Hosea 8-10

“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) multiplied 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.”

   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?

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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?


4.4.1. 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…and 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 God’s 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.”