

Hosea 8-10**10-24-02***“Sow the Wind, Reap the Whirlwind!”***1. Intro:**

- 1.1. Kierkegaard, the Danish philosopher, told a story about a **goose** who was wounded and who landed in a barnyard with some **chickens**. - He played with the chickens and ate with the chickens. After a while that goose thought he was a chicken.
One day a flight of geese came over, migrating to their home. They gave a honk up there in the sky, and he heard it. - Kierkegaard said, "Something stirred within the breast of this goose. Something called him to the skies. He began to flap the wings he hadn't used, and he rose a few feet into the air. **Then he stopped**, and he **settled back again into the mud** of the barnyard. **He heard the cry, but he settled for less.**"

2. CHAPTER 8

- 2.1. **AN EXECUTING EAGLE!** (1-6)
- 2.2. (1) The trumpet was sounded to signify an impending battle.
- 2.2.1. When God sounds the trumpet we better wake up & listen!
- 2.2.2. Instead of God *“bearing them on eagles' wings and bringing them to Himself.”* (adapted from Ex.19:4) - The **Assyrian Eagle** was about to swoop down on them as his prey.
- 2.2.2.1. **See** Deut. 28(esp.49) - Also
- 2.3. **A VALUELESS VESSEL!** (7,8)
- 2.4. (7) **Sow wind, reap a Tornado!**
- 2.4.1. What seems to be a **lovely wind today** can become an **ugly storm tomorrow!**
- 2.4.2. Acts 27:13,14 *“When the south wind **blew softly**, supposing that they had obtained their desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete. But not long after, a **tempestuous head wind** arose, called Euroclydon.”* (eeu rahk' lih dohn)
- 2.4.3. **Sowing & Reaping!**
- 2.4.3.1. Prov.22:8 *“He who **sows** iniquity will **reap** sorrow.”*
- 2.4.3.2. Jer.12:13 *“They have **sown** wheat but **reaped** thorns;”*
- 2.4.3.3. Gal.6:7,8 *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man **sows**, that he will also **reap**.”*

- 2.4.4. If you cheat in **practice**, you'll cheat in the **game**. If you cheat in your **head**, you'll cheat on the **test**. - You'll cheat on the **girl**. You'll cheat in **business**. You'll cheat on your **mate**. - Sow a thought, reap an act. Sow an act, reap a habit. Sow a habit, reap a character. Sow a character, reap a destiny.
- 2.4.5. **Q:** Can you think of a time where you **sowed** wild oats, & **reaped** a tornado of our own?
- 2.5. (8) **Like a vessel in which is no pleasure**(*in which no one delights/NIV*) –
- 2.5.1. Israel became a piece of junk pottery on the trash heap.
- 2.5.2. **We all bring certain treasures into our marriages...**I brought my coveted **Plaster of Paris Seagulls** from Mexico!
- 2.5.2.1. They started on the fireplace. One day somehow moved to the side yard. Only one day to find them next to the trash can!
- 2.5.2.2. I delighted in them...Kelly never did!
- 2.5.3. So with Israel. They had become a worthless vessel.
- 2.6. **A DUMB DONKEY!** (9a)
- 2.7. She was like a dumb animal that had lost its way in the wilderness!
- 2.7.1. Israel was forsaken by God & forsaken by her allies, & thus abandoned to a face a future alone!
- 2.8. **A POOR PROSTITUTE!** (9b,10)
- 2.9. In negotiating w/the Gentile nations for protection, Israel acted like a **common prostitute** selling herself for money(i.e. tribute to foreign kings).
- 2.9.1. Instead of being faithful to **Jehovah God**, she prostituted herself to the **Gentile nations**...& lost everything!
- 2.9.2. Prov.6:26 **“For by means of a harlot a man is reduced to a crust of bread”**.
- 2.10. **AN ANEMIC ALTAR!** (11-14)
- 2.11. (11)**Israel**(Ephraim)multipled **altars**; **Judah** multiplied **fortifications**(14)
- 2.11.1. **Altars of sinning!** - **Q:** What if God said(as Paul did at the Areopagus), **“I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship,”** ...What altars would he find erected there?

- 2.12. (13) **Egypt** – Hosea talks about 13 times.
 - 2.12.1. It speaks of Egypt **Past**(the Exodus); **Present**(Israel’s unholy alliance with); **Future**(as a *symbol* of their impending bondage to Assyria).
 - 2.12.2. **They shall return to Egypt** – **11:5** makes it clear this is figurative.
 - 2.12.3. **Assyria** becomes “*The New Egypt*” if you will!

3. **CHAPTER 9**

- 3.1. **A HABITUAL HARLOT!** (1-9)
- 3.2. Wiersbe said, “During the harvest season, prostitutes frequented the threshing floors, where the men slept to guard the grain.”¹
 - 3.2.1. Maybe that’s why Boaz was so shocked to find a woman at his feet when he was at the threshing floor(aka Ruth) “**Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant."**
- 3.3. **SWEETNESS IN THE SAND!** (10-17)
- 3.4. (10) **Q: How did God feel about Israel?**
 - 3.4.1. You don’t find **grapes** in the desert...but if you did, they would sure be enjoyable.
 - 3.4.2. The **first figs** tasted especially good, as did Israel to their Lord.
 - 3.4.3. **But now** He’d likened them to: that 1 **bad seed** in a bag of sunflower seeds! – Or, to the **brown spot** on a banana! – Or, the **gooey stuff** on a sunny side up egg!
- 3.5. (14) Hosea breaks into a **prayer** for them.
 - 3.5.1. But then he pauses(see dash) for he doesn’t know what God should give them?
 - 3.5.2. Then he asks, “What should you give them?”
 - 3.5.3. Then the only thing he thinks of is “childlessness” so the miseries of the day would be as limited as possible.
 - 3.5.3.1. The **fruitful womb** was always a **blessing**, but now the **miscarrying womb** would be a **blessing**.
 - 3.5.4. **See** Lk.23:26-31 – **What did Jesus say on the Via Dolorosa?**

¹ Warren Wiersbe; pg.33

4. CHAPTER 10

- 4.1. **HALF HEARTED!** (1-11)
- 4.2. (1) **Israel empties his vine** – or, a vine emptying the fruit which it gives.
 - 4.2.1. NIV **“Israel was a spreading vine;”**...but now she is w/o fruit! (again, agriculturally & spiritually **“we reap what we sow!”**)
- 4.3. **What was wrong w/Israel?** (4 things!)
 - 4.3.1. [1] **She tried to serve 2 masters!** (2)
 - 4.3.1.1. [lit.] **Their heart was divided in loyalty!**
 - 4.3.2. [2] **She lied to God!** (3,4)
 - 4.3.2.1. (4a) **Swearing falsely in making covenants.**
 - 4.3.2.2. (4b) NIV **“therefore lawsuits spring up like poisonous weeds in a plowed field.”**
 - 4.3.2.3. People couldn’t trust one another & few kept their promises; therefore, they had to sue one another to get what they deserved.
 - 4.3.2.4. **“The multiplying of laws & lawsuits is one evidence that integrity & credibility are vanishing from society.”** (www)
 - 4.3.2.4.1. **“Sound familiar?”**
 - 4.3.3. [3] **She worshiped idols!** (5,6)
 - 4.3.4. [2] **Their hearts were hard & needed plowing up!** (11)
 - 4.3.5. **Q:** Haven’t we been guilty of the same 4?
- 4.4. (9) **The days of Gibeah** – Judges 19-21.
 - 4.4.1. A reference to the **awful sins** of the men of Gibeah & the tragic **civil war** that followed.
 - 4.4.2. **Gibeah**(a town occupied by tribe of Benjamin); in the days of the **Judges**; a **Levite** on a trip w/his **concubine**; stopped in Gibeah for a night; **A man** took them in; a band of **depraved youth** came to the door demanding the Levite man(to have him sexually); In the end the **concubine was sent out** to the men to **use her all night**; she stumbles **back to the door...**& is **found dead** in the door step in the morning; the man took her home w/him & the **chopped her up** & sent a piece of her to the 12 tribes(obviously for shock value); it worked the 11 tribes came together against Benjamin & a Civil War ensued, almost to the demise of the tribe of Benj.
 - 4.4.2.1. **It was a dark day in Israel!**

- 4.5. (11) Israel was like a **heifer** that enjoys treading out the grain because she can **eat & work** at the same time.
- 4.5.1. But now God would make her “**yoke hard** her **burden heavy**”, as He fitted her for the **Assyrian yoke!**
- 4.6. **SOW & REAP PRINCIPLE!** (12-15)
- 4.7. (12) **Sow, reap, fallow ground, rain!**
- 4.8. **Fallow ground** – is land that has lain idle & become hard & full of weeds.
- 4.8.1. The **plow of conviction** must 1st break up our hard hearts.
- 4.8.2. Then the **seed of the Word** can be planted.
- 4.8.3. Next, the **gracious rain** will be sent from heaven.
- 4.8.4. Is He not the “Lord of the compost heap”? - Who can take our **garbage** & turn it onto **good soil** & ultimately bring forth fruit & beauty in full measure!!!
- 4.9. (13) Job 4:8 “**Those who plow iniquity & sow trouble reap the same.**”
- 4.9.1. We go out looking for the pleasures of sin, & always end up in someone’s backyard feeding swine!
- 4.9.2. We know the outcome of the story of the prodigal, yet we venture there anyway???
- 4.9.3. **Q:** Like the goose, have you **settled back again into the mud of the barnyard?**
- 4.9.3.1. The reward to those who “**wait on the Lord**” is that they will **mount up** with wings like eagles, **run** and not grow weary, **walk** and not faint!
- 4.9.3.2. **Who are these “waiters”?** – *They are those who **fully believe** in Gods power to deliver, & manifest their **confidence** in Him by **patiently waiting** for Him to bring His promise to fulfillment!*
- 4.10. **End:**
- 4.10.1. Prov.14:34 “**Righteousness** exalts a nation, But **sin** is a reproach to any people.”
- 4.10.2. Ps.33:12 “Blessed is the nation whose **God is the LORD**, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.”