

Why Israel Fell

John Isaac Edwards

Hosea prophesied shortly before Israel was conquered by the Assyrian empire. He often spoke of Israel's fall (Hos. 4:5, 14; 5:5; 7:16; 13:16; 14:1). A reading of the book of Hosea reveals why Israel fell.

1) **Forgot God.** "...she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the Lord" (Hos. 2:13). She forgot from whence her blessings came, "For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold..." (Hos. 2:8). "For Israel hath forgotten his Maker..." (Hos. 8:14). Israel had been warned, "...beware lest thou forget the Lord..." (Dt. 6:10-12) and "...Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God..." (Dt. 8:7-14). They didn't heed the warning as Hosea 13:6 records, "...they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten me."

2) **No Truth, Nor Mercy, Nor Knowledge Of God In The Land.** "Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in

the land" (Hos. 4:1). Where such does not exist, you find "...swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery..." (Hos. 4:2). Hosea 4:6 records, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..." Such will destroy us today! Jesus taught, "And ye shall know the truth..." (Jn. 8:32). We are to add "...knowledge..." (2 Pet. 1:5) and "...grow in... knowledge" (2 Pet. 3:18). This requires that we "...give attendance to reading...", "Study..." (2 Tim. 2:15), and "...teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2).

3) **Forgot The Law Of God.** Can you imagine the people of God forgetting the law of God? They did! "...seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children" (Hos. 4:6). They had been warned about this as well! "Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons" (Dt. 4:9). Again, "Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the Lord your God..." (Dt. 4:23).

Proverbs 3:1-2, "... forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee."

4) **Left Off To Take Heed To The Lord.** The Lord would punish them for their doings, "...because they have left off to take heed to the Lord" (Hos. 4:10). They quit obeying the Lord! Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 set forth the blessings for obedience and the curses that would overtake Israel if they be disobedient.

5) **Asked Counsel At Their Stocks.** God said, "My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them..." (Hos. 4:12). Can you imagine being on a hike, losing your way, and asking your hiking stick, "Which direction should I go?" "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps. 119:105).

6) **Framed Not Their Doings To Turn Unto God.** Hosea 5:4 says, "They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God..." Mercy was held out, "...if thou turn to the Lord thy God..." (Dt. 4:30-31). Their doings would not suffer them to turn unto their God. How sad!

7) **Pride.** Solomon penned, “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18). This is well-illustrated in the nation of Israel. “And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall...” (Hos. 5:5; 7:10). “...God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble” (1 Pet. 5:5).

8) **Considered Not That God Remembered All Their Wickedness.** The Lord announced, “And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness: now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face” (Hos. 7:2). God is all-seeing, all-knowing, and all-remembering! “For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings” (Prov. 5:21).

9) **Set Up Kings, But Not By The Lord.** “They have set up kings, but not by me...”, the Lord charged (Hos. 8:4). It was commanded, “Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the Lord thy God shall choose...” (Dt. 17:14-15). They failed to do this!

10) **Counted God’s Law As A Strange Thing.** Hosea 8:12, “I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing.” The book of God had become foreign to the people of God!

11) **Their Abominations Were According As They Loved.** “...they went to Baal-peor, and separated themselves unto that shame; and their abominations were according as they loved” (Hos. 9:10). They loved the practice of sin!

12) **Did Not Harken Unto God.** Hosea 9:17 declares, “My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him...” The fall of Israel shows what happens to those who do not hearken unto God!

13) **A Divided Heart.** “Their heart is divided...” (Hos. 10:2). They were divided between God and their idols. “How long halt ye between two opinions?...” (1 Ki. 18:21). “...choose you this day whom ye will serve...” (Josh. 24:15). “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the

other....” (Mt. 6:24).

14) **Refused To Return.** The appeal of the prophets may be summed up in these words: “O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God...and turn to the Lord...” (Hos. 14:1-2). “...the Assyrian shall be his king, because they refused to return” (Hos. 11:5). How tragic!

15) **Bent To Backsliding.** Hosea 11:7 says, “And my people are bent to backsliding from me...” “For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer...” (Hos. 4:16). They were known as “...backsliding Israel...” (Jer. 3:6).

They were “...hot as an oven...” (Hos. 7:4-7), “...a cake not turned” (Hos. 7:8), “...like a silly dove without heart...” (Hos. 7:11), and “...a vessel wherein is no pleasure” (Hos. 8:8). Thus, “...they shall fall by the sword...” (Hos. 13:16). “For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind...” (Hos. 8:7). All these reasons why Israel fell will surely cause us to fall today! “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:12).

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