

HOSEA STUDY
Lesson Twelve: "What God Hates Most"
Hosea 10

INTRODUCTION

DO YOU KNOW WHAT GOD HATES MOST? A DIVIDED Heart.

HOW DID ISRAEL GET SO FAR AWAY FROM GOD? Hosea 10:2

"Their Heart is DECEITFUL." (Divided)

SO OFTEN, WE TALK, SING AND WORSHIP BEYOND WHERE WE ARE WILLING TO LIVE.

WE CAN'T CLAIM LOYALTY TO GOD WHILE OUR HEARTS ARE CONSISTENTLY IN HOT PURSUIT OF OUR OWN PLANS AND PURPOSES.

CHRIST HAS CLAIM TO OUR LIVES.

In Hosea 10 there are THREE MANIFESTATIONS of a DIVIDED HEART:

1. Divided Between LOVE and LOYALTY. (Hosea 10:1-2)
2. Divided Between WORDS and ACTION. (Hosea 10:3-6)
3. Divided Between PRESENT BEHAVIOR and FUTURE CONSEQUENCES. (Hosea 10:7-8)

DIVIDED BETWEEN LOVE AND LOYALTY (Hosea 10:1-2)

1. The People Loved the IMAGE as the VINE of God, But Misused the BLESSINGS in SELF-SERVING Ways. (v. 1)

"Israel was a spreading vine; he brought forth fruit for himself."

2. The More God BLESSED, the More They Built ALTARS. (But not to God!) (v. 1)

“As his fruit increased, he built more altars;
As his land prospered, he adorned his sacred stones.”

3. HERE IS THE QUESTION:

When God increases our good, when He prospers us, WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE INCREASE?

4. SELF BECOMES THE REAL CONTENDER FOR THE THRONE THAT BELONGS TO GOD.

5. WHAT WOULD GOD HAVE TO DO ABOUT THE PEOPLE'S DIVIDED HEARTS? (v. 2)

“Their heart is deceitful (divided), and now they must bear their guilt. The Lord will demolish their altars and destroy their sacred stones.”

DIVIDED BETWEEN WORDS AND ACTIONS (Hosea 10:3-6)

1. ISRAEL'S ACTIONS DIDN'T MATCH THEIR WORDS.
2. WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH WITH GOD.
3. THE TEST OF WHAT WE SAY IS WHAT WE DO.

DIVIDED BETWEEN PRESENT BEHAVIOR AND FUTURE CONSEQUENCES (Hosea 10:7-8)

1. A DIVIDED HEART LOSES ALL SENSE OF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN PRESENT BEHAVIOR AND FUTURE CONSEQUENCES.
2. GOD REMOVED BOTH ISRAEL'S KING, AND DESTROYED THE PAGAN ALTARS THAT FOSTERED A DIVIDED HEART.

Verse 7 – Samaria's King Is Cut Off Like a Twig On the Water.
(No control of its DESTINY or DESTINATION.)

Verse 8 – The Temple At Bethel Will Be DESTROYED.

(Hosea 4:15 “Bethel” called “Beth-Aven” – House of Iniquity.)

WHAT IS COMPETING FOR FIRST PLACE IN OUR HEARTS? (Hosea 10:12)

1. GOD’S ANSWER TO A DIVIDED HEART. (v. 12)

Note the VERBS:

SOW. (RIGHTEOUSNESS)

REAP. (UNFAILING LOVE) (MERCY)

BREAK. (UNPLOWED GROUND)

2. WHY WE SHOULD SOW, REAP AND BREAK UP.

“For it is TIME.”

TIME FOR WHAT?

“To SEEK the Lord until He comes.”

3. ISN’T IT TIME TO SEEK THE LORD?

Nothing is going to happen until you give God the GROUND He needs to do a work!

Give God the GROUND. Let Him BREAK UP the soil. Let Him PLANT.
Let Him SOW.

4. HOW LONG ARE WE TO KEEP SEEKING THE LORD?

“Until He comes and showers righteousness on you.”

5. IS YOUR HEART DIVIDED TODAY?

It’s time to BREAK UP FALLOW GROUND.

It’s time to SEEK THE LORD until He comes and rains righteousness on us.