

As you begin to study pray, that God will speak to you through His word. Read the chapter a few times, know the contents. After reading the introduction, answer the questions.

Chapter 13

THE PRICE OF FORGETTING GOD:

Throughout his prophecy, Hosea has been calling upon Israel to return to God before it is too late to do so. Hosea knows that there is a window of opportunity for everyone with God and we must act while we have that window in order to avoid the great penalties which are due us for our sins.

In verse 12, Hosea sounds ~~an~~ the warning: *The guilt of Ephraim is stored up, his sins are kept on record.* As a nation, they had become exceedingly sinful before the Lord. And because they were unrepentant, the list of grievances by God against them kept increasing. As you read these words, do you ever think of what God is recording about our nation? Its list of sins is mounting: the abortion of hundreds of thousands of babies yearly; the toleration of sexual perversions of every kind; justice being trampled upon in our courts; leadership which blatantly displays a lack of moral character; materialism and greed being rampant. There is no spirit of national repentance.

Yes, there is the faithful remnant as in Hosea's day, but the justice of God must be forthcoming soon. Our trust, as a nation, is in ourselves and not in God. It is time for us to pray for a national awakening before the Lord, that it might be spared the wrath of God. Yet, in the midst of this alarm, Hosea utters a message of hope, for we read in verse 14, *I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?* God always presents a whisper of hope within the noise of judgment. Both before and after verse 14, we have the portrait of severe judgment with scenes of children and pregnant women being slaughtered, and of villages being pillaged.

Yet there in the midst, shining like a diamond is this message of hope that God will redeem them from the power of death. God's promises give us hope even in the midst of despair. And there are thousands of promises given to us within God's Word. How many do You know? List a few promises of GOD.

Does God continue with His merciful tone in this chapter? How?

Where do you discern warnings for yourself in this passage?

What things were they compared to in verse 3?

What did the "chaff", many times, symbolize?

In spite of Israel's idolatry and other sins, what purpose does the Lord still hold for them?

What encouragement do you gain from God's continuing purpose for His people, including yourself?

God will be to them as a _____.

Describe a mother bear who has lost her whelps.

Why would a nation or a person turn against someone that wants to help them, especially if they have a history of always being a help? v9

Explain verse 11 in your own words.

What was their trouble compared to in verse 13?

What is verse 14 a promise of?