

Israel's Hour of Decision- Conference in Japan pt. 1

By Charles Feinberg

[Transcription Note: Every sentence is repeated in Japanese by a translator in recording.]

Charles Feinberg:

This morning I indicated our great joy in being here with all of you. I want to express my gratitude to God and to all who made the preparations for the conference. And especially thanks from Dr. Fuchs and myself to our beloved interpreter Dr. Kida. I want to thank God that he has allowed me to live long enough to see a church that agonizes in prayer for Israel's salvation. Let's look please at Hosea, the fifth chapter which was read just a moment ago. In the Hosea passage, the speaker is the Lord God of Israel. In the Matthew passage, it is the Lord Jesus Christ come in the flesh. There is a similarity between the two passages as to occasion. They are both speaking of judgment because of sin. Hosea addresses the priests. The House of Israel and the House of the king in verse one. In Matthew, our Lord Jesus has finished pronouncing woes upon the unbelieving Scribes and Pharisees. In the middle of judgment in the midst of judgment. God indicates mercy for a future day.

In these two passages then we have the steps or stages in Israel's Hour of Decision. There are four steps. They are all found in the 15th verse of Hosea 5. The first element is the departure of the Lord. Hosea puts it this way; I will go and return to my place. Notice the judgments with

which the nation has already been threatened. To the Northern Kingdom Ephraim Gordon is going to be as a moth a destructive insect. It works quietly but destructively. To the southern kingdom of Judah is going to be as rottenness. Here is a beautiful piece of fruit and rottenness works quietly and destroys its value. But God threatens more. And it will not be of a quiet nature. In verse 14 we read. God is going to be is a lion who will tear and no one will deliver.

By this time, you say nothing worse could befall the nation. But the climax is in verse 15. God says I will go away and leave you. Verse 6 had already said they shall seek the Lord and not find him he has withdrawn himself from them. This is the greatest calamity that could have befallen them. The truth is that the Lord has already been on Earth among his people Israel. Israel's greatest loss was the withdrawal of the Messiah from their midst. That's exactly what our Lord Jesus meant in Matthew ye shall not see me henceforth. He actually left Israel and returned to his place. Psalm 110:1 tells us the Lord said unto my lord sit thou at my right hand till I make thine enemies thy footstool. There's a true sense in which the whole Epistle to the Hebrews in the New Testament is the Holy Spirit's commentary on Psalm 110:1.

So important is it that Messiah has withdrawn himself and is seated at the right hand of the father. Notice how it is repeated in the Epistle to the Hebrews. Chapter 1 verse 3. Chapter 8 verse 1 chapter ten verse twelve chapter 12 verse two it's always be seated at the right hand of the father. Now to us who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a wonderful thing that he's seated in heaven. This means according to Hebrew 7:25 did he ever lives to make intercession for us. This means according to First John 1 and 2. Then we have an advocate with the father. But for Israel, it means the Lord has withdrawn himself. This is the severity of God but who has a future purpose of mercy. This then is the first stage or step. In Israel's hour of decision the departure of the Lord. But this has happened centuries ago.

Now look at verse 15 of Hosea 5 again and the second step is the affliction of Israel in their affliction. Immediately that God begins to deal again with Israel. It will be in affliction. We do well to remember that in the midst of the progress now being made in the state of Israel. The time of trouble lies definitely ahead of them. Jeremiah calls it in the thirtieth chapter verses 4-7 the time of Jacob's trouble. He indicates how severe it will be. He says every face will be pale. And everyone will have the hands on the loins as a woman ready to give birth. He says it is the time of Jacob's trouble. But he shall be saved out of it. Ezekiel Twenty versus 33 to 38. Also indicates that in a time yet future God will take Israel as through the wilderness and purge out the rebels and bring them into the land. Have you noticed how many times in the Book of Revelation there's mention of Tabernacle and temple because Israel is in view?

Do you know why the last book of the Bible has to speak so heartbreakingly so much about judgment? Because this world of unbelieving Jews and unbelieving gentiles will be no more ready to receive the Lord Jesus Christ when He comes the second time than they were the first time. God's day of reckoning with Israel will come in due time. It must be before they see Messiah's face again. We have already seen two steps in Israel's hour of decision. The departure of the Lord and the affliction of Israel. And now the third step acknowledgment of their offense. The passage says till they acknowledge their offense. Notice the word offense is in the singular. What was their offense? It was when they said we will not have this man to reign over us. They said we have no king but Caesar. And they have had no kings in this world. But the Caesars of this world ever since. Notice the Messiah remains in his place until. There is a till in Matthew 23 39 also.

Ye shall not see me henceforth until. Until you say until you acknowledge. Says the Apostle John. In 1:11 of the gospel, he came unto his own things neuter and they, masculine

plural who were his own received him not. What were his own things? His own land his own thrown his own kingdom. His own right to rule. But they who were his own, those who were his own brethren according to the flesh. Would not receive him. But thank God some day they will acknowledge their offense. In Israel's national day of atonement. They will be at the mourner's bench this acknowledgment of the offense is so important that God gives all the details. Hear then, I will pour out upon the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and supplications and they shall look unto me whom they have pierced.

And they shall mourn for him as for an only son, and be in bitterness for him. As for the first born. They will be weeping at the mourner's bench. God is so sure of it that he's even given us the words they're going to say. He was despised and rejected of men. They're going to say. There was no beauty in him that we should desire him. But surely, he was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him and by his stripes, we are healed. All we like sheep had gone astray. We had turned everyone to his own way. And the Lord caused to fall upon him the iniquity of us all. Who among his generation considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people to whom the stroke was due? My beloved when they say that it will be the prodigal nation come home.

We have thus far had the three steps. The withdrawal of the Lord, the affliction of Israel, the acknowledgement of their offense, and now the last blessed step, the seeking after the Lord. Look at that fifteenth verse of chapter 5 of Hosea again it says Seek My Face. They will seek me early twice. It is indicated they will seek him. Once Israel acknowledges, admits their offense. They will seek after the Lord. Hosea three five, Afterward shall the children of Israel return and seek the LORD. Notice seek the Lord their God and David their king. The Aramaic Targum says

[inaudible] the King Messiah and shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days. This word early in Hebrew is a very vivid word. It means to rise up early before dawn. Is it not interesting that all four gospels mention when Israel gathered together to deny the messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. This rejection was the first thing on the order of the day! Of course, they thought they had to get ready to be ceremonially cleaned to keep the Passover. Now the spirit of God says beautifully- [End pt. 1]