**Hosea 9**

**Days of Celebration to Days of Punishment**

**Lesson 24**

Sukkot is a weeklong Jewish holiday that comes five days after Yom Kippur in the fall. Sukkot celebrates the gathering of the harvest and commemorates the miraculous protection the Lord provided for the children of Israel when they left Egypt. Shavu'ot, is another historical and agricultural feast also called the **Festival of Weeks**. It commemorates the time when the ***first fruits*** were harvested and brought to the Temple and is celebrated in the spring. It also celebrates God’s giving of THE LAW (Torah) at Mount Sinai to the people of Israel.

1. **When did you feel closest to God during this past week? Was there a verse or a lesson in this week’s study of Hosea that you found particularly inspiring?**
2. **Verses 1-6 refer to harvest celebrations while in captivity. Check footnotes for comments on the “threshing room floor” in verse 1. Share the meaning with your group.**

**Hosea 9:1-6** Do not rejoice, Israel, do not exult like the nations!
For you have prostituted yourself, abandoning your God, loving a prostitute’s fee upon every threshing floor. **2**Threshing floor and wine press will not nourish them, the new wine will fail them.

**3**They will not dwell in the Lord’s land; Ephraim will return to Egypt, and in Assyria they will eat unclean food. **4**They will not pour libations of wine to the Lord, and their sacrifices will not please him.
Their bread will be like mourners’ bread, that makes unclean all who eat of it;
Their food will be for their own appetites; it cannot enter the house of the Lord.**5**What will you do on the festival day, the day of the Lord’s feast? **6**When they flee from the devastation,
 Egypt will gather them, Memphis will bury them. Weeds will overgrow their silver treasures,
  and thorns, their tents.

1. **When Israel went into captivity, what changed? See verses 4-5.**
2. **What is “mourner’s bead”? Check with footnotes to see what it is and its significance in vs 4 above.** See also Jeremiah 16:5-7 for mourning practices and Deuteronomy 26:14 participation in foreign mourning practices.

**Jeremiah 16:5-7** (NABRE)

**5**Thus says the Lord: Do not go into a house of mourning; do not go there to lament or grieve for them. For I have withdrawn my peace from this people—oracle of the Lord—my love and my compassion. **6**They shall die, the great and the lowly, in this land, unburied and unlamented. No one will gash themselves or shave their heads for them. **7**They will not break bread with the bereaved to offer consolation for the dead; they will not give them the cup of consolation to drink over the death of father or mother.

# Deuteronomy 26:14  (NABRE)

**14**I have not eaten any of the tithe while in mourning; I have not brought any of it while unclean; I have not offered any of it to the dead. I have thus obeyed the voice of the Lord, my God, and done just as you have commanded me.

1. **Verses 7-9 describes the state of mind of a nation that is headed for judgment. The prophets are God’s watchmen according to verse 8.**

**What are the people saying about the prophets who were calling for repentance?**

**Hosea 9:7-9** They have come, the days of punishment! They have come, the days of recompense! Let Israel know it!
   “The prophet is a fool,  the man of the spirit is mad!”
Because your iniquity is great, great, too, is your hostility.
**8**[The watchman of Ephraim, the people of my God, is the prophet; yet a fowler’s snare is on all his ways, hostility in the house of his God.
**9**They have sunk to the depths of corruption, as in the days of Gibeah; God will remember their iniquity and punish their sins.

1. **The people are charged with corruption in verse 9. Read Judges19:22-30 below. To what incident does Hosea compare them? How bad has the situation gotten? See Judges 19: 22-30 and Hosea 9:9.**

# Judges 19:22-30  (NABRE)

**The Outrage at Gibeah.** **22**[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Judges+19%3A22-30&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-7048a)]While they were enjoying themselves, the men of the city, a bunch of scoundrels, surrounded the house and beat on the door. They said to the old man who was the owner of the house, “Bring out the man who has come into your house, so that we may get intimate with him.” **23**The man who was the owner of the house went out to them and said, “No, my brothers; do not be so wicked. This man has come into my house; do not commit this terrible crime. **24**Instead, let me bring out my virgin daughter and this man’s concubine. Humiliate them, or do whatever you want; but against him do not commit such a terrible crime.” **25**But the men would not listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and thrust her outside to them. They raped her and abused her all night until morning, and let her go as the sun was coming up. **26**At the approach of morning the woman came and collapsed at the entrance of the house in which her husband was, and lay there until morning. **27**When her husband rose in the morning and opened the door of the house to start out again on his journey, there was the woman, his concubine, collapsed at the entrance of the house with her hands on the threshold. **28**“Come, let us go,” he said to her, but there was no answer. So the man placed her on a donkey and started out again for home.

**29**[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Judges+19%3A22-30&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-7055b)]On reaching home, he got a knife and took hold of the body of his concubine. He cut her up limb by limb into twelve pieces and sent them throughout the territory of Israel. **30**He instructed the men whom he sent, “Thus you shall say to all the men of Israel: ‘Has such a thing ever happened from the day the Israelites came up from the land of Egypt to this day?[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Judges+19%3A22-30&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-7056c)] Take note of it; form a plan and give orders.’”

1. **To what does the LORD compare the Israelites when he first revealed himself to them? See verse 10.**

**Hosea 9:10** **10**Like grapes in the desert, I found Israel;
Like the first fruits of the fig tree, its first to ripen, I looked on your ancestors.
But when they came to Baal-peorand consecrated themselves to the Shameful One,
    they became as abhorrent as the thing they loved.

1. **What changed Israel in the eyes of the LORD**? See verse 10 above.

**Check footnotes** for meaning of Baal-Peor and **compare translations** with those in your group.

1. **What curses are promised to the unfaithful of Ephraim? See Verses 11-14.**

**Hosea 9:11-14**

Ephraim is like a bird: their glory flies away—no birth, no pregnancy, no conception.**12**Even though they bring up their children, I will make them childless, until no one is left. Indeed, woe to them when I turn away from them!
**13**Ephraim, as I saw, was a tree planted in a meadow;
But now Ephraim will bring out his children to the slaughterer!
**14**Give them, Lord! give them what?
Give them a miscarrying womb, and dry breasts!

1. **Ultimately, would be the fate of a people who violates their covenant with the Lord, refuses to repent and remains under the curses noted in Hosea 9?**