

20210829 ARLOVING Hosea 5:8-15 Safety First

When you look at many things happening around the world these days, especially Afganistan, you will think that there is no "safe place." Everyone wants to live in a safe place. So some people leave their hometowns, and even choose to become a refugees. But in the world, there's nowhere completely safe place.

[Hosea_[ESV] 5:8]

Blow the horn in Gibeah, the trumpet in Ramah. Sound the alarm at Beth-aven; we follow you, O Benjamin!

Many of the cities above were fortresses and 'safe cities' created by Northern Israel in preparation for war. But God says, despite all their efforts, there will be war soon even in these 'safe cites', there will be no safety, but despair. There is only one reason. Because God abandoned and left the land. They were strong and safe when God was with them, even if they did not take any measures for safety. Where God is, there is safety, freedom, and joy. But if God leaves, there is absolutely no freedom and safety. This is the real Israel in Hosea. All the opportunities are over. Even at this point, they were still mistaking that "God is on our side" and were sure God would protect them. But God's idea was different from theirs.

[Hosea_[ESV] 5:10]

The princes of Judah have become like those who move the landmark; upon them I will pour out my wrath like water.

God gave Canaan to them and called it a 'portion'. It was not just a thing to buy and sell, but a 'gift of God' that had to be kept for generations. But over time, the rich took away the poor's portion. They moved the landmark(boundary), which God told them not to move, according to his own greed.

[Micah_(ESV) 6:8]

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Good God gave Canaan as a gift of love and ordered them to love each other as God did. He wanted it a 'safe land' through it. But they abandoned God and made it 'a land full of tyranny and murder', instead of 'safety.' So what remains of them? To die in war, in a land where God's safety has disappeared.

No matter how much you prepare everything for safety, it's useless. If God is not with you, your life is hell itself. Only God is your safety. If you want safety, go to God. Also, if you have received safety from God, give it to others. That's the only way to make your society safe. Just as God loved you, love others. Safety First? Jesus First!