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VOLUME 16 ISSUE 05

THE UGLY NATURE OF SIN

MAY 2016

We want to take our Scripture text today from *Hosea 4:7-9*, "**As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame. They eat up the sin of my people, and they set their heart on their iniquity. And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward (or visit) them their doings.** Needless to say, sin can be subtle and seductive, but it always proves devastating in its outcomes. Hosea tried to shock the people of Israel into realizing how dangerous their patterns of sin and disobedience had become. Regretfully, just like today, people spurn the voice of the prophets and Godly messengers. Throughout the book of Hosea, the prophet of God gives a number of vivid insights into the nature of sin, along with its impact upon the people of God. Never underestimate sin and the severe consequences that sin will ultimately bring upon your life, those consequences may not always be immediately but they are certainly inevitable. Paul warns us in *Galatians 6:7-8*, "**Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting**". I want us to look today at some of the names of Hosea's children, for they demonstrate some of sin's tragic results. One of Hosea's children was named *Jezeel* which simply means ("*God scatters*"), named for the

the Valley of Jezreel found in *2nd Kings 9:37*, "**And the carcass of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field and the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, this is Jezebel.** This is the place where the Lord vowed to punish the sin of the nation of Israel. We find this prophecy of punishment found in *Hosea 1:4-5*, "**And the Lord said unto him, Call his name Jezeel: for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel. And it shall come to pass at that day, and I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.**" What a prophetic word from the Lord God of Abraham concerning punishment of His own people. Don't underestimate the divine punishment that God will soon exact upon America. America each day becomes more godless and more fearless of the Lord's Majesty, power and deity. Concerning another one of Hosea's children, God told him to name that child Lo-ruhamah which means ("*no mercy*"). This child's name indicates that mercy is thwarted by a life of sinfulness. We read here in *Hosea 1:6-7*, "**And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And God said unto him, Call her name Lo-ruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away. But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the Lord their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen**". This verse is twofold in

that God promises judgment upon the house of Israel, yet He promises mercy to the house of Judah and He will preserve Judah by His divine sovereignty and not by the power of mortal men. America cannot be saved by mortal men: thus, if we are to be saved it will be because we have repented of our sins and God has demonstrated mercy and grace upon this nation. Perpetual sin negates the mercy of God because sin hardens man's heart and if man refuses to repent then God ultimately removes His mercy. The psalmist declared in *Psalms 147:11*, "**The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy**". Simply put, God delights in both men and women who fear Him and hope in His mercy. I trust today that your hope does rest in the mercy and grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We yet witness another child that Hosea will ultimately have, and that child's name shall be called Lo-Ammi which means ("*not my people*") which simply indicates the separation that sin will bring between God and His people. We read here in *Hosea 1:8* "**Now when she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and bare a son. Then said God, Call his name Lo-ammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God.**" What a profuse tragedy when God no longer calls His people, my people. Not only does the Lord not call them His people, but He emphatically declares I will not be your God. If the Lord God of Abraham is not your God then you are of your father the devil and the lust of your father ye will do.

America can declare all it wants that it is a Christian nation and in God we trust. But the truth is, America is purposefully trying to abolish God and His Word from the entirety of this nation, and the ultimate blame will be placed upon the shoulders of those who have a platform and pulpit and fail to preach an uncompromising message from the Word of the living God. It has truly become pathetic and disgusting how little we hear ministers preach against sin. If you are like me, you are tired of the greasy sloppy grace, the playboy mentality, the ridiculously thin theology, and the begging of money being spewed from America's pulpits each week. One well-known minister just published a book entitled "The Grace Revolution". How blind can a Minister be when there is such an absolute revolution, rebellion, and revolt against the Word of the living God? Sin is abounding as never before and yet these charlatans continue to preach grace, grace, and more grace! Somebody had better start preaching against sin and putting up the only spiritual road block, which is the cross of Jesus Christ, which will keep men from dying and losing their souls and going to a Devil's hell lost without God. Sin deludes and enslaves the souls of men. The effects of sin are similar to that of drug addiction and alcohol. Neither one of these sins stop until they destroy the personage and damn the soul. Hosea was correct when he declared in **Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee"**. It saddens my heart greatly when I hear preachers say that a person cannot lose their salvation: however, God repeatedly throughout the Scriptures tells us if we continue to live in sin He will reject us no matter what. No wonder Paul said in

Hebrews 10:31, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God". Once a person becomes a Christian they are in the hands of God, but if one does not abide in the word of God, then God rejects them from being a part of His plan of redemption. No one made it any more concise than the apostle Jude found here in **Jude vs.5, "I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not"**. Jude makes it absolutely clear that God had saved them, but yet He had to destroy them because they had completely abandoned their faith. The term is better known as being backslidden, away from God. Regretfully, America is a backslidden nation. Sin is the sinner's responsibility. It cannot be blamed on someone or something else, as often happens with children when they blame their parents. I often hear the term we are dysfunctional: it is sin that makes every living creature dysfunctional. It is not God's fault, and furthermore God has designed a plan of redemption in which He can cleanse us from all of this purported dysfunctionality. If you do not believe sin has created all of this dysfunctionality, you too need to repent. It is sin that separates the sinner from God. The uncontrollable appetites of sin turn a person away from God and their desire in seeking His face and presence. Sin erodes the moral fiber of a person's life. Sin eats away at a person's ability in trying to keep their commitments to Christ. Sin invokes compromise along with the loss of spiritual integrity like that of a robber or a murderer. Sin renders the sinner's life futile. No matter how successful the person may be on the outside, sin produces nothing of lasting significance. As a matter-of-

fact when sin is finished it brings forth death. Why will you die in your sins? Repent, repent, for the day of the Lord is at hand. Blow ye the trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm in my holy mountain, and let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the Lord cometh. My dear friend this nation will soon face catastrophic judgment unless we repent. My remaining years are for one simple purpose and that is to preach against sin and plead for repentance. If you do not know Him as your Lord and Savior, I plead with you today to repent and ask him to come into your heart and life. Anyone can be a sinner and live in sin, but it takes a true man or woman to become a Saint of God and daily live that life. Thank you so very much for your love and support for this ministry. God is presently beginning to create a divine movement in a very special way, and I pray you will be a part of this movement. There will be those who regretfully will again seek to put this out pouring in a bottle, institutionalize it, or create another denomination. This will not happen this time around. This is because God Almighty will be in total control of this out pouring and movement. This out pouring will be from His personal Spirit: **Acts 2:17, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit"**. Jesus said in **Matthew 16:18, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"**. I profusely encourage you to prepare your hearts for this deluge of the Holy Ghost that is about to be released and poured out. This out pouring will be greater than anything the modern church has ever witnessed. Until next month, may the grace of our Jesus abound in your life as never before!

Serving With You All,

Pastor David W. Lankford