

HOSEA – GOD’S UNFAILING LOVE - Israel’s Sin, but God’s Heartbeat and Love for His Wife, Israel! – CHAPTERS 7-7

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

IMPENITENCE OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

Hos 7:1 "When I would have healed Israel, Then the iniquity of Ephraim was uncovered, And the wickedness of Samaria. For they have committed fraud; A thief comes in; A band of robbers takes spoil outside.

Hos 7:2 They do not consider in their hearts That I remember all their wickedness; Now their own deeds have surrounded them; They are before My face.

Hos 7:3 They make a king glad with their wickedness, And princes with their lies.

Hos 7:4 "They are all adulterers. Like an oven heated by a baker— He ceases stirring the fire after kneading the dough, Until it is leavened.

Hos 7:5 In the day of our king Princes have made him sick, inflamed with wine; He stretched out his hand with scoffers.

Hos 7:6 They prepare their heart like an oven, While they lie in wait; Their baker sleeps all night; In the morning it burns like a flaming fire.

Hos 7:7 They are all hot, like an oven, And have devoured their judges; All their kings have fallen. None among them calls upon Me.

v. 1- uncovered – Literally, “flaunted”. *Would have healed, but couldn’t because you were proud of your sin!* There was a time when this nation was ashamed of sin, but now? How much healin? How much blessings have been averted because of that?

v. 2 God is saying, “I knew about their sins before, but now they have taken a further step away from Me and are doing their sinning out in the open.” Now they have reached the lowest depths with sin. A practical disbelief of God’s omniscience and government was at the bottom of all their wickedness. Psa 73:11 And they say, “How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?”

v. 3 Actually, the government was encouraging the wickedness of the people. Making laws that gave freedom for their wickedness. Where these things were once against the law of God, and would’ve been punished by the law of God, they now had made new laws, in which there were no punishments, or penalties, because the government itself, the men of the government, the leaders of the government were in themselves corrupted. In fact, there was encouragement to flaunt the new laws! Perverse sexual behavior; abortion;

v. 4 Like an oven – Israel’s sin is compared to the heat of an oven. This vice is grown raging hot among them, as the fire in an oven, when the baker having called up those that make the bread, to prepare all things ready, does so by continued supply of fuel, heat the oven, ‘till the heat need be raised no higher.

v. 5 In the day of our king - Probably the anniversary of his birth or coronation. *Stretched out his hand* - In these drunken feasts it seems the king forgot himself, and stretched out his hand, with those who deride religion, and with confusion to the professors of it. Drunkenness and revelling abound much at the court,

v. 6 They - Those luxurious and drinking princes. *Like an oven* - Hot with ambition, revenge, or covetousness. *Lie in wait* - Against the life or estate of some of their subjects. *Their baker sleeps all night*, and in the morning finds his oven well heated and ready for his purpose; so these when they have laid some wicked plot, tho’ they may seem to sleep for a while, yet the fire is glowing within, and flames out as soon as there is opportunity.

v. 7 They’re adulterers, and he speaks of their being hot in their passions, adulteress passions. “Like an oven of the baker, that is heated.” And we use the term, even to the present day, concerning a person who is burning with lust, he is in “heat. Devoured - As a fire destroys, so have these conspirators, destroyed their rulers. *All their kings* - All that have been since Jeroboam the second’s reign, to the delivery of this prophecy, namely, Zechariah, Shallum, Pekahiah, Pekah, fell by the conspiracy of such hot princes. Not one of all these either feared, trusted, or worshipped God, resisting the proper methods of reformation and redress. Sometimes when things get really bad and corrupt, then people finally wake up, and they begin to call upon the Lord. But here, in the midst of, of this terrible condition of the nation, rapidly deteriorating, rapidly going down, still there was no one who was really calling upon the Lord. One of the mysteries is the lack of prayer amongst the people of God. Are we serious in our prayers for this nation at this time? Are we praying for kings and those in authority? (1 Tim. 2:2)

Introduction to Chapters 7-9: Hosea, the heart broken prophet with a heart warming message, is a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel, was called to a difficult ministry.

He, like Jeremiah is called of God, to oversee the death of that nation. So he delivers God’s complaint against them, and shows to them the reasons for God’s judgment. So God declares, and this really sort of ties together with the verses of the previous chapter, where he speaks of the troops of robbers. Hos 6:9-11 .

So, “When I would’ve healed Israel”, and the thing is, it was God’s desire to heal. The bible says that, “God delights in mercy”. God loves to show mercy. He looks for any excuse to show mercy. God wants to heal, that which is torn, that which is wounded.

HOSEA – GOD’S UNFAILING LOVE - Israel’s Sin, but God’s Heartbeat and Love for His Wife, Israel! – CHAPTERS 7-7

OBSERVATION

Hos 7:8 "Ephraim has mixed himself among the peoples; Ephraim is a cake unturned.

Hos 7:9 Aliens have devoured his strength, But he does not know it; Yes, gray hairs are here and there on him, Yet he does not know it.

Hos 7:10 And the pride of Israel testifies to his face, But they do not return to the LORD their God, Nor seek Him for all this.

FUTURE RELIANCE ON THE NATIONS

Hos 7:11 "Ephraim also is like a silly dove, without sense— They call to Egypt, They go to Assyria.

Hos 7:12 Wherever they go, I will spread My net on them; I will bring them down like birds of the air; I will chastise them According to what their congregation has heard.

Hos 7:13 "Woe to them, for they have fled from Me! Destruction to them, Because they have transgressed against Me! Though I redeemed them, Yet they have spoken lies against Me.

Hos 7:14 They did not cry out to Me with their heart When they wailed upon their beds. "They assemble together for grain and new wine, They rebel against Me;

Hos 7:15 Though I disciplined and strengthened their arms, Yet they devise evil against Me;

Hos 7:16 They return, but not to the Most High; They are like a treacherous bow. Their princes shall fall by the sword For the cursings of their tongue. This shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.

THE APOSTASY OF ISRAEL

Hos 8:1 "Set the trumpet to your mouth! He shall come like an eagle against the house of the LORD, Because they have transgressed My covenant And rebelled against My law.

Hos 8:2 Israel will cry to Me, 'My God, we know You!'

Hos 8:3 Israel has rejected the good; The enemy will pursue him.

INTERPRETATION

v. 8 Ephraim - The kingdom of Israel. *Mixed himself* - With the Heathens by leagues and commerce and by imitation of their manners. *A cake unturned* - Burnt on one side, and dough on the other, and so good for nothing on either: always in one extreme or the other. They were not committed entirely for God, as they should have been. They had no consistency. Cf. Laodicea (Rev. 3:16)

v. 9 does not know - He is not aware of the loss he hath sustained. *Gray hairs* - Of old age and declining strength are upon their kingdom. They were strangely insensible of the judgments of God, which they were under, and which threatened their ruin

v. 10 pride of Israel testifies,.....*notwithstanding their weak and declining state, they were proud and haughty*; entertained a high conceit of themselves, and of their good and safe condition; and behaved insolently towards God, and were not humbled before him for their sins. Their pride was notorious, which they themselves could not deny; they were self-convicted, and self-condemned, And here is the tragedy, *they refused to turn to the LORD!*

v. 11 Ephraim refused to run to God for help. So first she ran down to Egypt for help. When Egypt wouldn't give her the help she wanted, she went up to Assyria and asked for help. She went back and forth like a silly dove. What a picture!

v. 12 Wherever they go - To seek aid of Egypt or Assyria. Bring them down - Though they attempt to fly, yet as fowls in the net they shall certainly fall.

Hath heard - From the prophets whom I have sent unto them. **They're not looking to God, and so God said, "I'm just going to trap them. I'll ensnare them in the net".**

v. 13 They've actually run from God! Rather, not, it wasn't just a case of not seeking God, it's a case of fleeing from God, *Spoken lies* - They belied his corrections as if not deserved; they belied the good done, as if too little, or not done by God, but by their idol. **But even then, they were rebelling against God! They weren't seeking God!**

v. 14 They didn't realize that the famine they were having was a judgment of God upon them. They were crying about having no food. Their shows of devotion and reformation were but shows, and in them they did but mock God..

vs. 15-16 "They are like a treacherous bow." You put an arrow in it to shoot at something and the string breaks. It is a deceitful bow—you can't depend upon it. "This shall be their derision in the land of Egypt." He is saying that Egypt will begin to mock them and ridicule them for the way they are acting. You can see that this is a very severe section of the Word of God. Hosea was not the most popular prophet in his day. He wouldn't be a popular prophet today, either. However, he still has a message for us, and we do well to listen.

v. 1- Set the trumpet - The Lord here commands the prophet to publish, as by sound of trumpet, that which God will bring upon apostate Israel. *He* - The king of Assyria. *like an eagle (Assyria's national symbol)* - Swift, hungry, surmounting all difficulties. *House of the Lord* - The family of Israel, the Israelites' church.

v. 2 Israel will cry - But not sincerely. Not with their whole heart.

v. 3 rejected the good - to cast off with abhorrence- Israel hath cast off and abhorred Good," both "Him who is Good" and "that which is good." *The enemy will pursue* - "Forsaking God, and forsaken by Him, they must needs be laid open to all evils." The "enemy," i. e., the Assyrian, "shall pursue him."

APPLICATION

v. 9 "Aliens have devoured his strength, But he does not know it!" Israel wasn't even aware that her vitality and vibrancy were gone! Don't be like Israel! Don't find yourself sidelined by the enemy because you didn't take seriously the message of Hosea. Don't think that you don't need to pray or seek the Lord with intensity but that you'll just cruise into church occasionally. If you do, like Israel, you'll be half-baked. Like Samson, you'll be powerless and not even be aware that the Spirit had departed from him? As so often there have been people who have walked with the Lord, and they begin to sort of mess around with the world. They begin to get entangled with the world, until they are really in, ensnared by the world, but they don't know it! They still think everything is okay. "Oh I'm strong, I'm able. I can stop anytime I want". You know, how many times have you heard that? They're ensnared and they don't even know it! Sin is such a deadly, dastardly thing, because one of the effects of sin in your life, tolerated sin, is the blinding of your eyes. You can't see what's really happening to you. Your friends can see it, they try to warn you of it, they try to tell you, (Mat. 17:21)

Summary – chap. 7

That drunkenness and all is associated with the heated passions. They say that wine is as oil to the fires of lust. So the kings being filled with lust, and then the oil of wine inflaming even, those passions. Those who do not abide by the mercies of God will be pursued by the justice of God. The "silly doves", not abiding by the mercy of God, seeking to flee to Egypt or to Assyria for help, but will be pursued by the justice of God.

Chap 8:2 'My God, we know You!' (Mt. 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?' [23] And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!')

OBSERVATION

Hos 8:4 "They set up kings, but not by Me; They made princes, but I did not acknowledge them. From their silver and gold They made idols for themselves— That they might be cut off.
Hos 8:5 Your calf is rejected, O Samaria! My anger is aroused against them— How long until they attain to innocence?
Hos 8:6 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.
Hos 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.
Hos 8:8 Israel is swallowed up; Now they are among the Gentiles Like a vessel in which is no pleasure.
Hos 8:9 For they have gone up to Assyria, Like a wild donkey alone by itself; Ephraim has hired lovers.
Hos 8:10 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
Hos 8:11 "Because Ephraim has made many altars for sin, They have become for him altars for sinning.
Hos 8:12 I have written for him the great things of My law, But they were considered a strange thing.
Hos 8:13 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.
Hos 8:14 "For Israel has forgotten his Maker, And has built temples; Judah also has multiplied fortified cities; But I will send fire upon his cities, And it shall devour his palaces."
JUDGEMENT OF ISRAEL’S SIN
Hos 9:1 Do not rejoice, O Israel, with joy like other peoples, For you have played the harlot against your God. You have made love for hire on every threshing floor.
Hos 9:2 The threshing floor and the winepress Shall not feed them, And the new wine shall fail in her.
Hos 9:3 They shall not dwell in the LORD's land, But Ephraim shall return to Egypt, And shall eat unclean things in Assyria.
Hos 9:4 They shall not offer wine offerings to the LORD, Nor shall their sacrifices be pleasing to Him. It shall be like bread of mourners to them; All who eat it shall be defiled. For their bread shall be for their own life; It shall not come into the house of the LORD.

INTERPRETATION

v. 4 Trusting in self-reliance! *They* - Israel. Kings - Shallum, Menahem, Pekah, and Hosea. *Not by Me* – but I did not acknowledge them. Knew it not - Did not approve of it.
v. 5 Your calf - The chief idol set up in Samaria. *is rejected* God to cast You off. *A So the northern kingdom lapsed immediately into the idolatrous worship of the calf, tracing back to the heritage or the traditions of the Egyptians, in the worship of the sacred calf. So the Lord now speaks against that.* - How long will it be, ere they repent and reform?
v. 6 From Israel-By their invention. *It*-Both the idol and the worshippers of it.
v. 7 Sow the wind - A proverbial speech to denote lost labour. *Whirlwind* - A tempest, which destroys all that is in its way; an emblem of the wrath of God. *The stalk* - All your dependence on idols, and foreign assistance, will be as seed that bear neither stalk nor bud. *Never produce meal* - Or suppose it produced stalk and bud, yet the bud shall be blasted, and never yield meal.
v. 8 Israel is swallowed up - Not only their substance, but their persons also, the whole nation of them, their whole estate, civil and ecclesiastic: it notes the utter destruction of them by the Assyrians. *now shall they be among the Gentiles*- when Shalmaneser took Samaria, and with it swallowed up the whole kingdom of Israel.
v. 9 Gone up - Israel is like a wild ass. *A wild donkey* - Stubborn, wild, untamed. *Alone* - Solitary, where is no path or tract; so they were in their captivity, **They’ve, they’ve turned for help to the wrong places.**].
v. 10 Gather them - I will assemble them together, that they may be taken and destroyed together. *Sorrow a little* - For a while before their final captivity. *The burden* - The tribute laid on them by the king.
v. 11 Altars - Those which they shall find in Assyria. *for sin* - Shall be the occasion of his greater guilt and punishment.
v. 12 Written - By Moses first, by other prophets afterwards. *But they were considered a strange things* - Israel looks on them, as nothing to them, but written for someone else. **Does that ever fit us?.**
v. 13 No longer are their sacrifices acceptable. God isn’t looking for sacrifice, He’s looking for obedience. 1Sa 15:22 *So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.* *They shall return* - Many shall fly from the Assyrian into Egypt.
v. 14 They were building ministries, programs and gated communities, but they had lost their relationship with the LORD. Temples - Idol temples. *Devour his palaces* - This was fulfilled when all the cities of Judah and Israel were laid in ashes by the king of Assyria.
v. 1- *like other people* - With feastings, triumphs, and sacrifices of thanksgiving. *For hire* - Such as is given by adulterers to lewd women; thou hast loved to see thy floor full, and hast said thy idols gave thee this plenty.
v. 2 *shall not feed...shall fail* - In other words, there is going to be scarcity rather than abundance.
v. 3 Ephraim - Many of Ephraim shall fly into Egypt. *Shall eat...Assyria* - The residue shall be carried captive into Assyria.
v. 4 Many of them went down into the land of Egypt following the captivity. Out of the land, they could not worship God as He intended them to.

APPLICATION

8:5 Tthe picture here, is sowing the wind. You reap in kind. You sow the wind, you’ll reap the whirlwind. Now the desert whirlwind, on hot days in the desert, you can see these whirlwinds, as they move across the desert, swirling, picking up the tumbleweeds, picking up the dust, picking up papers and all, and lifting them up into the sky. You watch the swirling of the whirlwind, scattering things all over the place. So they are going to be scattered. They’re gonna be lifted up out of the land, they’re gonna be tossed and scattered into the various parts of the world. **They have sown the wind, now they’re gonna reap the whirlwind, as God is going to allow them to be scattered throughout the world.] it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers will swallow it up. For Israel is swallowed up: and now shall they be among the Gentiles as a vessel wherein there is no pleasure (8:7-8).**
They’re gonna be outcasts. They’re gonna be living now among the Gentiles, and they’ll be persecuted, they’ll be hated. They’ll be a byword among the people. The people will be saying, “Oh those dirty Jews!”, and, and they will be subjected to all kinds of bitter experiences among the Gentiles, **experiencing the hatred, and the venom of the world against the people of God. Because they turned from the love of God, from the place that God had put them.** They turned away from God, and now God is turning away from them. They turned their backs on God, God’s turning His back on them. They are reaping what they have sown. Nothing substantial left. **There is no stalk. No more fruit. They’re not bringing forth fruit to the Lord any longer. Israel was once a fruitful vine! But no longer bringing forth fruit.**
Oh how these things should speak to our hearts tonight, as we can see the parallels between what was happening to Israel, and what’s happening to us today! How it should bring us to our knees in seeking God, because the only hope for America, is a revival, sent by God and the nation turning back to God. For if we continue our present direction, we cannot stand. We will be destroyed. Our strength morally, is already gone, but we don’t really realize it yet.

8 v.12 I have written for him the great things of My law, But they were considered a strange thing. They thought it was written for someone else. Do you ever sit in a Bible study and say, Oh, I wish so and so were here to here that! The Lord writes His word for us. **Therefore, we are in terrible danger whenever we think it was written for someone else!**

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OBSERVATION

Hos 9:5 What will you do in the appointed day, And in the day of the feast of the LORD?
Hos 9:6 For indeed they are gone because of destruction. Egypt shall gather them up; Memphis shall bury them. Nettles shall possess their valuables of silver; Thorns shall be in their tents.
Hos 9:7 The days of punishment have come; The days of recompense have come. Israel knows! The prophet is a fool, The spiritual man is insane, Because of the greatness of your iniquity and great enmity.
Hos 9:8 The watchman of Ephraim is with my God; But the prophet is a fowler's snare in all his ways— Enmity in the house of his God.
Hos 9:9 They are deeply corrupted, As in the days of Gibeah. He will remember their iniquity; He will punish their sins.
Hos 9:10 "I found Israel Like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers As the firstfruits on the fig tree in its first season. But they went to Baal Peor, And separated themselves to that shame; They became an abomination like the thing they loved.
Hos 9:11 As for Ephraim, their glory shall fly away like a bird— No birth, no pregnancy, and no conception!
Hos 9:12 Though they bring up their children, Yet I will bereave them to the last man. Yes, woe to them when I depart from them!
Hos 9:13 Just as I saw Ephraim like Tyre, planted in a pleasant place, So Ephraim will bring out his children to the murderer."
Hos 9:14 Give them, O LORD— What will You give? Give them a miscarrying womb And dry breasts!
Hos 9:15 "All their wickedness is in Gilgal, For there I hated them. Because of the evil of their deeds I will drive them from My house; I will love them no more. All their princes are rebellious.
Hos 9:16 Ephraim is stricken, Their root is dried up; They shall bear no fruit. Yes, were they to bear children, I would kill the darlings of their womb."
Hos 9:17 My God will cast them away, Because they did not obey Him; And they shall be wanderers among the nations.

INTERPRETATION

v. 5 *What will you do* - You will not then be suffered to observe any of them.
v. 6 *They are gone* - Some are already withdrawn from the desolation that cometh. *Egypt* - In Egypt they hope to be quiet and survive these desolations, but they shall die in Egypt.
v. 7 *The prophet* - The false prophet. The spiritual man - That pretends to be full of the spirit of prophecy. *Greatness of your iniquity* - God began his punishments in giving them over to believe their false prophets. *great enmity* - Which God had against your sins.
v. 8 *The watchman* - The old true prophets indeed were with God. My God - The God of Hosea. *The prophet* - The false prophets have, as well as the people, left God.
v. 9 As in the days of Gibeah – (**Judges 19:22-29**) **Here the nation had become like Gibeon. The homosexuals had become activists. They had begun to demonstrate. They’ve begun to demand rights. Final straw!**
v. 10 The vine and the fig tree are symbols of the nation Israel which are used throughout the Word of God. Israel not only established calf worship in both Samaria and Beth-el, but, under Ahab and Jezebel, they also brought in the prophets of Baal. **The nation had once been fruitful, once been a blessing. Now no longer loving God. No longer serving God. No longer fruitful. No longer pleasant.**
v. 11 Their glory - Their children or posterity, which was the glory of Israel. Shall fly - It is proverbial, and speaks a sudden loss of children. From the birth - As soon as born. From the womb - Their mothers shall not bring their fruit alive into the world. The conception - Their wives shall not conceive.
v. 12 *If you depart from Him, He often will just linger, continuing to work in your heart, in your life. But oh, beware of that day, when God departs from you!*
v. 13 *The children are to be dashed in the streets, they’re to be destroyed without compassion or mercy. War is such a horrible thing!*
v. 14 *Give them* - It is an abrupt but pathetic speech of one that shews his trouble for a sinking, undone nation. *A miscarrying womb* - It is less misery to have none, than to have all our children murdered.
v. 15 *The place of worship, Gilgal. “I’ll drive them out!”, God said.] and I will love them no more: and all of their princes are revolvers - They’ve gone too far. When God says, “I will love them no more”. They’ve crossed the line!*
v. 16 God's judgment was to come not only upon the fruit of the ground, but also on the birth of children.
v. 17 *My God will cast them away because they did not obey Him: Terrible fate, terrible judgment. The reason, they didn’t listen to God.* Oh God help us that we’ll obey the voice of the Lord. That we’ll hear the voice of the Lord. But, obeying is a little stronger, it’s not just hearing, it is then responding in obedience to it. Obeying the voice of the Lord, means that there’s a change of activity in my life. I am now responding to what God has said in a positive way. May God help us to respond to the warnings of the Spirit in these days, in which we live. As our nation is moving in the same path, that Israel was moving. Away from God. “If my people”, called by my name, will just humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin, and I will heal their nation”.

APPLICATION

In chapter 9, we see five things Israel would experience as a punished people. These same experiences will happen to us if we forget the Lord. If any of these apply to you, take heart! Thank the Lord that He is showing you where you’re at, that you might get right with Him!
Vs. 1-2 - The **death of joy is the first sign** that something is not right with your walk with the Lord.
v. 3 - The second result of rebelliousness **is a return to bondage**. When you’re not in the right place with the Lord, you’ll find yourself all tangled up in the things of the world, which previously you were free.
Vs. 4-7 – Third, we see **a loss of discernment**. Because she had lost her spiritual bearings, Israel thought God’s prophets were fools. We will find the same thing in our own walks. If our hearts aren’t right, saints will seem like fanatics and spirituality will seem crazy.
Vs. 11-16 – **A falling birthrate is the fourth sign** of a rebellious people. Spiritually, the same thing will be true of us. When a flock is healthy, there is always natural reproduction. But when a flock, or an individual, is not healthy, there is no new birth or growth.
V. 17 – **The fifth result of rebellion is isolation**. You’ll know when you’ve run aground spiritually because you’ll feel cut off from the Lord. Like Israel, you’ll feel burned out, cut off, and you’ll wander in circles if you cease to abide in the Lord.
These five sign are not to be looked upon as condemnation, but as an evaluation for us. If they speak of your own situation, return to the Lord, call upon Him and He will do what it takes to draw you to Himself once again!

9:7 Those days come. Now because God often times, because of His mercy, is slow to anger, plenteous in mercy, and He withholds judgment for a period of time. But, unfortunately people, many times misinterpret this longsuffering of God as blindness. “God doesn’t see.” Or, as ignorance, “God doesn’t know.” You don’t realize that God is just merciful, He’s loving, He’s slow to anger, plenteous in mercy, but you misinterpret that. You say, “Well God doesn’t know if you’re, or God doesn’t care”, or even worse. As we hear today, “Well God approves of what we’re doing”. **That’s probably the worst blasphemy to think that God actually approves of those evil practices that He has condemned over and over within His word**