

Introduction

- Hard to discern a structure to these chapters...
 - themes from across the book, a part of the weaving... (image)
 - and with various snippets coming together to paint an overall theme of God's judgement....
 - (so no three points with clear sub-headings!!)

Judgement

- **Seriousness of sin**
- Repetition serves to emphasise - within passage, and across book
- **Jacob (12:2)** - probably an implicit accusation of behaviour like Jacob's (lying, deceit, self-aggrandisement) alongside invitation to repent as Jacob did, turn from sin to God... (deceitfully entering treaties with both Assyria and Egypt! 12:1)
- **"I am the Lord your God" (12:9)** - stands in tension/contrast with "Lo Ammi" of chapter one - not my people...
- 13:2 is tricky, but probably round the utterly **shocking reversal** of man made in God's image - they respect and revere a thing, yet kill human beings made in the image of God
- Pervading chapters - indeed book - **blend of now and not yet** - in this case of judgement:
 - a seeing of what will be, coming judgement, as the inevitable consequence of what is, rejection of God, so it is spoken of as certainly happening... even while repentance is called for, change possible
- **Judgement is expressed in famine, natural disaster, east wind, war** - in all its horror - **wild animals...**
 - the images of horror that came to hand from the world Hosea lived in
- Element of God's **anger** at Israel's behaviour:
 - not merely the unthinking action of gravity when you fall...
 - but personal, relationship damaged, anger at the gross injustice and affront Israel causes
- **Go back through and ask of ourselves do I...?**
 - (our sin image...)

Prayer of Penitence

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
 we have sinned against you
 and against our neighbour
 in thought and word and deed,
 through negligence, through weakness,
 through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry,
 and repent of all our sins.
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
 who died for us,
 forgive us all that is past;
 and grant that we may serve you
 in newness of life
 to the glory of your name.