

Sunday Sermons

Lei



Sep 26, Sun

1 King 19:148 Whose Plan is it Anyway? ~~King~~

- Andrew Archibald

- associate pastor at Fairview
- renovating your home ↗ emotional stages
 - ↳ 1. excitement

2. More excitement

3. Surprise → more & more project, skill's limited

4. Dependency → more money, more time,

5. ???

- Always unforeseen obstacles and challenges

1 King 19, the dependency stage in Elijah.

↳ no closure

Historic Context

- Israel, covenant w/ God.
 - ↳ obey God and God will bless and protect them.
- worship ^{worship} alone

→ Israel split → to North and South Kingdom.

- King Ahab, → Queen ~~Izabel~~ Izabel? → not Jewish, taking Israel away from God.
 - God took away rain for 3 years and brought it back
 - Ur Elijah, widow and boy,
 - ↳ Elijah fed by ravens
 - ↳ prophets
 - Shown down with Baal's priests.
- the people of Israel still treats Elijah as a nuisance

- 1 King 19, Elijah falters the first time?
 - after all these years of serving the Lord
 - after the last encounter, he thinks that his life has no purpose.
 - ask that he may die
- God fed Elijah food and gave him water, sleep.
- the Lord responded and provided Elijah's essential need.
 - when Elijah was at his lowest immediate
 - Elijah God was there
- God's presence through out your despondence.
- 4c day & 4c night
 - ↳ 4c, moving from one era to another.

Mount Horob = Mount Sinai

- ↳ God's covenant & the 10 commandment.
- Elijah went to the source of relationship w/ God in midst of despondency.
 - to the Lord and sought answer from the Lord.
 - we too can go to God in the gospel (the source of our faith)

God's response

- the wind, earthquake, and fire
 - ↳ a whisper → asks for the source of Elijah's despondence
 - ↳ Elijah gives the same answer but maybe his heart's different this time.
- God's is vast, span across vast amount of time.
 - ↳ happens here but
 - ↳ goes beyond the time line of your lifetime. ↳ long ago
 - ↳ and pass your life time

V.15 God had a plan beyond Elijah's life time.

- 7 thousand in Israel
- God refining him, defining him who he is.

- Jesus

- God will use this to define you as his own. For his purposes and your good.
- As Sons and Daughters of the Lord most high

Oct 3, 2021

- A match made in heaven? Hosea 1:1-2:1

- How does God feel about us? What is God's heart for his people?
At our best and at our worst?

Relentless Love Sermon series on Hosea

V.1 8th century prophet ^{time}, during [↑] prosperity. Since days of Solomon. Mostly about the northern kingdom.
- Jeroboam was worshipping many different Gods.

V.2-3

- God sometimes asks his prophets to act out his judgement.

- Isaiah ~~that~~ walks naked on the street...

- Company comes to Israel.

V.3 the obstacles of marrying Gomer. ↗ parents ↗ ministry
↳ friends
↳ Hosea obeys.

Why would God ask Hosea to do this?

→ end of verse 2. Israel's whoredom toward God.

(Genesis 2:24) by forsaking

- Spiritual adultery, putting anything higher than God.

↳ what do you spend your time on?

↳ what do you think about in your spare time?

- God puts Hosea through being a woman that doesn't love him back

↳ by going after other men.

↳ God shows how He feels ~~through~~ Hosea.

* Don't live in Spiritual Adultery

V.3-9

- Jezebel, name of city and valley

↳ taboo name, of mass murderer.

- No mercy

- Not my people, God disowns his people

- there are consequences to our Spiritual Adultery

* Spiritual Adultery has consequences.

Wor 2:1

↳ Change in tone

1. Multiplied people (Abrahamic covenant)

- 2. From Covenant Partners to Children (Adoption)
- 3. Reunification of Northern and Southern Kingdom
- 4. Messianic King Reigns ~~them~~ over them the cross
- 5. Out of exile to prosperity in Promised Land
- 6. The Curse-Name are turned into blessing's name

→ all people unified.

>Showed people at their worst and showed God at His best.

Rom 3:3-4a. Paul's question and answer.

* God's Merciful Love Overcomes our Unfaithfulness.

Turn from Spiritual Adultery back to God's Relentless love.

++

O God, my sins are before you. Have mercy on me oh God.
 Because you are righteous and there can be no sin before you.
 God, help me to repent. I will repent from my ways. For my
 soul, your ways are good. Help me to survive in this sea
 of life. That I may be chaste to others. O God, you have seen
 it all, and you have waited and you withdrew your anger.
 keep me from sin. Remind me of all that you are.

Oct 10, 2021

Hosea 7:7-13 Relentless Love : A Pleading God

-the Screwtape letter

I.

* Will you turn from empty pursuit to the one who loves you?

v.4-5, taken back to before they have mercy.

v.2-3

- communication is broken down here

→ plead is a court room term

- no divorce but restoration.

v.3, v.4, 9,

↳ Israel & God nakedness → symbol of extreme poverty

→ wilderness and poverty

→ Fertile land

v.9,

v.5. She thinks she's prosperous b/c of her clients

but it was actually God.

A. *God stops blessing us until we return to the source of all blessing

→ Greed, Luke 12:15 all kinds of

↳ be on guard against greed.

- God exposes our greed.

v.6-7

- Compared with sheep.

v.7 - prostitute pursuing her clients

↳ God will disallow it, frustrate it.

- She returns → Selfish.

- life's better w/ God than w/o God.

B. *God frustrates our pursuit of idols until we turn back to the true God.

v.8, 10-13

- Israel uses what God gave them to honor Baal.

v.10. God will hand Israel to the Assyrians and Babylon

↳ people will see their nakedness.

v.12 the field will become wild (forest) and only wild animal will eat the crops.

C. *God won't accept our worship when it's blended with the world's idolatry.

Oct 17, 2021

The Surpassing Worth of Knowing Christ (Phil. 3.1-11) - Pastor Andrew Vanswegen

- we live in a world where people have switched the price tag.
 - people are valued for what they have, what they look like... self esteem
 - people not valued for who they are
 - In God's eye you're valuable
 - We're deemed beautiful b/c God has made us in His image
 - ↳ not if I have a job or not
 - Love your God with all your heart, spirit and mind
 - Knowing Christ is the most valuable.
 - we all have failed to love God as He should be loved
 - how do we prioritize what's truly valuable?
 - knowing Christ is greater than our achievements.
 - people were glorifying in circumcision but what they need is regeneration
 - ↳ they thought their achievement will gain the approval of God.
(other religion think they can earn their way to heaven)
 - ↳ this wouldn't work in a relationship (will not fix your relationship)
 - we're not called to rest upon our work but on Jesus' work
 - 2 Cor 5, "God made him who knew no sin to become sin..."
 - knowing Christ is greater than our advantages
- v.4 - 7
- Paul was top of the list, elite, Hebrew of Hebrew, Benjamin pure bred, Pharisee, persecuted the Christians
 - ↳ He had no confidence in them.
 - v.7 'What ever gain I had I count it as lost, for the sake of Christ.'
 - v.8 He sees the surpassing worth of Jesus Christ
- knowing Christ is greater than all we can attain
- God changed Paul's heart on Damascus, all these things that he used to take pride in are now all trash in the surpassing worth of Christ.
 - See God for His true worth, see yourself for we actually are.
 - What trash are we taking pride in?
- knowing Christ is the greatest pursuit worth following
- Paul seeks to know Christ, not just intellectually, but relationally, devotionally
 - What should I pursue God?
 - Paul does not state that he has arrived, he wants to know God more
 - Read the Bible, pray
 - Be constant learner and lover of God
 - Small groups
 - Songs
 - More ways...
 - Be unsatisfied with knowing God just a little bit.
 - Sharing in Christ's suffering
 - knowing Christ → Becoming more like Christ

Oct 24, 2021

When Zeal and Jealousy Meet (Acts 5:12-42)

Conviction on Fire

-Rev. Kevin Hausev

- how's the apostle's engaging w/ the situation?
- Reaction of the message
- Reaction of the apostles after the Pharisee's warning.
- Miracles prophesied in Isaiah.
 - blind see
 - lame walk
 - deaf hear
 - Miracles in Acts validates the apostles and Jesus.
- the coming of the Messiah, the hope of Israel
- 'all were healed', God bring a revival of the people of God.
 - ↳ healing related to saving faith.
- the word 'filled' used 3 time
 - Ch. 2, filled w/ the Spirit
 - Ch. 4, filled → to Peter, ananias ↳
 - Ch. 5:17, filled w/ Jealousy
- The apostles were undermining the temple and the work of the priests.
 - Jesus' the only sacrifice
 - To be saved you need to be born again.
- ↳ God displaying His sovereignty
 - ↳ God can save and free them when He chooses.
 - ↳ The apostles need to learn this b/c persecution is coming.

"We must obey God, rather than man."

- Disobedience to God is not an option to Christian.
- joyfully embrace dishonor for God's name

Oct 31, 2021

Hosea 2:14-20 A Wooing God - Rev. Tim Gartner

- this section focuses on God's gentle mean of calling back his people.
- Valley of Achor?

v.14 God will allow Israel despite Israel's been Unfaithful.

→ God allures us, despite us being closed, selfish, self serving.

- we should be pursuing God, but we don't.

- 'bring us to the wilderness'

- speak tenderly → speaking to our heart.

v.15 Give her her vineyard → was taken before hand

↳ God will give gifts.

→ God give good gifts

Valley of Achor means trouble but:

- when Joshua was conquering Canaan, --

→ Achon was discovered to disobey God

→ replaced w/ hope.

→ Wilderness of exile ≈ wilderness of exodus

- I will be your God and you will be my people.

- As if on a first date

- "A new begining, fresh love, rather than patching up diff."

I. Rejuvenate your Love for a Wooing God.

- Derek Rader.

Kidner

v.16-20

→ Baal was the name of the false ~~bad~~ god.

→ Israel mixed up worship of God w/ Baal.

↳ God does not accept this type of worship

→ God will change this. Israel will completely forget Baal's name.

↳ Israel will be so in love w/ God.

→ To destroy Idols, fall deeper in love & commitment w/ God.

- Israel becomes betrothed.

v.18

→ reverting what God has taken away is Ch 2.

→ removing the reason why, the root of why God has taken it away.

v.19. God will engage him self w/ Israel forever.

- Eternal covenant.

- In righteousness, justice, love and mercy, (Ps. 85:10)

- On the Cross. Justice, righteousness and love and mercy perfectly met.
- What stops Israel from breaking the covenant again?
 - bridal price, (Genesis 24:53)
 - God's bridal price, is: Righteousness, justice, steadfast love and mercy, faithfulness.

↳ God will make Israel these things. (Through the Holy Spirit). (Jeremiah 31:33)

- V.20b 'And you shall know the Lord.' ↳ consummation of ~~marriage~~
marriage.
- Gen. 4:1,
 - intimacy → mutual love, commitment...
 - We'll have an incredible intimacy w/ God.

I. Give God Your Full Commitment.

V.21-23.

- V.21-22, God, the author of the cycle of earth,
- rain and crops
 - Not Baal as God of rain/prosperity
 - God will bring prosperity after the marriage
↳ emblem of national sin

V.23, Israel as Jezreel, the children

- curse name undone
- Jezreel, 'God will sow'; will not think of the national sin.
- Care for her as His own, as a plant.

II. Enjoy the Blessings of Your Covenant w/ God.

- V.23b, "You are my God"
- voicing of agreement in the covenant
 - 'I do'

Will we say 'You are my God?'

- the offer is given to all of us.

IV. 'Say 'I Do' to God.'

Nov 6, 2021

1 Sam. 17:40-50 Daring Faith in Desperate Times Rev. Benji Davadcan

- were in desperate time. 10 pt Sermon.

- Global pandemic
- North Korea,
- Atomic bombs...

1. Parental Faith

- David was raise by Jesse.
- Jesse taught all his kids abt. God.
- can be

2. Personal Faith

- parental faith have to be personal faith
- In psalm, David often say 'O, my Lord' Ps. 71:3; 18:4
God, my Savior (Ps. 18:46; 17:54; 51:14)
- God, my Strength (Ps. 18:1, 22:19)
- God, my shield (Ps. 7:10, 18:2)
↳ going to battle

God, my salvation (deliverer) Ps. 18:2, 27:1

God, my Stronghold (Ps. 18:2, 27:1)

God, my Support (Ps. 18:18a)

God, my Shepard (Ps. 23:1)

All these 5 words can be used to check your relationship w/ God.

3. Passionate Faith

- Surround yourself w/ passionate people
- express your love to God
- 'I love You, O Lord' Ps. 18:1
- 'I love the house where you are' Ps. 26:8
↳ Passionate about Church
- "Love the Lord, all you saint"
↳ passionate about God's people

4. Precious Faith our faith is nurtured w/

- Word of God
- Worship / Song prostrate

Jesus became nothing
for me. I can give
100% for Him.

- Prayer, be part of a prayer movement.
- Fellowship, speak into each other's life

5. Productive Faith

- faith who work is dead

David:

- served as a Shepard (1 Sam. 17:15)
 - bear bare hand defeats lion & wolf.
 - being faithful w/ small responsibility
(sheep to country)

→ Submitted to his dad (1 Sam. 17:17 to 19)

- take the food to your brother.

- early in the morning take them to your brother

- submit to houses church, Lord.

6. Provoked Faith (1 Sam. 17:26)

- both side sent their champion, who ever wins means their God + god is stronger.
- Goliath provokes Israel.
- Don't fall for the American dream.
- be provoked w/ what's happening with the world.
- Is your faith a troubled faith?

7. Practical Faith

David assess the enemy:

- 9 ft 3 in tall, a bronze helmet

- an imposing figure

- Intimidating speech, mocked the God of Israel.

Armed for the battle:

- take on Goliath w/ Staff; Staff; Stones (1 Sam. 17:40)

- * → we can put on the armour of faith (Eph 6:15)

8. Powerful Faith (1 Sam. 17:45-50)

- trusted the Lord

1 Sam. 17:37, confession to Saul. Defeated lions trusting in God

Confession to Goliath, verbal confession of your faith

- Took initiative

- David ran toward Goliath.

- Courage of faith, does your run, or in retreat?

- triumphant faith.
- faith victories.

9. Proclaiming Faith (1 Sam. 17:47)

- the whole world will know there's a God in Israel.
- Step of faith can be world known (potential)

10. Perserving Faith

- 40 years running away from King Saul.
- Will your faith hold out? Through life's challenges.

App.

- Daring faith involves taking Risks.
- " " is dependant on God's resources.
- " " will be rewarded. (Heb. 11, unfinished chapter)

So much potentials, Children of God,
Nothing can be worse than a routine Christian

Nov 14, 2021 Sun

Phil. 3:1 - 11 Count it All as Loss for the Sake of Christ

Mpumi Maweni

- Nelson Mandela and Tutu neighbors. Noble Prize of Prince winner.
- 'Carve out anything that's not a lion, to make it a lion'
↳ God is carving me. Be patient with me.
- Many people don't want to mingle w/ other people

1. Warning (v. 1)

2.

3. Objective

- Paul's In prison and tries to encourage others.

↳ the culture is evil

- We do not fight against flesh and blood.

→ a fire's coming, if you help stop it. It will come to your house.
don't

→ put no trust in human flesh.

- Deny yourself } who ever wants to come to me - JESUS

- Take up the cross } self-denial's very hard

- Follow

Paul list the 7 privileges, that he gave up so he can know God

↳ Religious privilege (born a Jew, and circumcised on the 8th day)

→ How is our religious privilege preventing us from being obedient.

→ Ethnic privilege (God's chosen people)

→ Ancestral privilege (Tribe of Benjamin)

→ Culture Privilege (Hebrew of Hebrew)

- So many reason why we're not doing God's mission (life style that glorifies God)

→ Educational Privilege (Pharisee)

→ Personality Privilege

→ Moral Privilege (As to righteousness under the Law, blameless)

Abandon it all for Christ. All thing created through Him, for Him and to Him.

Be a bacon not a chicken.

Nov 21, 2021

Hosea 3:1-5 : Redeeming Love - Rev. Tim. Grieves

Relentless Love

V.1 'Go again'

'And is loved by another man'
is an adulteress.'

- implies that Hosea has stopped loving her
- hard to do
- God saying, you must love as I do

- Go →

- ↳ parable of the lost coin and lost sheep
 - shows that the thing that is lost is valuable
 - left 99 for the 1, the sheep must have been valuable
 - shows that it's not our responsibility to be found
 - ↳ the sheep have to be carry
 - ↳ a coin can't find itself

God's Love is ... Relentless
... Redeeming
... Renewing

V.1b God's love in contrast to the people's love

- what are our raisin cakes?
- what worthless things are we chasing
- we chase mists while God pursues us.

V.2 - Gomer became a slave

- Gomer went into debt and sold herself as a slave
(how she got there, we're not sure)

² So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver
and a homer and a lethech of barley.

- Gomer represents Israel

- Hosea pays w/ a mixture of money & food. Very costly.
- God's love is redeeming
- Hosea went to Gomer b/c Gomer can't go to Him, she's enslaved.
- we can't redeem ourselves, it's about what Jesus have done

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:34-36

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.
Ephesians 1:7

V.3 'You must dwell as mine for many day.'

'You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man.'

- So will I also be to you

³ And I said to her, "You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you."⁴ For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods.⁵ Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the LORD and to his goodness in the latter days.

V.4 Exile

- unlearn sinful patterns
- who sinful influences

V.5 The children of God will return and seek their God

'And David their king' → implies coming union of North & south.

↳ David's descendant will rule over Israel forever → Messianic

→ Will come in fear (reverence) to the Lord and to his goodness in the latter day.

Nov 28, 2021

Spiritual Adultery (Hosea 5:3-7) - Rev. Tim Grieves

³ I know Ephraim,
and Israel is not hidden from me;
for now, O Ephraim, you have played the
whore;
Israel is defiled.

- Ephraim and Israel synonymous
- Jeremiah 16:17, God knows their sin
 - ↳ God knows us and sees our sins
 - ↳ God still loves us (Isaiah 57:18a)

- Sin has defiled us. Can not come in presence of God.

- Mirage a reflection of God's love for His Church

Hosea 3:1, God commanded Hosea to love Gomer, regardless of feeling or Gomer's response

- 2 exception adultery or death, but even so, still need to ask God if to divorce

(God didn't ask Hosea to divorce Gomer even tho Gomer has been unfaithful.)

'Go again and love your spouse.'

⁴ Their deeds do not permit them
to return to their God.

For the spirit of whoredom is within them,
and they know not the LORD.

⁵ The pride of Israel testifies to his face;
Israel and Ephraim shall stumble in his guilt;
Judah also shall stumble with them.

Don't Commit Spiritual Adultery!

- fight for faithfulness (Matt. 19:6)

Battle against ... Persistence Sin
... Shallow Religion

V.4 the bondage of sin.

→ often the case of persistent / habitual sin

- how to fight persistence sin?

(for the spirit of adultery w/in us) → the root of persistence sin → showing that we don't really know God

↳ Hosea 4:2

V.5 Pride can also stumble us. Prevent us from coming to God.

→ Sin wants to consume you.

How to fight against our persistence sin? → look to Christ.

↳ Christ died for our sin. Strength and his victory.

↳ Doing things his way, confession, accountability.

⁶ With their flocks and herds they shall go
to seek the LORD,

but they will not find him;

he has withdrawn from them.

⁷ They have dealt faithlessly with the LORD;
for they have borne alien children.

Now the new moon shall devour them
with their fields.

- instead of repentance, they look for sacrifices

- Isaiah 1:13.

- Hosea 9:4

'mourners broad' → defiles you and don't cleanse you

"They must learn that God is not prisoner of
His sacraments."

--Derek Kidner

Dec 12, 2021

Matthew 2:1-12

Jesus the King is in the House (Dr. Wayne Baxter)

Characters Christ was born to be the king of your life.

- 3 Magi:

- Sheppard

- Herod

- Scripture

- Magi:

- Came from the East (probably Gentiles), not part of God's promise to the Israelites

- Royals (1 King 10; Queen Sheba, gift to sons of David)

- Priest (gifts of myrrh, incense, and gold - OT related to priests)

- Priestly kings

- Came seeking for the king, to worship him ^{→ not respect}

- Came from a long way, dangerous, carrying riches. Committed to find the new king of the Jews.

- We all need to be ruled by God.

- Other things often reigns over us (success, money, social status (influence))

- Jews, Pharisee

- Not searching for a king

- Herod, half Jew

- Under Rome's reign

- don't want God's reign

- Message of Scripture (v.5-6)

- from Bethlehem, will born a king of the Jews.

- 'Why do you call me Lord, but don't obey what I say?' (Lord)

- Sheppard, protect, heal

Dec 19, 2021

The Virgin Gives Birth (Luke 1:26-38) - Rev. Tim G.

- Mary is favored
- the baby is named Jesus
- Gabriel, Jesus will be great, the throne of David, reign forever
- Mary, "how can this be, since I'm still a virgin?"

↳ confirming miracle v.36-37, Elizabeth old but have a baby,

↳ v.37 "for nothing will be impossible w/ God."

v.35 Therefore, the child will be called holy, the son of God

Holy: set apart

- Virgin birth points us to the 3 points
- not necessary b/c nothing is impossible for God.
- Salvation isn't possible w/o these 3 points

The Virgin Birth Shows:

- God has a special mission for Jesus
- Jesus is fully human and fully God.
- Jesus was born sinless

1 Tim. 2:5-6a

- fully God, fully man, perfect mediator, unbiased.

The Virgin Birth Shows Jesus as the Perfect Mediator

Remember the Virgin Birth as the Beginning of Our Redemption

Dec 26, 2021

Give God Your All - You'll Never Give Him More than You Receive (Psalm 16) - Rev. Tim. G.

All in for God

- Mik tam for David

- V.1 A trusting appeal, David asks God to preserve him

- David asks help for potential troubles

- God as a refuge, somewhere to flee from danger

- V.2 David's devotion to God "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

- a time of lords and kings, David's giving his all to God

- Commit Everything to God

Commit Everything to God

- A new hope for our welfare

- A new kind of fellowship

- A new focus in worship

- A new ambition for our lives

- In Return, He'll Greatly Bless You

- God blesses us with Guidance

↳ all good things come from God

- God blesses us w/ stability

- Nothing compares to the goodness of God

- God blesses us

with Resurrection life

- God blesses us with

Eternal bliss

V.3 David delights in the saints

V.4 The things we pursue, if it's not God it will only lead to more sorrow

- others run to other gods, Christians crawl slowly to God. Let us run fast toward God

- David sets boundaries so he doesn't chase idols

V.5 Portion & cup, our allotment in life

- we should want more of God in our life

- Our fate is in God's hand. David wants God's will in his life.

V.6 The Israelites followed God, and they received their inheritances

- the Levites did not receive any land → God is their portion (Num. 18:20)

V.7-8, God gives us counsel, leaves us the choices

- God works w/ our heart, which then instructs us; Being trained in righteousness

V.8. Set the Lord before us.

- letting God go before us

- fill our hearts & mind w/ Him

- It's like someone at our right hand

V.9-10 - gladness, rejoicing in death

V.11 fullness of joy, pleasure forevermore

- heaven won't be boring

- God's presence

- God's gifts

Jan 2, 2022

Gardening 101: Fruitfulness (John 15:1-10) - Elder Albert Lee

- fruit used 4 times in the passage
- 'The fruit of the Spirit is...' (Gal 5:22-23)
 - Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
 - 'against such things there is no law.'
- What does it mean to abide?
- More likely to follow through with your commitment when you have someone help.
- Peace and patience most wanted among refugees
- Self-control being developed most this year
- Apart from Christ we can not have self-control, we can not say no to sin.
- Only through abiding we can bear fruit.
- Last of Jesus' "I am" statements

V.1-5 Parallel (Main Elements)

Metaphor Details

Vinedresser (Gardener, v1)

True Vine (v.1, 5)

Branches (v.2, 4, 5, 8)

Fruit (v. 2, 4, 5, 8)

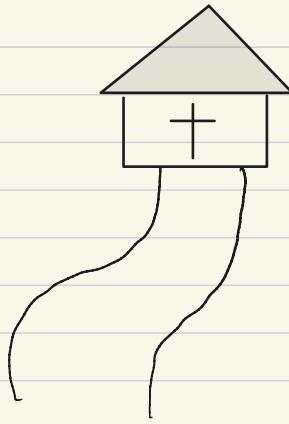
Parallel Detail

God the Father

Jesus

Christians

Spiritual Qualities



In Jewish Culture they have 4 new years

- Jan 16 'Tu b'Shevat'

- Start of new growing season

- Orthodox families reads scripture focus on trees, fruitfulness

- When we bear fruit it proves that we belong to Jesus (John 15:8), fruitfulness not just as utility, a badge of member, belonging and being part ^{of God's} family

Parallel #2 (Branches)

- Clean (v.3) → Prepared to be fruitful (Faith in Christ)
- Pruning (v.2) → Trials, challenges, refining to bring more growth (require force, causes pain, but needed to bear fruit)
 - ↳ removing idols, and etc...
- Fruitful only if in the vine (v.4) → Growth only through Jesus
- Unfruitful branches removed, burned (v. 2, 6) → Fruitless = disconnected from Jesus
 - ↳ Mt. 7:18-20, 2 Pet. 1:5-10. Bearing fruit as mark of belonging in Christ

Parallel #3 (Abiding) (Repeated 10 times in Jn. 15:4-10)

Abide = to remain, continue to be in enduring personal communion

Abide = Abode (a home), to be at home

Abide in Christ & Vice Versa (v.4-5)

God's words abide (v.7) → Answered prayer

Abide in love (v.9-10) → Obedience & love must go together

↳ No Idols, No Murder/Hate, Sexual Purity, No Lying

Example of Abiding

* The Girls Who Would Not Bow

https://www.usna.edu/Navigators/_files/documents/MHCH.pdf

How We Can Abide in Christ.

- Rest (Mt. 11:28)
- Grace (2 Cor. 12:9)
- Guidance (Prov. 3:5-6)
- Hope (Isa. 40:31)

Sunflowers turns to the sun.

We always bear some kind of fruit... (Gal. 6:7-8)

Jan 9, 2022

A Hopeful Heart (Psalm 131) - Rev. Tim G.

- One of the shortest Chapter in the Bible
- Shortest but takes the longest to learn

V.1 Struggle with pride

- 'lifted up', 'eyes lifted high'); Isaiah 57:15, the word high and lifted up is used for God.
- Pride puts us in the position of God.
- 'My heart', the pride is in me. (You don't see yourself properly. You think you're better than you are)
 - are you over committing?
 - who's in control of your heart? (Your will be done or God's will be done?)
- 'My eyes' are not raised too high
 - pride that compares w/ others (I'm better than him/her)
 - Comparison w/ others
 - You're so occupied w/ looking down on other you forgot about the Lord.
 - You end up relying on yourself.

V.1b. I do not occupy myself with things, too great and too marvelous for me.
- they're done 'for me' and not for God's glory.

V.2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul,

- Calm: flatness & smoothness
 - let go & trust in God plan
 - "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)
- like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me
- Calm satisfaction
 - Continued trusting in God.

V.3 O Israel hope in the Lord

- David's calm satisfaction comes from hope in the Lord.
- Hope: knowing that something will happen
- Psalm 130 (Psalm 131 builds upon 130)
 - does not come from calm circumstances (struggle/trouble), sinner. But God's a forgiving God (hope).
 - v.5-8. the world wait and hope are deeply connected.
 - we hope in the Lord b/c of its steadfast love, forgiveness....

- Renew our hope in God

- Trust in God for eternity.

131 O LORD, my heart is not lifted up;
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvelous for me.

² But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child is my soul within me.

³ O Israel, hope in the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore.

What David Isn't
(RESULT)

What David Is
(PROCESS)

Final Appeal
(REASON)

Hope in the Lord (v.1)

- with humble submission (v.1b)
- with calm satisfaction (v.2)
- with patient expectation (v.3, ch.131)

Anti-Psalm 131

"Self, my heart is proud (I'm absorbed in myself),
and my eyes are haughty (I look down on other people),
and I chase after things too great and too difficult for me.
So of course I'm noisy and restless inside, it comes naturally,
like a hungry infant fussing on his mother's lap,
like a hungry infant, I'm restless with my demands and worries.
I scatter my hopes onto anything and everybody all the time."

-David Powlison

Jan 16, 2021

The Withdrawal of God (Hosea 5:15-7:2) - Rev. Tim G.

- God's response to spiritual unfaithfulness

- to press on after God withdraws

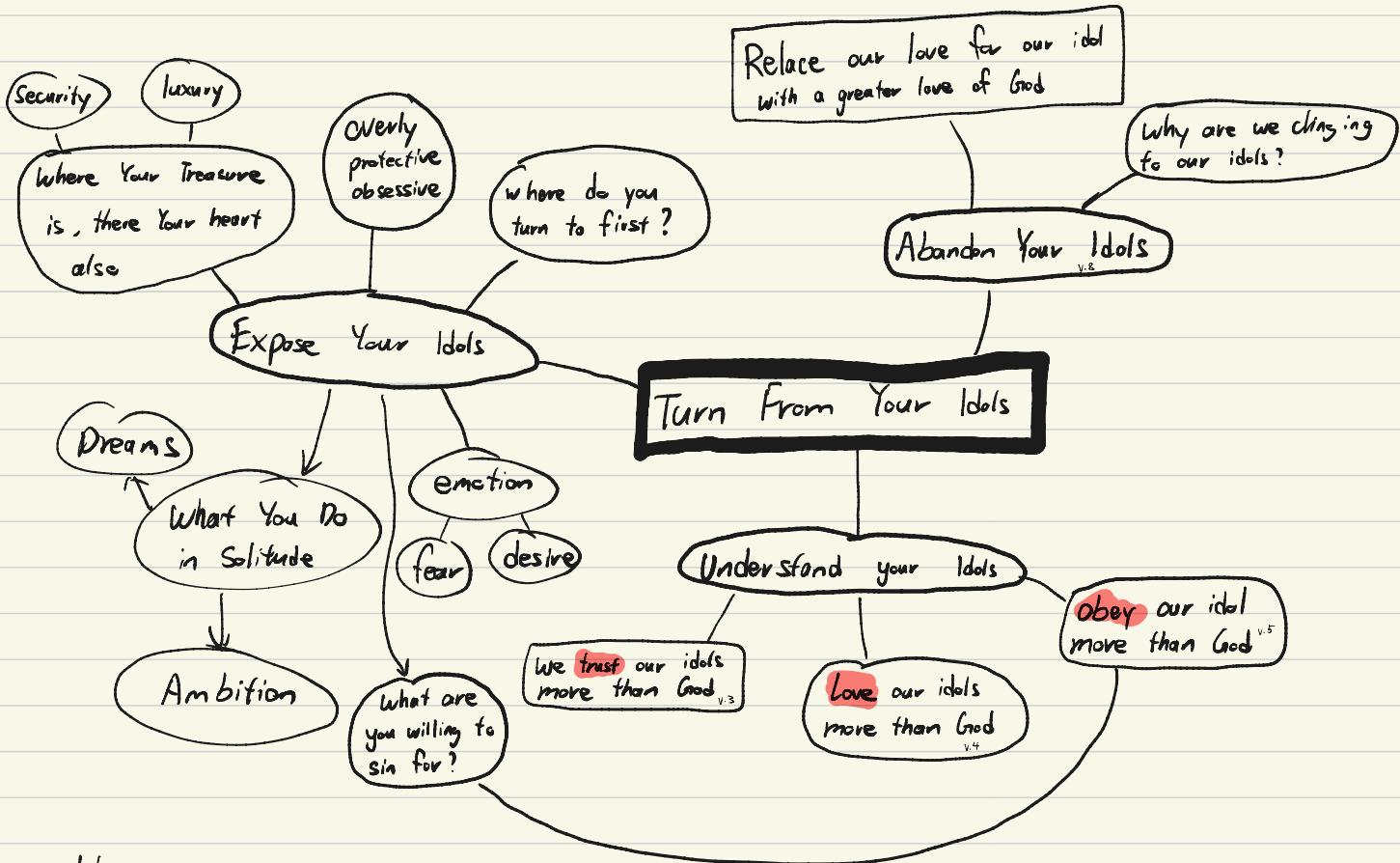
V.15 God is warning his people that he will pull back from his people until they realized their guilt. Until they seek Him earnestly.

- Not done to punish Israel. God does this so that they'll come back.

Press on After a Withdrawing God

Feb 27, 2022

Hosea 10:1-8 Turn from Your Idols



Idols

- Success, Job → Money → luxury

- Video game → laziness

- Myself