

11/8/12
the setting
spiritual adultery

Reuben Speck 1/11/11

3. The guidance
4. The divided nation:
Judah
Israel (Ephraim)
5. Quick summary of national histories...very quick:
Israel apostatized in an unbelievable manner and became a teaching lesson to Judah although Judah did not profit and fell into captivity as did Ephraim. But Judah was to be restored in a relatively short period....Ephraim would indeed be brought into God's love...but it would be a long, long process. The prophet is pleading with Ephraim and making applications to Judah. From our point of view it was a thankless task but he was doing what God told him to do and that is a lesson for us as well. We cannot govern every outcome or beg every situation...We can be obedient and find that the love of God is the victorious message that gives us both direction and peace.

E. The Significance of the Drama (Illustrative material, etc)

1. A literal backdrop that anyone can understand!
2. A depiction of sorrow, grief, judgment with a horizon of hope

but God still loves! (14)

F. The Message:

1. God's People are guilty of spiritual adultery -
 - a. They have forgotten their history 4:1-5
 - b. They have served false gods 4:12
 - c. They have been seemingly unrepentant 4:17
 - d. The divine marriage is "over" for the time. Will it be restored 5:7-9
 - e. In view of the stress of judgment, what has happened to the "love of God"?
2. A very rapid analysis of the Book section by section:
 - a. The plot, chapter 1
 - b. The pain...chapter 2
 - c. A choice...chapter 3
 - d. A prophetic fulfillment...chapters 4-5
 - e. The challenge...chapters 6-8
 - f. The resultant sin...chapters 9-10
 - g. Hopes of recovery and renewal 11-14

God is holy
and
loves

what the Lord
is faithful
to

G. Initial Summary:

A love fulfilled will not let go--it will deal with reality, will exercise truth, will honor integrity and rebuke deceit. It will see proper achievement in the face of difficulties, perhaps, and in situations that are virtually incomprehensible...