

also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” God calls upon His people to know His will (Eph. 5:17). Paul earlier told the Ephesians, *“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ”* (Eph. 3:4). It then becomes vital and essential for us to *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (II Tim. 2:15). Not doing so will lead to the same destructive end as God’s people of Hosea.

4) GOD HAS BEEN VERY CLEAR. DISOBEDIENCE BRINGS DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES. Some of God’s people through the ages seemed to think they could please God and escape His wrath even though they were not obedient. Unfortunately, those sorts of people are still around. It cannot be clearer than the pen of Paul, who said God will exact *“vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel”* (II Thess. 1:8). Peter posed an excellent question on this subject when asking, *“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear”* (I Pet. 4:17-18)?

May we use these texts of the Old Testament to our advantage and learn from them. Remember, Paul penned, *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope”* (Rom. 15:4). How are you doing with this?

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST ♦ Vincennes, Indiana
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THE VINCENNES VOICE

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

“HOSEA’S GREAT LESSONS”

by Larry R. Ping II

The book of Hosea is one from which we can draw many valuable lessons. Those teachings include...

1) GOD’S USE OF EXAMPLES. During the days of Hosea, the people of God had committed “spiritual adultery.” They had gone after other gods, and left the One and Only God behind. Thus, God instructed Hosea to select and marry a woman known for prostitution (Hos. 1:2-3). God indeed does have a plan for all He does and how He does it. Jesus similarly taught in the New Testament when teaching in parables.

2) GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY. Even though His people left Him, God, in time, was willing to offer a second chance. This was taught by example once again. Hosea’s wife, Gomer, left him and went to others. Yet, Hosea lovingly took her back (Hos. 3:3). God has always been willing to offer these opportunities to His people. One needs not read very far into the Bible to see this fact.

3) GOD’S REQUIREMENT OF HIS PEOPLE NEEDING KNOWLEDGE. Though the offer for another opportunity was afforded, some refused to take it. One of the bigger culprits for such was clearly stated in Hosea 4:6, *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will*

VOLUME 5

ISSUE 2

JANUARY 14, 2024

BIBLE READING QUESTIONS

Read Jonah 1:1-17.

Answer the following questions based upon your reading.

- 1) What command did God issue Jonah in Jonah 1:2?

- 2) “But Jonah rose up to _____ unto Tarshish from the _____ of the LORD, and went _____ to Joppa” (Jonah 1:3).
- 3) What did the Lord send into the sea (Jonah 1:4)?

- 4) “Come, and let us cast _____, that we may _____ for whose cause this _____ is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon _____” (Jonah 1:7).
- 5) What was Jonah’s solution to the current problem (Jonah 1:12)? _____

- 6) “Nevertheless the men rowed _____ to bring it to the _____; but they could _____: for the sea wrought, and was _____ against them” (Jonah 1:13)?
- 7) What happened when Jonah was cast into the sea (Jonah 1:15)? _____
- 8) “Now the LORD had prepared a great _____ to swallow up _____. And Jonah was in the _____ of the fish _____ days and three _____” (Jonah 1:17).

TOPIC OF THE WEEK: PROMISES OF GOD FOR THE DAYS OF JANUARY 8-12, 2024

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024

Definition of promises: *a declaration or assurance that one will do a particular thing or that a particular thing will happen*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024

Old Testament passages dealing with the promises of God
Numbers 23:19; Joshua 23:14; Psalm 105:42; Isaiah 43:2

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

New Testament passages dealing with the promises of God
II Peter 3:9; I Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 6:18; I John 1:9-10

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024

Bible story displaying the promises of God
Exodus 17:8-16; I Samuel 15:1-3 (The destruction of Amalek)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024

What promises of God can we expect Him to keep?
How does God’s promises affect our daily lives?

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday Worship Services - 11:00 am & 3:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 pm
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