

“SOWING THE WIND, REAPING THE WHIRLWIND”

Hosea 8:1-7

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INTRODUCTION

“Sowing in the Morning, sowing seeds of kindness, sowing at the noontide, and the dewy eve, Waiting for the harvest and the time of reaping, we shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.”

Certainly we believers rejoice at the harvest of souls won to Christ, and look forward to additional souls saved through the ministry of Berean Baptist Church and our missionaries around the world. But the words of that old Gospel Song, based on Psalm 126, are not the only kind of sowing and reaping known in the Scriptures. There is also a “sowing to the flesh” (Gal. 6:8) that results in reaping “corruption.”

This is the kind of sowing spoken of by Hosea in chapter 8. Those who sow to vanity, “sow to the wind,” will “reap the whirlwind.”

You always reap when you sow; you reap what you sow; you reap more than you sow, and you reap later than you sow.

Ancient Israel learned this lesson the hard way. They *made their own religion, they made their own politics, and they made their own punishment.*

I. MAKING OUR OWN RELIGION (4b, 5, 6)

Frequent comments when witnessing: “I have my own religion.” **Don’t we all? But does that make it right?**

A. The Claim of Knowing God (v. 2)

- Many times this is due to religious traditions held by parents and ancestors, but now void of real meaning and practice.
- These traditions have often become perverted and distorted.
- “God” “Israel”—there was a covenant relationship between them.
- Those who are religious phonies are often quickest to claim such a relationship and privileges.

B. The Transgression of the Divine Covenant (1)

- This covenant was established by God Himself; the responsibilities on both sides were decreed by the Lord.
- Israel had “overstepped the divine restrictions—transgressed.

- Israel had “rebelled” against divine “law”. Law is meant to be obeyed and must be enforced by the lawgiver. Otherwise it is useless.
 - Israel was “incapable of innocence”—that is moral and spiritual cleanness
- C. The Rejection of the Good (3a)
- This involves the rejection of the true God and of His Word, ways. And salvation. Such is their **highest possession**—see **Deut. 4:6ff; 32ff**
- D. The Making of Idols (4b, 5a, 6a)
- The most obvious detestable forms they made were the two golden calves put in Bethel in the south and Dan in the north (5a)
 - They use natural resources to make their “gods”—silver & gold (4b).
 - Natural men—craftsmen—make these idols; they cannot be deity! (6a)
- It is all too easy for man to make his own religion and to ignore the divine prescriptions given to him. Generally, when this happens, man also makes *his own politics*.

II. MAKING OUR OWN POLITICS (4)

- A. Israel had not submitted to God’s Standards (4a). They had not sought God’s guidance—thus there was no continuing dynasty in the northern kingdom. **There were 9 different dynasties!**
- B. Israel’s rulers were not *acknowledged by God* (4b).
- True, God had authorized Jeroboam (I K. 11:30), but He had not approved the path that Jeroboam took—his excessive murders, idolatry, etc.
 - The Lord did have regulations concerning kings—Deut. 17:11-20.
 - God rejected the wickedness of the various kings (e.g. Ahab’s house—I K.21:20-25).
 - **The people are the ones who “set up” these kings; they deserved what they got.**

The future for those who make their own religion and politics is not bright! God has established a **divine law of sowing and reaping: what we sow we will reap**.

III. MAKING OUR OWN PUNISHMENT (v. 7)

In Hosea’s artistic expression: “They sow the wind and they reap the whirlwind.”

Notice that the *whirlwind* is part of the wind, it comes as the result of the wind, it is worse than the wind: otherwise, they **reap when they sow; they reap what they sow; they reap more than they sow, and they reap later than they sow.**

- A. Israel is destroyed by their former allies—their enemies.
- Invasion (1, 3b) (The trumpet sounds the warning)

- The swiftness and thoroughness of their ruin (like an Eagle)
 - Against the “house of the Lord” —not simply against the temple—the false ones of the northern kingdom, but against the nation itself as God’s house.
 - The enemy persistently pursues the northern kingdom (3b)
 - The enemy “cut them off” (4c)
 - The enemy swallows up any prosperity they still have (7c).
- B. Israel is rejected by God (5a) due to God’s anger against their sin (5b).
- C. Israel’s religious artifacts and forms are destroyed—“broken to pieces” (6b).
- D. Israel’s crops are ruined by devastating climate—no heads of grain; no grain for eating.

CONCLUSION

So it always is for the professing people of God: **You always reap when you sow; you reap what you sow; you reap more than you sow, and you reap later than you sow.**

We cannot get away with *making our own religion and making our own politics; we only succeed in making our own punishment.*

Therefore, sow to the Spirit, not to the flesh.