

# “FROM DIGNITY TO DESTRUCTION”

Hosea 13:1-8

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## INTRODUCTION

There are many lessons that we can learn here from ancient Israel about ourselves and about life.

## YOU MUST FIND YOUR PURPOSE AND SATISFACTION ONLY IN HIM.

In this portion we see Israel’s past (1; 4-6), Israel’s present (2), and Israel’s future (3, 7-8).

Past:

- Israel—esp. Ephraim—used to have significance (1); their words meant something and they had respect. Ephraim gained an exalted place in the nation (1).
- The Lord was Yahweh their God—sovereign and covenant-keeper, and their only God—the only one for them to “know”—have a real meaningful relationship with. (4)
- He was also their one and only “Savior”—deliverer (4).
- God was their “caretaker, even in the worst circumstances: “in the wilderness, in the land of drought” (5).
- Once they had become prosperous with “their pasture” (they were mainly an agricultural nation) they changed. They became 1) Satisfied and complacent, proud, and forgetful of God’s provisions and of God Himself (6)
- Because of idolatry (esp. Baal) they “died” spiritually and lost divine favor and significance (1b)

Present:

- First, we assume that their 1) complacency, 2) pride, 3) forgetfulness continued, along with their 4) idolatry.
- In addition, their sin multiplies by additional idolatry: 1) Molten images [made skillfully from silver, the work of [human] craftsmen, and 2) ardent devotion to their idolatry [“Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves.”] (v. 2).

Future:

- Transiency of their prosperity: 1) Like fog [burning off before the sun], 2) Like dew going away early, 3) Like chaff blown away from the threshing flood, 4) like smoke dissipating from a chimney (latticed opening—window—in roof) (v. 3)
- Devastation through powerful forces directed by God Himself: 1) Like a lion [killing and tearing them apart—see last 2 figures], 2) like a leopard stealthily lying in wait [and then pouncing upon them], 3) like a ferocious bear that has had its cubs robbed and rips the person apart. and 4) like a lioness would tear open the chest and devour the captured prey, and 5) as a “wild beast” would tear them apart.

Here we see that Sin (idolatry) makes life temporary (1-3); Pride leads to devastation (4-8).

Some lessons we can learn from this passage:

- A godly life will result in our dignity and respect, along with exaltation by God (1)
- Sin brings death—1.
- Sin promotes even more sin (2); it is a “slippery slope.”
- Human ingenuity and skill apart from the Lord leads man to perversion and wickedness (2).
- We must not give devotion and adoration to human (or divine) substitutes (2). Whom are we guilty of “kissing” today—instead of God?
- Life lived for self is temporary—**nothing lasts**; soon it is gone with no real lasting benefits (3).
- Only God can really satisfy; He is the One and Only (4).
- He is the only Savior (4)
- He is the One who really cares for the believer (5).
- Material success often leads to complacency and apathy and pride (6).
- When we are self-sufficient we **forget God** (6).
- The God of love and grace is also the God of Holiness and justice—**He will tear apart and destroy wickedness and sinners who reject Him (7-8).**

#### CONCLUSION

Your **dignity** is found only in the Lord.

Your **future** is found only in the Lord.

Your **provision** is found only in the Lord.

Your **safety** is found only in the Lord.

**YOU MUST FIND YOUR PURPOSE AND SATISFACTION ONLY IN HIM.**

“HE IS ALL I NEED”—and all that you need!