

The Fall of Israel

Introduction

1. Much can be gained by us when we study the Old Testament.

Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

A. God's people are warned against digression.

1 Corinthians 10:11-12 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Acts 20:29-31

B. It would do us good to study the principles involved in Israel's digression - so that we can avoid the same mistakes.

2. Hosea gives 7 reasons for Israel's departure from God.

- ◆ Hosea: Prophesied for the Northern kingdom during Jeroboam II's reign. Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah ruled in Judah during this time.
- ◆ Israel is represented as the adulterous wife of Jehovah.

A. These 7 items are basic today.

- 1) These 7 items are progressive.
- 2) To avoid digression – don't start.

3. According to Hosea, Israel fell because of:

Lack of Knowledge

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

1. God has always demanded that His people know His law.

A. This was certainly true in Israel's day.

Deuteronomy 31:9-13

B. This is also true of the church today.

2 Timothy 2:15

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and **always be ready to give a defense** to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

2 Peter 3:18 but **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord** and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

C. Some are just willingly ignorant of the scriptures.

2. Faithfulness in God depends on knowledge.

Ephesians 3:4 by which, **when you read**, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

Romans 10:1-3, 17

A. Denominations flourish where people are ignorant of the Bible.

B. The function of the church - is to worship and teach others.

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and **make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

- 1) **How can one learn that they need to be baptized if they are not taught or study? One MUST gain knowledge of God and His word to know what they must do.**

Ephesians 4:11-18

Hebrews 10:24-26 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, **there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins**,

Pride

Hosea 5:5 The pride of Israel testifies to his face; Therefore Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also stumbles with them.

1. Pride is condemned throughout the Bible.

Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.

1 Peter 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

- A. Let us look at an example of this from the words of Jesus.
Luke 18:9-14

- B. We need to lean on the scripture as our guide, not ourselves!
2 Timothy 3:16-17

Instability

Hosea 6:4 "O Ephraim, what shall I do to you? O Judah, what shall I do to you? For **your faithfulness is like a morning cloud**, And like the early dew it goes away.

1. We may be lost because of our own instability.

A. **"Instability" - A lack of determination; not firm; changeability of character or mood, easily moved or upset.**

James 1:8 he is a **double-minded man**, unstable in all his ways.

1) We must be stable in faith and service to God.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

B. **Denominationalism is where it is today because of instability. They do things to please man to get more attendance!**

1) **Baptism - non-essential; immodest apparel; divorce-remarriage; Bible not stressed.**

2. Knowledge is worthless if one is not stable in its application.

Proverbs 14:30 **A sound heart is life to the body**, But envy is rottenness to the bones.

Mixing with the World

Hosea 7:8 "Ephraim has mixed himself among the peoples; Ephraim is a cake unturned.

1. God demands separation from the world.

A. Israel.

Exodus 23:31-33

Psalms 106:34-36

B. Solomon.

1 Kings 11:1-8

2. Worldliness is always a problem.

1 Corinthians 5:6-9 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people.

A. Separation is demanded.

2 Corinthians 6:17 Therefore "COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU."

Corruption

Hosea 9:9 They are deeply corrupted, As in the days of Gibeah. He will remember their iniquity; He will punish their sins.

1. **Sins previously mentioned cause corruption.**
2. **Example - The Pharisees.**
Matthew 23:25-28
3. **God's concern is the condition of one's heart.**

Proverbs 23:7 For **as he thinks in his heart**, so is he...

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Backsliding

Hosea 11:7 My people are **bent on backsliding** from Me. Though they call to the Most High, None at all exalt Him.

1. **External sin is preceded by internal deterioration of character.**

Hebrews 3:12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

2. **The only successful cure is to treat the cause.**
 - A. **Attendance, giving, personal work, etc. The cause is a LACK OF LOVE FROM THE HEART.**
John 14:23-24

Idolatry

Hosea 13:2 Now they sin more and more, And have **made for themselves molded images**, Idols of their silver, according to their skill; All of it is the work of craftsmen. They say of them, "Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves!"

1. **People worship - but not always God. One worships something!**
 - A. **Israel - worshiped graven images.**
 - B. **People today - Money, jobs, pleasure, etc.**
2. **To prevent idolatry one must prevent the first 6 sins!**

Conclusion

1. **We can easily see what happened to Israel in their fall from God. (Hindsight is always 20-20)**
2. **Can we learn from those mistakes of long ago without having to experience them?**
 - A. **Paul says we can:** (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11)
3. **Can we learn that fire is hot without actually touching a burning stove?**
4. **Let us learn from Israel what not to do from their example.**
 - A. **We don't have to actually experience those things in our life to learn it!**
5. **Let us always strive to do the right thing! Remember, it all begins with the knowledge of knowing what to do.**

