

## The Source of Help

*O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.*

*Hosea 13:9*

A common theme throughout the prophetic books of the Bible, is that God's people had gone astray, and the prophets were pointing them back to their true God. Disobedience and idol worship had lowered the nation Israel to the depths of depravity. Divine chastisements coupled with the prophet's message were designed by God to help His people return to Him. Hosea reminds the nation that their destruction was their own fault; but their help was found in the Lord.

In similar ways, Biblical events are often repeated with nations, or even individual lives, throughout history. A glaring example is the current condition of our own country. Social unrest, political division, continual violence, disintegration of the family, secularism, atheism, and apathy toward true faith in God, have permeated every corner of our country; and pose greater threats than any enemy nation. Historical lessons of the past are ignored, and science has been touted as the great solution to our problems. Through the pride of our national countenance, we seek not God: God is not in all our thoughts. Still, we continue down the broad road to destruction. We need to hear the Lord saying *but in Me is thine help.*

Hosea's admonition can also go beyond a nation, and is applicable to our own lives. Before conversion, in varying degrees, through both ignorance and willful disobedience, we also had destructive lifestyles. Whether by pride or stubbornness, we forfeited our relationship with God while futilely trying to satisfy our unquenchable carnal nature. By God's amazing grace, His divine light penetrated our blinded eyes enabling us to see the true source of help. Even after our conversion, losing our spiritual focus and making sinful choices will hinder God's work in us and through us. Our prideful self-reliance interferes with His divine working and the pure work of God.

Throughout the biblical accounts there is example after example that shows our true source of strength and help is in God. These accounts are for our edification and for us to always remember that our *help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.* ~J. Ekis