

**God is paying attention**  
**Hosea 8:1-4, 14:1ff**  
**By Russell Earl**

Thesis: I want to show a reminder to us, that God is indeed paying attention.

Intro: 1. God is watching how we live our lives.  
2. He hasn't forgotten about us.

I. Israel's error (**8:1-4**)

A. Israel had gone against the Lord.

1. The trumpet blow represents God bringing judgement against them for their many sins. (**v.1, v.5ff**)

2. Israel will cry out they know Him, but they deny Him by their actions (**v.2**)

B. They refuse to obey when warnings and teachings are brought forth (**v.3-4**)

1. They reject the good that is God's law and God's ways.

2. They set up leaders not appointed by God (**v.4a**)

3. They made idols out of the gold and silver God had blessed them with (**v.4b**)

4. How long till they turn and repent (**v.5b**)

II. Israel's altars(**8:11**), Israel disregards guidance (**8:12**)

A. The altars misused.

1. The altars that were designed to remove sin are defiled.

2. They were defiled by building more altars on which they sinned against God.

3. Thus the original intention of the altar is gone because of their evil ways.

B. God tried to turn them back before judging them.

1. God sent the message to repent and changed their evil ways (**v.12a**)

2. They were great things because they would save them from judgment from God.

3. However they disregarded the commandments of God as strange (**v.12b**). Thus judgment would come swiftly.

III. Payment for Israel's sin. (**8:13-14**)

A. God would no longer hold back. (**v.13**)

1. Their offerings they bring are unacceptable. God remembers their sins.

2. God punishes them for their sins, they would return to the slave type condition they were in, in Egypt.

B. The maker forgotten (**v.14**)

1. Israel's reason for punishment is told, they had forgotten their maker – God (**v.14a**).

2. They forgot God and thus they built temples for false gods.

3. God however will not allow this to go unpunished. He will destroy their palaces and cities (**v.14b**).

4. God will punish those who forget Him and sin (**9:9b**).

#### IV. Israel restored to God (14:1-3, 8-9)

##### A. The Lord pleads with them to return (v.1-3)

1. The Lord says if they will repent and return He will forgive (v.2a). “*take words with you*” means for them to voice their repentance to God.
2. He will bless them by forgiving them (v.2b).
3. They will stop looking at what the work of their hands provides them as some great thing, because in Him they (the fatherless) finds mercy (v.3b).

##### B. The Lord will bless them (v8-9).

1. God says He will have nothing to do with idols anymore –meaning He will not tolerate them. Thus Israel should not have idols before them either (v.8a).
2. God says He is like a cypress tree, the fruit Israel needs is found in Him (v.8b). The fruit which God provides for the faithful provides eternal life (Rev 2:7).
3. He who wishes to be wise and prudent must have a understanding of God’s word. The righteous walk in the ways of God, but the transgressors stumble because they don’t have the wisdom and understanding to see that His ways lead to eternal life (v.9).

- Conc:
1. Are we walking in the ways of God?
  2. God desires the best for us, are we living in such a way as to obtain the best the God desires for us?
  3. Full Invitation