

“THINGS WHICH ARE CERTAIN

Hosea 5:8-11

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INTRODUCTION

There are many uncertainties in life: *How long will you live? What will happen to you and your loved ones? Your children? Will you have financial security? Will your health give out? Will you be successful in business?*

However, God’s Word shows us things of which we can be **very certain**.

I. GOD’S WORD IS TRUE (9B): “Among the tribes of Israel I have made known that which shall surely be.” See also the following passages:

- Mt. 24:35—“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
- Mt. 5:18—“Not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law until all is accomplished” (NASB)
- Ps. 119:89—“Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in Heaven.”
- Ps. 19:7-14 [Read]
- Ps. 119:105—“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”
- Ps. 119:160—“Your word is true from the beginning: and every one of your righteous judgments endures forever.”
- Luke 16:17—Heaven and earth will pass away before the smallest part of God’s Word will fail.
- Is. 40:8—“The grass withers, the flower fades: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”
- I Pet. 1:25—“The word of the Lord abides forever.
- Is. 55:11—His word will not return unto Him void; it accomplishes its purpose.
- Is. 45:23—Once his word has gone from Him it will not return until accomplished.

Yes, there are many uncertainties in life, but His word is not one of them. But there is another certainty in life:

II. YOU WILL FACE JUDGMENT (11a)—“Ephraim is oppressed and broken in judgment.”

See other passages on the same:

- Heb. 9:27—“It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”
- II Cor. 5:8—“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.” (and Romans 14:10)
- Mt. 16:27—“The Son of Man . . . will reward every man according to his works.”
- Acts 10:42—Christ is the judge of both the living and the dead.
- Rom. 2:16—“God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ.”

Here for Israel (and Judah) it was:

A. Danger (v. 8)

- Gibeah: Both cities on hills and prominent in southern Israel.
- Ramah: Sound the trumpet of alarm in all three places.

- Bethaven=Bethel (“House of wickedness” or “emptiness”)
- “Behind you, Benjamin” reminds us of Jud. 5:14—“after you, Benjamin”—a leading tribe of southern Israel.

B. Desolation (9)—“Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke.” It will be the object of horror.

C. Damaging Flood (10b)—“On them I will pour out my wrath like water.”

Yes, God’s Word is sure, Judgment is certain—even in this life for those who are the objects of God’s wrath. And, that is because:

III. YOU CANNOT CHANGE GOD’S STANDARDS AND ESCAPE THE CONSEQUENCES (10a)

“The Princes (leaders) of Judah were like them that remove the bound(ary).”

- Once again the Lord includes Judah within the circle of responsibility and judgment along with Israel.
- On the issue of the wickedness of changing a property boundary marker, see Deuteronomy 19:14 and 27:17.
- Num. 32:23 tells us, “Be sure, your sins will find you out.”
- Remember the examples of Achan, Ananias and Sapphira, and Moses in Egypt.

*Yes, God sets the standards; man often tries to change them. **However:***

IV. MAN’S WAY LEADS TO RUIN (11b). “He willingly walked after the commandment.” (Of men, contrary to the Lord, as NASB clarifies: “He was determined to follow man’s command.”)

- Proverbs tells us: “There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” (16:25)
- Romans 6:23 states that “the wages of sin are death.”
- Isaiah 28:10, 13 shows us that though man may tire of God’s standards of “line upon line and precept upon precept,” and may mock and reject God’s word and standards, God still holds him accountable.

God encourages man to choose His ways—that lead man to life!

V. THERE IS ONE WAY OF HOPE

See Ezekiel 18:23, 32; 33:11; I Tim. 2:4; II Pet. 3:9; **Hosea 11:8.**

CONCLUSION

God loves you and wants to save you (Jn. 3:16)

If you are a Christian, God wants you to be happy!

See Ps. 119:97-104