

"I've got the Father on my side, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and 2/3 of the angels. What do you think I'm going to do? Sit down and cry?"

Leonard Ravenhill

I want to take your Word and shine it all around. But first help me just to live it Lord. And when I'm doing well, help me to never seek a crown, for my reward is giving glory to you.

Keith Green

Prayer Study #268

**THE THIRD DAY CHURCH, THE UNFAITHFULNESS OF
AMERICA,
AND
LESSONS FROM HOSEA**

First Love Ministries, Inc. of Perry, Georgia

Background

Hosea's name means *salvation*. His name comes from the same Hebrew root word that Joshua and Jesus come from. The only difference is that the latter two names add the additional concept that *Yahweh is Salvation*. Hosea ministers to the northern kingdom, which is called Israel, or sometimes Ephraim, because this was the most prominent tribe in the northern kingdom. Ephraim types the Carnal Church which is full of pride. Hosea 9:3 tells, "*They shall not dwell in the LORD's land, but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean things in Assyria.*"

The nation at this time was spiritually much like modern day America. There had been a time of prosperity and growth, but the nation had left its FIRST LOVE and moral corruption and spiritual adultery had taken over. Today we have seen our country change quickly in one generation from a country standing on its motto, *In God We Trust*, to a country that is full of idols (the human body, sports, money, materialism, entertainment, power and position, etc) and which no longer esteems God's Word. We are a country that has lost its moral compass and no longer has a knowledge and fear of a righteous God.

A just God has no choice but to harshly judge our country and bring judgments to a nation that has tried to shut the Lord God out of all public forums. Furthermore, we have seen laws, which directly contradict the Word of God, put on the books in this generation by our government, and we are allowing practices that are ungodly at best and blasphemous at worst.

The results of all of this is America will soon face some tremendous and terrible judgments. I have no doubt that the economy will fall within the

next several months, and I believe that the protective hand of the Lord has been removed from this land and terrorists will be able to penetrate and most likely natural catastrophes will also occur. That's the bad news.

The Good News is that the Holy Spirit is alive and well on planet earth. The Father and Jesus are still on the throne. A Remnant Company, even now is being raised up. They will stand against all odds even when the dragon becomes enraged and makes war with the genuine believing remnant company of the Church, those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 12:17), those who will overcome by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony, and those who love Him more than they love their own lives (Revelation 12:11).

There will be three major events that happen as this Remnant Company is being prepared to stand in the evil day. First, the hour of His judgment will come-I believe we are rapidly approaching this time. Secondly, The Babylonia World System will fall. Thirdly, those who worship the Beast will be given a mark on the forehead or hand. This company will rejoice with heaven over the destruction of the evil world system which is referred to in scripture as "*Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth,*" and will help make His enemies His footstool (Psalm 110:1, Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:43, Acts 2:35, Hebrews 1:13, Hebrews 10:13) The Remnant Company knows that Jesus will not come until the fall of Babylon, so, in spite of the challenges all that will bring, they will be filled with joy and peace, knowing that the most wonderful days the earth has seen will be about to begin as we rule and reign with Him.

Hosea was the first of the Minor Prophets. He has been called the first prophet of Grace and Israel's earliest evangelist. His heart was broken by the sin and idolatries of Israel, and by the unfaithfulness of his own wife, Gomer, who left him and prostituted herself. Because of all this, he is called the "Prophet of a Sorrowful Heart." Through the trials in his own life and family, he came to realize the sins committed by his countrymen against the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and to see the sorrow God felt when his own people were utterly sinful. In the end Hosea takes his wife back, manifesting the character of God and His great love, mercy and grace for His people, even when they prove unworthy and unfaithful. Thus, Hosea is a foreshadow of God's redemption through the Messiah and Israel's re-establishment as a nation.

The major truths of this book as noted by C.I. Scofield are the following:
1) God suffers when His people are unfaithful to Him; 2) God cannot

condone sin; and 3) God will never cease to love His own, and, consequently, He seeks to win back those who have forsaken Him.

Judgments are usually progressively more frequent and more severe. This can be illustrated by the names the Lord gave Hosea for his children. The first son, Jezreel' name means *Judgment on the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel*. Next his daughter's name, Lo-ruhamah, means *I will have no mercy upon the house of Israel*. Finally, his youngest child, Lo-ammi, a son, means *You are not my people, and I will not be your God*.

Why America, like Hosea's Northern Kingdom, is Under Judgment

1. **America has lost the fear of God.** *You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him. And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel! (Psalm 22:23). And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting, being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedience to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, KNOWING THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD, THAT THOSE WHO PRACTICE SUCH THINGS ARE DESERVING OF DEATH, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them (Romans 1:28-32).*
2. **America is a nation of idol worshipers.** (Again some of the most common idols in America are the human body, money and materialism, sports, entertainment, power and position, etc.) *They served their idols, which became a snare to them (Psalm 106:36).*
3. **America is propagating a false Gospel all over the world.** *BELOVED, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God: because many false prophets have gone out into the world (1st John 4:1).*
4. **The American Church is lukewarm, having a form of godliness but denying the power.** *For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

(2nd Timothy 3:1-5). *I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth* (Revelation 3:15-16).

5. **America is allowing wholesale abortions.** *They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons, and shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was polluted with blood* (Psalm 106:37-38).
6. **America is defying the Word of God and Scriptural principles.** *For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book* (Revelation 22:18-19).
7. **America has made the culture the focus, shutting God out of the culture, as much as it is able to do so.** *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory* (Colossians 3:1-4).
8. **America has elected ungodly leadership on all levels.** *The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us"* (Psalm 2:2-3).
9. **America has promoted a politically correct doctrine of demons.** *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons* (1st Timothy 4:1).
10. **America has become a materialistic nation focused on money and having wrong priorities.** *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows* (1st Timothy 6:21).
11. **America has allowed a double standard in government and in broadcast media that allows Christianity and no other group to be maligned, criticized, and made fun of, including outright blasphemy on prime time television and in movies.** *Remember this, that the enemy has reproached, O LORD and that a foolish people has*

blasphemed Your name (Psalm 74:18). Arise, O God, plead Your own cause; Remember how foolish man reproaches You daily. Do not forget the voice of Your enemies; The tumult of those who rise up against You increases continually (Psalm 74:22-23).

- 12. America is raising an entitlement generation, not understanding that we deserve nothing but hell.** And He said to them, **“Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses”** (Luke 12:15). For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again (2nd Corinthians 5:14-15). **And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last and the last first** (Matthew 19:29-20). But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away (Isaiah 64:6).

A Remnant in the Last Days

Hosea 5:15 NKJ: “I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.”

1. Without Repentance we will not see the Lord come and move in our lives.
2. In our offense and sin we are to seek the Lord’s face and not His hand.
3. The Lord sends afflictions and judgment to His people so that they will earnestly seek Him. Judgments are an act of love. The Lord wants to have relationship with us so much that He sends these trials in order to bring us back to Him.

Hosea 6:1 NKJ: Come and let us return to the LORD; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.

1. We must return to the Lord. Like the Prodigal’s Father, He is waiting to receive us with open arms.
2. He chastens those He loves, and rends our hearts and not our garments, but His response is always restoration and healing to those who come to Him in humbleness and repentance.

Hosea 6:2 NKJ: After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight.

1. Israel’s love may be fickle, but God’s love is unchanging!

2. Israel types the Church. Every prophet who wrote in Scripture spoke of God's future purpose for Israel. Even Moses wrote, before the Israelites were even in the land, of the third and permanent restoration of Israel. This correlates also with Christ's third day resurrection, and, I believe, with the remnant company of the last days or the Third Day Church. In the coming days you will see the revival of the genuine believers and the resurrection of the true Church, as we transition from the Church Age to the Kingdom Age. It is so important that you surrender and make a true commitment to Christ now so that you can be part of this company, which will change the world and truly make His enemies His footstool. Time is short. Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King.

Hosea 6:3 KJV: *Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD; His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.*

Those who will be part of the remnant of the last days must take the following steps:

1. Acknowledge our offenses or sins, which is the same thing as repentance.
2. Earnestly seek the Lord. If we don't voluntarily do this, He will allow affliction and suffering and judgment to come until we do.
3. Then come and return to the Lord. We must acknowledge Him as the only source for our healing. No man, no woman, no drug, no substance, no sexual pleasures, nothing or no one else, at all, will bring healing and restoration to us. Coming and returning to the Lord is not just saying empty words or false promises. It is coming to a point of full surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, making the Holy Spirit our guide in all things and His presence in our earthly tabernacle the thing that matters most to us.
4. The Third Day Church has the following characteristics:
 - a. It is raised up from death and filled with life.
 - b. It presses on to *know* the Lord.
 - c. It is refreshed with the former rain, which is the rain necessary when the farmer plants the seed.
 - d. It is also refreshed with the latter rain, which is the rain that comes at harvest time.