to take the Bible at its Word.
- Idolatry is more than just worshiping little statues, it is putting any created thing ahead of the Creator.