

"Seek The Lord While He Is Near"

Hosea 10: 1 - 4

July 7, 2010

God Provides All That Is Necessary For Seeking Him In The Season Of Repentance, (vs. 1 - 15)

- God Has Provided The Instruction Necessary For Seeking Him By Repentance, (vs. 1 - 4)
 - God's instructions were, "Follow Me and be blessed, disobey Me and be cursed," (vs. 1 - 2)
 - God demonstrated His sovereignty in blessing the nation of Israel, (vs. 1a); "*... My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it...*" (Isaiah 5:1-2) "*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*" (John 15:1-2)
 - God demonstrated His gracious patience in continuing to bless Israel's rebellion, (vs. 1b); "*... I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*" (Rev 3:17-20)
 - God demonstrated His faithfulness in warning Israel of impending judgment, (vs. 2a); "*And Elijah came near to all the people and said, 'How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.' And the people did not answer him a word.*" (1 Kings 18:21) "*No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*" (Matthew 6:24)
 - God demonstrated His steadfastness by bringing judgment upon Israel, (vs. 2b); "*But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him.*" (1 Samuel 5:4) "*For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.*" (Matthew 16:27-28)
 - God's instructions were, "I am your king, no other will lead you as I will," (vs. 3 - 4); "*...for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.*" (1 Samuel 8:6-9)
 - Those who forsake God's rulership have no one else to lead them, (vs. 3a); "*But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, 'Set a king over us...'*" (1 Samuel 10:19)
 - Those who seek rulership in "kings" will be led astray, (vs. 3b)
 - ✚ "Kings" cannot institute an eternal covenant, (vs. 4a); "*And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.*" (Genesis 17:7) "*I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.*" (John 6:48-50)
 - ✚ "Kings" cannot keep the agreements they themselves make, (vs. 4b); "*... Can he break the covenant and yet escape? 'As I live, declares the Lord God, surely in the place where the king dwells who made him king, whose oath he despised, and whose covenant with him he broke, in Babylon he shall die.'*" (Ezekiel 17:13-17)
 - ✚ "Kings" cannot stay the judgment due their transgression, (vs. 4c); "*But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' (Lk 19:14) But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.'*" (Luke 19:27)

- God Has Provided The Discipline Necessary For Seeking Him In Repentance, (vs. 5 - 10)
- God Has Provided The Righteousness Necessary For Seeking Him In Through Repentance, (vs. 11 - 15)