2Thess #139

The Doctrine of thorns

Open today in Hosea chapter 10.

I will be putting up a personal and Geo-political commentary on RUMBLE and BRIGHTEON in the next two days.

We have begun a deeper look into the doctrine of thorns and it began with the first mentioned principle of the term thorns and thistles.

/[Gen 3:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/3/18/s_3018) “**Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you**;Yet you shall eat the plants of the field; 19 **By the sweat of your face You shall eat bread**,Until you return to the ground,Because from it you were taken;For you are dust,And to dust you shall return.”\

After the fall in the garden everything changed for mankind.

The garden was a typology of heaven, it was designed to be a place of perfection and comfort. The place of intimacy with God, the place where GOD and mankind had no barriers between them.

When sin enters the picture everything changed. Which is also a first mentioned principle that teaches us the OSN brings in separation and death.

The declaration in Genesis 3:18 tells us fallen man would now face the struggles and challenges separate from GOD, separate from GOD’s perfect grace. This is seen in the fact that all people are born spiritually dead, separated from GOD.

Yet everyone has the opportunity to be brought back into GOD’s grace and intimate love relationship by simply believing upon HIS precious SON Jesus Christ.

 REPEAT

Which is proclaimed in Genesis 3:15 pointing us to the gospel of TLJC.

That one scripture shows us the saving work of the cross of Christ and the angelic conflict.

Thorns are more often than not used to point to the Bel’s life who has dried up away from the plan of GOD. They are now tangled up in misery and challenges within the cosmic system.

In some cases, thorns are also a term for divine discipline, but many times it simply refers to self-induced misery.

Thorns and thistles also speak to man working on their own away from GOD.

Now Hosea was a prophet in the Northern Kingdom of Isreal (Ephraim) between 755 into 715 BC.

Many know the story of Hosea and Gomer his unfaithful wife.

This becomes a strong theme within the book of Hosea because it shows us the unfaithful life of Israel always cheating on GOD.

In chapter ten is the point of what we call the discipline or judgment section of the book. It is within chapter 11 we see God’s restoration begin.

The problem was even the spiritual leaders like the temple priests were corrupt and involved in idol worship. The BAAL system had been woven into the true worship of YAHWEH. Both the Southern Tribe (Judah) and the Northern Tribe of Israel failed repeatedly.

There is a great deal here for a Client Nation unto GOD (America), as well as the singular Believer to learn and really pay attention too. Because it covers a vast number of problems we live in currently.

 REPEAT

/Hos 10:1 Israel is a luxuriant vine; He produces fruit for himself. The more his fruit, The more altars he made; The richer his land, The better he made the memorial stones.

Yahweh had planted Israel in Canaan as a vine and had blessed it with fruitful prosperity, the more it prospered the more arrogance and rebellion grew.\

This is a very common theme among Christians, whether in the OT or NT and certainly today. The more comfort and prosperity GOD allows, the more HIS people become arrogant and peel away from HIS commands.

/[Hos 10:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/10/2/s_872002) **Their heart is deceitful** (*ḥālaq*); Now they must suffer for their guilt. The LORD will break down their altars *And* destroy **their memorial stones** (*maṣṣēḇâ maṣṣēḇâ*).

Unfaithful, divided interest. Personal idols, in this case related to BAAL.\

HAL-ACK, this Hebrew verb is in the Qal stem which is almost always used for a partner or agreement, meaning to be divided between two parties. Usually used for dividing up the plunder, to share in the robbery.

MAS-AV-AH MAS-AV-AH – a strong term used for personal statues or idols we establish in our life.

 REPEAT

God will only allow HIS people to erect idols and false gods and participate in evil for so long before HE smashes them in some for or fashion.

The smashing may be bringing severe problems and pain into your life.

It usually begins with self-induced misery which is the first sign you have now entered a drought of doctrine and fellowship in your life.

 REPEAT

/The Client Nation unto GOD nor the singular Christian can’t answer to two masters, nor can they walk successfully in the SPIRIT and flesh at the same time. The foolish Bel dips their feet in both the spiritual life and cosmic system trying to find a balance between to opposing forces. In the case of Israel at this point they welcomed evil into their culture while still offering ritual worship to GOD.\

This is the invitation for thorns and thistles to tangle your life up and bring misery and discipline upon your household.

Never forget there is collateral damage when a nation or leader goes negative.

There is blessing and cursing by association.

 Parents take note of that!

/2Cor 6:14 Do not be mismatched with unbelievers; for **what do righteousness and lawlessness share together**, or what does light have in common with darkness? 15 Or **what harmony does Christ have with Belial**, or what does a believer share with an unbeliever?

 (Mat 6:24, Luk 16:13)\

Mat 6:24 “no one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

[Hos 10:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/10/3/s_872003) Certainly now they will say, “We have no king,For we do not revere the LORD.As for the king, what can he do for us?”

There are some Jewish scholars who claim Hosea was not just a regular prophet for the northern tribe, but a political leader or perhaps viewed as a king.

The nation of Isreal cried out for a king and they received a weak one named King Saul.

It didn’t matter that GOD was telling them your KING is truly yet to come…TLJC. They wanted a human king and when GOD established that standard for HIS people, they still failed repeatedly and miserably generation after generation.

 REPEAT

/It does not matter, king, prophet, judges and priest, even presidents and governors, history shows us mankind will always need GOD as the ultimate authority. Every human office, spiritually and politically is tainted with the flesh and demonic presence of sin and evil. King Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation to establish a righteous kingdom, in the end mankind will even rebel one last time against that! \

Mankind has a tendency to have this type of attitude; *If only GOD would show me a miracle then I would believe*.

*If only GOD would give me a good job then I would serve HIM.*

*If only GOD would give me my right man or right woman, then I’ll be happy and follow HIM*…this type of nonsense goes on and on with most people.

The Bible proves time and again that is all lies and nothing but hollow statements from an arrogant soul.

[Hos 10:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/10/4/s_872004) They speak *mere* words,With worthless oaths they make covenants;And judgment sprouts like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field.

Their promises, their empty words and even their justice system was laced with hemlock – a poisonous weed.

This is very similar to the analogy of the tares among the wheat – the deadly weeds always strangle out the good ones.

Also, it is difficult to tell the difference between the bad and the good when looking at the crop.

Hosea is being used by GOD the HS to proclaim what the Northern Tribe had become and how they were being dealt with by HIM;

/Jam 1:7 For that person ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 *being* a **double-minded man, unstable in all his ways**.\

God was now allowing misery to turn into discipline.

What had been blessing and prosperity was now deteriorated because of all the evil and rejection of BD in the land.

/Hos 10:5 **The inhabitants of Samaria will fear For the calf of Beth-aven**. Indeed, itspeople will mourn for it,And **its idolatrous priests will cry out over it**,Over its glory, since it has left it.

The people of Samaria (the capitol) had erected altars and one was a golden calf of Bethel.\

Today Samaria is known as the West bank of Palestine.

It was built up as a capitol city for the Northen Tribe of Isreal. It became a hot spot of mixed cultures and all kinds of BAAL worship, until around this point when GOD allowed enemies to march right over it.

[Hos 10:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/10/6/s_872006) The thing itself will be brought to AssyriaAs a gift of tribute to King Jareb;Ephraim will be seized with shame,And Israel will be ashamed of its own plan.

Keep in mind Israel kept making deals for protection with nations like Egypt and Assyria, in the end they always got dominated and taken advantage of.

Which is a sign they were heading into the last cycle of discipline.

The 4th and 5th cycle of discipline is a rapid decline in wealth, power and having your enemies dominate you.

/God never approved of Israel relying on protection and control from outside nations. The more you fold yourself into cosmic agreements the more compromised becomes your spiritual walk. The 4th Divine Institution is Nationalism. That means dependence upon strong borders, strong military, law and order derived from Biblical principles. All functioning cohesively with the 3 other institutions.\

All 4 Divine Institutions build upon and work within each other. Freedom, Christian marriage and the Christian family – which in this case had all collapsed under the creeping infection of the BAAL system into Israel.

So, now nationalism had fallen apart.

 REPEAT

[Hos 10:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/10/7/s_872007) Samaria will be destroyed *with* her king,Like a twig on the surface of the water.

The king is Jareb who was probably of Assyrian descendant and allowed to rule over Samaria prior to the full take-over of Israel.

Ungodly leaders bring forth ungodly consequences.

[/Hos 10:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/10/8/s_872008) Also **the high places of Aven**, **the sin of Israel,** will be destroyed; **Thorns and thistles will grow on their altars;** Then they will say to the mountains,“Cover us!” And to the hills, “Fall on us!”

The Hebrew noun - *'āven,* points to idolatry and wickedness, sorrow or evil.\

AH-VAN, it means vanity and false gods or wrongdoing and evil.

Notice the curse of thorns and thistles because they have dried up from the abundance GOD gave them.

They took for granted and destroy the blessings from GOD.

/This was a place in or near Bethel where the Israelites had sinned. Ironically, when the Israelites had entered the Promised Land, the Lord had commanded them to destroy such places as well as seeds of Satan (Num. 33:52; Deut. 12:2-3). Since they had not obeyed, the Lord would use the Assyrians to fulfill His command. Bethel - meaning a house of GOD, a place both Abraham and Jacob had encounters with YAHWEH.\

Bethel was about 10 miles north of Jerusalem. This was the spot where sacred meetings where GOD and his people had met before and it became a place of evil.

The rejection of BD over time will lead a Bel into a tangled web of thorns and thistles.

 In this case, GOD proclaimed this place would become overrun and abandoned where thorns and thistles will grow.

Much of this also points very prophetically, far ahead into the Tribulation period.

[Hos 10:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/10/9/s_872009) Since the days of Gibeah you have sinned, Israel;There they stand!Will the battle against the sons of injustice not overtake them in Gibeah?

The tribe of Benjaman were from the hill country of Gibeah and there is a story of a rape and murder of a concubine in Judges 19 into chapter 20 that this is pointing backward toward.

That was also a time of rebellion against the word of GOD as well.

[/Hos 10:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/10/10/s_872010) **When it is My desire, I will discipline them**;And the peoples will be gathered against themWhen they are bound for their double guilt.

The difficulties and misery of thorns are often related to divine discipline approaching on a Client Nation or a Bel.\

The choices we make outside the plan of GOD accumulate and when they are not washed clean we become entangled.

When they accumulate and we do not turn from the habitual practices of evil, there is going to be a drought in our life that can lead to severe discipline.

Simply naming and citing sins and then going right back to that same sin without any effort of repentance, such as bringing yourself back into a steady washing of BD - is almost useless.

[Hos 10:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/10/11/s_872011) Ephraim is a trained heifer that loves to thresh,And I passed over her lovely neck;I will harness Ephraim,Judah will plow, Jacob will harrow for himself.

[Hos 10:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/10/12/s_872012) Sow for yourselves, *with a view* to righteousness;Harvest in accordance with kindness.Break up your uncultivated ground,For it is time to seek the LORDUntil He comes and rains righteousness on you.

[Hos 10:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/10/13/s_872013) You have plowed wickedness, you have harvested injustice,You have eaten the fruit of lies.Because you have trusted in your way, in your many warriors,

[Hos 10:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/10/14/s_872014) An uproar will arise among your people,And all your fortresses will be destroyed,As Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel on the day of battle, *when*mothers were slaughtered with *their* children.

[Hos 10:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/10/15/s_872015) So it will be done to you at Bethel because of your great wickedness.At dawn the king of Israel will be completely destroyed.