

Hello. /We will begin our tenth lecture on Hosea. /Today's message begins with Hosea 13:9. /Verses 9-13: God's wrath cannot be stopped by anyone. /Kings and authorities who have power in the world cannot save us from God's wrath.

/Verse 9. Please read. /He destroys you, O Israel, for you are against me, against your helper.

/North Israel became weaker and weaker and eventually was destroyed. /The reason for this is Israel was against God. / "For you are against me, against your helper." /We need to understand that we can only live when God helps us.

/We must not think that we can live by worshiping idols or by gaining riches. /We must not think that we need to have a king and a judge for us to live. /The believer must understand that there is life through God who helps us.

/We should not look at the world and think about how we are to become rich. /We need to look at God our help and move forward.

/Verses 10-11. /Where now is your king, to save you in all your cities? Where are all your rulers— those of whom you said, "Give me a king and princes"? I gave you a king in my anger, and I took him away in my wrath.

/During the time of Samuel, Israel asked God for a king and his nobles. /They wanted to build a nation in this world. /So God gave them a king and his nobles. /Now, the question is could the king save Israel from destruction.

/Their kings went against the word of God and followed their greed. /There was a time when over a period of ten years, the kingship had changed five times. /Israel was not stable, but it had fallen into confusion.

/Instead of receiving the king's help, they had called upon the wrath of God. /Here, we can see the secret for God's people to become stronger and more powerful. /It is to not follow the ways of the world.

/In our lives, we must obey the God who helps us. /We should not live according to the ways of the world. /The believer must live in faith and in the grace of God. /Much like the Israelites who spent forty years in the wilderness, we too can live when we have God's grace.

/Verses 12-13. /The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is kept in store. The pangs of childbirth come for him, but he is an unwise son, for at the right time he does not present himself at the opening of the womb.

/The verse says, "The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is kept in store." /Israel, who had abandoned God, did not immediately receive its punishment. /However, the sin did not simply disappear. /It was bound up and kept in store.

/Water that is in store is bound to explode one day. /Eventually, there will be unbearable and incurable punishment. /It is like the pain that comes to a woman with child. /It is a warning of God's judgment that is sure to come. /We must not think it is okay for us to sin because God is patient with us.

/God's judgment is stored up and explodes all at once. /When God's warnings and discipline is upon us, we must repent and go back to him. /If a child does not exit the womb during birth, the mother will die.

/Verse 14. /Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death? O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion is hidden from my eyes.

/In verses 14-16, God speaks about his promise of salvation and punishment. /Verse 14 promises God's redemption for those who repent and come back to God. /Israel had perished, but those who repent and return to God are promised redemption.

/God gives us redemption through Jesus Christ. /God says, "Compassion is hidden from my eyes." /If they repent and return, God will do as he planned.

/God will do what he has planned. /The perishing nation of Israel could be revived only through the grace of God. /Before God's punishment appears suddenly before us, we need to return by the grace of God.

/Verses 15-16. /Though he may flourish among his brothers, the east wind, the wind of the LORD, shall come, rising from the wilderness, and his fountain shall dry up; his spring shall be parched; it shall strip his treasury of every precious thing. Samaria shall bear her guilt, because she has rebelled against her God; they shall fall by the sword; their little ones shall be dashed in pieces, and their pregnant women ripped open.

/The verses predict the frightening punishment that will be upon Israel if it does not repent. /Judgment will come on them like the east wind. /The east wind in the Middle Eastern region is a hot, desert wind. /If this wind blows, everything becomes dry and desolate.

/The east wind refers to the nations of Assyria and Babylon that lie in the East. /If these nations come upon Israel, then Israel will be destroyed. /As the prophesy says, there will be vicious slaughter, and Jerusalem will perish. /God's judgment is a scary thing.

/I will now give the conclusion of chapter 13. /God's way of disciplining Israel applies to us in the same way. /Even now, if God's children leave God, God urges us to come back.

/If we do not return to God, God disciplines us with the whip and with punishment. /Betraying God's grace leads to a path of destruction without salvation. /Returning to God and repenting of our sins is the way to life.

/Then, a new chapter of God's work will be shown to us. /We need to learn how to be in awe of God in our lives. /David lived a life that was in awe of God. /There are five characteristics of David's life.

/David lived with a faithful, honest, and truthful heart. /And he lived in the presence of God. /He also lived with God. /These are the five characteristics of David's life. /The most significant of them all is David lived in the presence of God.

/Theologically speaking, it means "the consciousness of living in God's presence." / "Coram deo" means to live in God's presence. /We need to be like David and live in the presence of God in awe of God.

/Then, God will love us, protect us, and help us in any environment. /I hope all of you can have this kind of life.

/Now, we still start the lecture on Hosea 14. /Hosea 14 is the final conclusion of the book of Hosea. /The message is that the God of love is willing to forgive Israel even when Israel committed sins that were unforgivable.

/God promises to accept Israel and make it prosperous again if it repents and returns to God. /Although Israel may be like a mother who left her family for another lover, God is willing to accept Israel if it repents. /The subject of chapter 14 is "Return." /It means for Israel to come back.

/I will give you the main points of the chapter. /Verses 1-3: The LORD will show his mercy if Israel returns. /Verses 4-8: God revives the people who repent and return to him. /We need to trust in these promises of God and depend on him. /Verse 9: those who are wise walk in the way of the Lord. /In verse 13, God says he will show mercy to those who return to him.

/Verse 1. Please read. /Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.

/Israel's original name was Jacob. /Jacob, who was very competitive, changed and his name became Israel. /God wanted Israel to come back to God. /Because God allowed Jacob to become Israel, Israel should go back to God.

/Because God loves us, he invites us to repent. /If we respond to God's call to us, we will find life. /God says, "For you have stumbled because of your iniquity."

/Israel was put in a difficult situation after being disciplined. /However, this was not God's real intention, but it was a punishment of love. /God disciplines us because he loves us. /God promises to give us good things if we return to him.

/God's discipline saves us rather than kills us. /What does it mean to be unrighteous? /It means to leave God and love the world. /It means to put our trust in the world. /It is living in the ways of man. /It also means to change God's customs and to serve God in whatever ways we feel like serving him. /All of these things are unrighteousness. /We must return to God from these places of unrighteousness.

/Verse 2. /Take with you words and return to the LORD; say to him, "Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips.

/When we return to God, we must take words to the LORD. /We need to hold onto the word, trusting in the word when we return to God. /We need to reflect on the word and reflect on our sins when we return to God. /We need to return to him carrying words that are about us.

/When we listen to the word and the word reveals our unworthiness, we must repent and go back to God. / The verse says, "Take away all iniquity; accept what is good." /It is asking for forgiveness of the sins of disobedience and unbelief.

/It means to ask God to repair our broken lives. / "Accept what is good" is to ask God for his mercy and acceptance. /To repeat this, it means asking God to forgive us of our wrongdoings and to accept us with his mercy.

/The verse says, "And we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips." /Repenting with our lips is more valuable than paying with bulls. /God values the confessions of our lips.

/The Bible says, "Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." /Romans 10:9

/God values the sincere repentance that comes from the confession of our lips. /There is something more valuable than giving large offerings. /It is giving our humble and contrite hearts.

/Verse 3. /Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, 'Our God,' to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy."

/Now, the Israelites will turn from their place of relying on Assyria. /Now, the Israelites will not trust in their military strength. /They confess that they will not follow false idols. /Yes, this is true.

/True repentance does not end with the confession of the lips. /True repentance is returning to God in our actual lives. /It happens when we look only to God, trust only in God, and rejoice only in God.

/The confession of our lips is not enough for true repentance. /The verse says, "In you the orphan finds mercy." /Even though the orphan is unqualified and has done nothing good, God has pity on him.

/In the same way, we can repent in the mercy of God. /An orphan cannot live one day without someone's help. /Now, we need to humble ourselves before God like an orphan and trust in him.

/We need to trust in God with the heart of an orphan. /We need to hang onto God and return to him crying like an orphan. /When God has sympathy on us as he has sympathy for orphans, we find hope.

/God is the father of the fatherless. /He is the judge for the widows. /God avenges the orphans and he helps them. /In verses 4-8, God promises to revive those who repent and come back to God.

/Verse 4. /I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them.

/All we need to do is repent in the presence of God and return to him. Then, God will heal our rebellious hearts and love us. /God said he would freely love us. /Being rebellious against God is an act of disobedience.

/We need to change the bad aspects of our nature. /When God fixes our character, there is hope. /And God says he will love us freely. /God's wrath will go away, and God will be at work in our lives.

/God makes us repent of our sins and become obedient to him. /When we do this, we discover the joy, change, and power that come from God. /God works in our lives in proportion to our repentance.

/Verse 5. /I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;

/God says he will pour his grace on the people who repent and return to God. /The dew is God's grace. /The region in which Israel is located receives two big rains each year. /There is the "early rain" during which the seeds are sowed. /There is also the "late rain" when the grains ripen.

/During the period between the rainy seasons, there is little or no rain. /At these times, the dew falls on the grains, vegetables, and trees to give them growth. /The dew falls silently and unnoticeably. /But the silent dew keeps the mountains and streams alive and growing.

/God promises this blessing on those who return to him. /He says he will give us his grace everyday. /Although we may not notice it, God's grace will fall on us and we can live healthy lives.

/God heals us, nurtures us, makes us strong, and gives us maturity. /I hope that this grace like dew falls upon all of you. /He said we will blossom like the lily.

/God says he will give us a graceful life like a blossoming lily. /The lily represents purity, beauty, and prosperity. /Please receive the grace of God that falls like dew. /Then God will give you clean, beautiful, pure, and prosperous lives. /The verse says, “He shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;”

/Even the beautiful life of a lily can end soon. /For it to live long, it must be deeply rooted. /God says he will make the root like the trees of Lebanon. /Our roots will fall deep like the trees of Lebanon. /Our faith must be deeply rooted by the grace of God.

/Verse 6. /his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon.

/The verse says, “His shoots shall spread out.” /It means that the shoots will become more influential. /If we repent and return to God, God gives us grace like dew. /He also gives us more influential power.

/Genesis 49:22 calls Joseph a fruitful vine near a spring. /The vine’s branches climbed over a wall. /We too can enjoy the abundant grace that Joseph received. /Our faith can have a positive influence on other people.

/The beauty was like that of an olive tree. /The tree bore its fruits in plenty. /The olive tree was loaded with its beautiful fruits. /When God gives us his grace, we receive such blessings.

/The verse says his fragrance was like Lebanon. /Along with the shade of the tree and its fruits, God allows the tree to give a fragrance. /Through a life that is in agreement with the word, we can give off fragrance. /In this way, we can experience amazing things when we return with the word of God.

/We experience the mysteries and miracles of God. /We experience the fragrance and the fruits. /Also, we gain the power to influence. /Not too long ago, I experienced several instances of God’s grace. /They are as follows.

/One early morning, I was praying. /I was alone with my wife, and I heard a sound that told me to stand up. /So I asked my wife. / “Did you just say that?” /But my wife said, “No, I didn’t say it.”

/I realized it while I prayed. /God was letting me hear his voice. /Yes, God said, “Stand up.” /God wanted me to stand up. /Today, God is a God who speaks. /He is alive.

/He is the Almighty God. /He loves and treasures us endlessly. /Hosea speaks of God’s burning love for Israel. /God’s love for Israel was greater than Hosea’s love for Gomer.

/When we come before God with the word with us, we will experience amazing grace. /I hope that you hear the voice of God in your lives. /When you listen to Biblical lectures, please hear the voice of God.

/Also, when you read the Bible, please listen to the voice of God. /And obey the voice you hear. /Then, God will let you experience his amazing grace and power.

/Verse 7. /They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

/When we bear the fruits of repentance, many people return to God. /Our families and churches can return to God. /Our society and nations can return to God. /First, I must return to God.

/Then, God will use me to do his great works. /When I repent, many people will come back. /They will be revived to life. /They become beautiful. /They give off a pleasant fragrance. /Such works will happen when we repent.

/Verse 8. /O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; from me comes your fruit.

/We need to earnestly return to the presence of God. /We need to be ashamed of worshiping idols. /Then God will say this. / “I am like an evergreen cypress; from me comes your fruit.

/When we confess in our repentance that our idols no longer matter, God is joyful. /He will lead us to a place where we bear the fruits of an evergreen cypress. /God takes us to a place where we bear fruit, to a place where he shows his works. /We must enjoy these blessings.

/Verse 9. /Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

/Those who are upright walk in the ways of the LORD. /Only those who receive the works of God’s wisdom and sagacity will know the works of new life. /Those who repent and obey the words of God will be covered with the power of the Lord.

/Then, the person will understand the world of mysterious change and power. /However, those who are not repentant listen to the word but do not accept it. /There will be life and wisdom to those who obey God’s word.

/The person who is disobedient will be cursed. /Until now, we have looked at all 14 chapters of the book of Hosea. /We have studied the book through ten lectures. /The book of Hosea is a Prophetic Book displaying God’s burning love for us.

/God shows his burning love for Israel. /This is also God's love for us whom he has chosen through the blood of Christ. /God so loved the world that he gave his only son for us.

/When we were sinners, enemies of God, we did not know God. /But God first loved us and he chose us and he saved us. /We have a love greater than the entire universe before us.

/Do you feel God's great love in your life? /Do you possess his love? /I hope that you truly understand this love of God. /This is God's voice that is speaking to us through the book of Hosea.

/This ends the tenth lecture on the Minor Prophets. /Thank you.