

*Jehovah commands Hosea to marry a prostitute, his children are prophecies; Israel to cease, then increase*

## CHAPTER 1

1 The word of Jehovah that was to Hosea,<sup>1a</sup> the son of Beeri,<sup>1b</sup> in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam, the son of Joash, king of Israel.

2 The beginning of the word of Jehovah by Hosea: And Jehovah said to Hosea, Walk; take to yourself a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms, because the land, committing whoredom, has committed whoredom away from Jehovah.

3 And he walked and took Gomer,<sup>3a</sup> the daughter of Diblaim,<sup>3b</sup> and she conceived, and bore him a son.

4 And Jehovah said to him, Call his name Jezreel<sup>4</sup> because yet a little while and I will visit the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause the kingdom of the house of Israel to cease.

5 And it shall be at that day that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.

6 And she conceived again, and bore a daughter. And *God* said to him, Call her name Lo Ruhamah<sup>6</sup> because I will no more be compassionate to the house of Israel, but lifting, I will lift them away.

<sup>1a</sup> 1:1 Hosea, Deliverer.

<sup>1b</sup> 1:1 Beeri, Fountained.

<sup>3a</sup> 1:3 Gomer, Completion.

<sup>3b</sup> 1:3 Diblaim, Two Cakes.

<sup>4</sup> 1:4 Jezreel, God Will Sow.

<sup>6</sup> 1:6 Lo Ruhamah, No Compassion.

7 And I will be compassionate to the house of Judah, and will save them by Jehovah, their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, *nor* by horses, nor by horsemen.

8 And when she had weaned Lo Ruhamah she conceived and bore a son.

9 And *God* said, Call his name Lo Ammi<sup>9</sup> because you *are* not my people, and I will not be yours.

10 And the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea which cannot be measured and cannot be tallied up; and it shall be, in the place where it was said to them, You *are* not my people, it shall be said to them, *You are* the children of the living God.

11 And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and put themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land, because the day of Jezreel *shall be* great.

## CHAPTER 2

1 Say to your brothers, Ammi,<sup>1a</sup> and to your sisters, Ruhamah,<sup>1b</sup>

2 Contend with your mother; contend because she *is* not my wife, and I am not her husband,<sup>2</sup> and let her put away her whoredoms from before her

<sup>9</sup> 1:9 Lo Ammi, Not My People.

<sup>1a</sup> 2:1 Ammi, My People.

<sup>1b</sup> 2:1 Ruhamah, Compassion.

<sup>2</sup> 2:2 husband. Here the word is man, *ish*, not baal, lord.

**HOSEA 2** *Jehovah's invitation to Israel to put away her harlotry; Jehovah will turn her back face and her adulteries from between her breasts,*

3 Lest I strip her naked, and place her as in the day that she was born, and put her as a wilderness, and place her like a parched land, and kill her with thirst.

4 And I will not be compassionate upon her children because they *are* the children of whoredoms,

5 Because their mother has played the harlot; she who conceived them has acted shamefully, because she said, I will walk after my lovers who give me my food and my water, my wool and my linen, my oil and my drink.

6 Therefore, behold, I will shut up your way with thorns and wall up a wall that she shall not find her paths.

7 And she shall run after her lovers, and she shall not reach them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find *them*; and she shall say, I will walk and turn back to my first husband because at that time *it was* better with me than at this time.

8 And she did not know by seeing that I gave her grain, and fresh grape juice, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold they made for Baal.

9 Therefore I will turn back, and take away my grain in its time, and my fresh grape juice in its appointed season, and will snatch away my wool and my linen covering her nakedness.

10 And now I will reveal her disgrace in the eyes of her lovers, and no man shall snatch her out of my hand.

11 And I will cause all her joy to cease, her festivals, her new moons, and her Sabbaths, and all her appointed meetings.

12 And I will cause her vines and her fig trees to be a stunned devastation, because she has said, These gifts *are* mine that my lovers have given me, and I will put them *to be* a forest, and the living creatures of the field shall eat them.

13 And I will visit upon her the days of Baals in which she burned perfumed incense to them, and she adorned herself with her nose rings and her trinkets, and she walked after her lovers, and forgot me - An oracle of Jehovah.

14 Therefore, behold, I will cause her to be open, and walk her into the wilderness, and speak to her heart.

15 And from there I will give her vineyards to her, and the valley of Achor<sup>15</sup> for a door as a cord *of hope*, and she shall answer there as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

16 And it shall be at that day - An oracle of Jehovah - you shall call me Ishi,<sup>16</sup> and shall not call me Baali any more.

<sup>15</sup> **2:15 Achor**, Trouble.

<sup>16</sup> **2:16 Ishi**, My Man or My Husband. **Baali**, My Baal, Lord, as a god.

17 And I will take away the names of the Baals out of her mouth, and they shall not be remembered any more by their name.

18 And I will cut a covenant for them in that day with the living creatures of the field, and with the birds of the heavens, and with the creeping things of the soil, and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.

19 And I will engage you to me forever, and, I will engage you to me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in mercy, and in compassions.

20 And I will engage you to me in faithfulness, and you shall know by seeing Jehovah.

21 And it shall be in that day, I will answer - An oracle of Jehovah - I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth;

22 And the earth shall answer the grain, and the fresh grape juice, and the oil, and they shall answer Jezreel.<sup>22</sup>

23 And I will sow her to me in the earth, and I will be compassionate to her who had not received compassion, and I will say to Not My People, You *are* My People, and they shall say, My God!

<sup>22</sup> **2:22 Jezreel**, God Will Sow, the valley of Jezreel, where Megiddo is, and ultimately the battle of Armageddon..

### CHAPTER 3

1 And Jehovah said to me, Yet walk, love a woman loved of her companion, and an adulteress, as the love of Jehovah toward the children of Israel who faced about to other gods, and love raisin cakes of grapes.<sup>1</sup>

2 And I bought her to me for fifteen *pieces* of silver and a homer of barley and a half homer of barley;

3 And I said to her, You shall dwell with me many days; you shall not play the harlot, and you shall not be for another man, and also I *will be* with you;

4 Because the children of Israel shall dwell many days, there not being a king, and there not being a chief ruler, and there not being a sacrifice, and there not being a memorial column,<sup>4a</sup> and there not being an ephod,<sup>4b</sup> and there not being family healing images;<sup>4c</sup>

5 Afterward the children of Israel shall turn back and seek Jehovah, their God, and David their king, and shall fear Jehovah and his goodness in the last days.

<sup>1</sup> **3:1 raisin cakes of grapes**, *ashiysheey*, pressed raisin cakes, *anaabiyn*, grapes. They were a favorite delicacy the people ate constantly, and therefore a symbol of their following their own taste to serve idols.

<sup>4a</sup> **3:4 memorial column**, *matstsebah*, the same as the memorial column Jacob set up at Bethel, Gen 28:18.

<sup>4b</sup> **3:4 ephod**, the shoulder piece of the Head Priest, on which were set stones representing the twelve tribes of Israel, and connected to the breastplate which also had twelve stones representing the tribes of Israel. The Urim and Thummim, Lights and Perfections, were attached to the breastplate and the ephod.

<sup>4c</sup> **3:4 family healing images**, *teraphim*; see Note Gen 31:19.

## CHAPTER 4

1 Attentively hear the word of Jehovah, children of Israel, because Jehovah has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, and no mercy, and no knowledge of God in the land.

2 Swearing, and lying, and dashing in pieces to death, and stealing, and committing adultery break out, and blood touches blood.

3 Therefore the land shall mourn, and everyone who dwells there shall languish with the living creatures of the field, and with the birds of the heavens, and also the fish of the sea shall be taken away.

4 Yet let no man contend, and do not let any justify man. and your people *are* as they who contend with the priest.

5 And you shall totter weak legged in the day, and also the prophet shall totter weak legged with you in the night, and I will make your mother unable to speak.

6 My people cannot speak for lack of knowledge; because you have despised knowledge I will also despise you; you shall not officiate as priest to me; since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will forget your children also.

7 As they were increased, just so they sinned against me; I will exchange their heavy glory into disgrace.

8 They eat up the sin of my people, and they lift up their soul to their crookedness.

9 And there shall be, like people, like priest, and I will visit upon them their ways, and their doings will turn back to them.

10 And they shall eat, and not be satisfied; they shall commit whoredom, and shall not break out from *it* because they have relinquished hedging about Jehovah.

11 Whoredom, and intoxicating wine, and fresh grape juice take away the heart.

12 My people ask counsel at their trees, and their stick causes *false messages* to stand out boldly to them because the spirit of whoredoms has caused them to stray, and they have gone a whoring from under their God.

13 They sacrifice upon the heads of the mountains, and they burn perfumed incense upon the hills under oaks, and poplars, and strong trees because their shade is good; therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery.

14 I will not visit *punishment* upon your daughters because they commit whoredom, and upon your spouses because they commit adultery, because they *are* separated with whores, and they sacrifice with temple prostitutes, and the people who do not understand shall be overthrown.

15 Although you, Israel, play the harlot, do not let Judah be guilty, and do not come to

*Ephraim is joined to carved idols; let him stay; they have the spirit of whoredoms* **HOSEA 5**  
Gilgal, and do not go up to Beth Aven, and do not swear, Jehovah lives,

16 Because Israel is stubborn as a stubborn heifer; now Jehovah will shepherd them as a lamb in a large place.

17 Ephraim is joined to carved idols; let him stay.

18 Their drunkenness has turned *them* aside; committing whoredom, they commit whoredom; her rulers making love, make love in disgrace.

19 A spirit<sup>19</sup> is bound up in her wings, and they shall pale in shame because of their sacrifices.

## CHAPTER 5

1 Attentively hear this, Oh priests, and prick up your ears, house of Israel; and, Oh house of the king, broaden your ear, because judgment *is* toward you, because you have been a springnet on Mizpah, and a net spread out upon Tabor,

2 And you sinners have gone deep in slaughtering, and I *have given* corrective discipline to them all.

3 I know by seeing Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me, because now, Oh Ephraim, you commit whoredom; Israel is unclean.

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<sup>19</sup> **4:19 spirit**, *ruwach*; it is the spirit of whoredoms mentioned in 4:12 that is bound up in her wings and rushing her along, because when you participate in false religion the spirit of that religion rushes you along, just as the Holy Spirit rushes you along when you participate with the true and living Jehovah God. See 5:4.

4 They will not give up their doings to turn to their God, because the spirit of whoredoms is in their midst, and they have not known Jehovah.

5 And the majesty of Israel answers to his face, and Israel and Ephraim shall totter weak legged in their crookedness; also Judah shall totter weak legged with them.

6 They shall walk with their flocks and with their herds to seek Jehovah, and they shall not find *him*; he has withdrawn himself from them.

7 They have treacherously covered up against Jehovah, because they have begotten strange children; now a new moon<sup>7</sup> shall devour them with their allotments.

8 Blow the horn in Gibeah, and the trumpet in Ramah; shout in Beth Aven, Behind you, Oh Benjamin.

9 Ephraim shall be a stunned devastation in the day of rebuke; I have made known among the tribes of Israel that which shall surely be.

10 The chief rulers of Judah were like them who remove the boundary; I will pour out my outburst upon them like water.

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<sup>7</sup> **5:7 The meaning of a new moon shall devour them with their allotments**, is, although they are practicing worship of false gods, they still hedge about the festivals God gave them by the hand of Moses from one new moon to the next. And since they worship false gods, mixing the God ordained festivals in with their pagan worship, God warns them that their festivals of the new moon will not save them, but only serve to destroy them. They think the religious routine is what saves them, instead of a living relationship with Jehovah God that the festivals are designed to reveal. Many modern day religious people have the same problem.

**HOSEA 6** *As a lion Jehovah will tear Israel /Judah; turn back to Jehovah; he will heal us; I desired mercy, not sacrifice*

11 Ephraim is oppressed, crushed to pieces in judgment, because he yielded to walk after the commandment.<sup>11</sup>

12 And I *will be* to Ephraim as a moth, and as rotteness to the house of Judah.

13 And Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah *saw* his wound, and Ephraim walked to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb;<sup>13</sup> and he was not able to heal you, and could not cure you of your wound,

14 Because I *will be* as a lion to Ephraim, and as a young lion to the house of Judah; I will tear to pieces, *even* I, and walk away; I will lift away, and there will exist none to snatch him out.

15 I will walk *away*; I will turn back to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face; they will seek me in the dawn in their oppression.

## CHAPTER 6

1 Walk, and let us turn back to Jehovah, because he has torn to pieces, and he will heal us; he has struck *us*, and he will bind us up.

2 In the day he will revive us after two days; in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live before his face.

<sup>11</sup> **5:11 commandment**, *tsaaw*, the noun form of the verb, *tsavah*, to command. It refers to the commandment of Jeroboam, which took the place of the commandment of Jehovah God, not to go up to Jerusalem to prostrate themselves to Jehovah, but to prostrate themselves to the calves Jeroboam made in Dan and in Bethel, 1 Kng 12:28-33. He yielded and gave in to that evil commandment.

<sup>13</sup> **5:13 Jareeb**, He Will Contend, a symbolical name for Assyria.

3 And we shall know by seeing; we shall run to know Jehovah; his going forth is set up as the dawn, and he shall come to us as the rain, as the rain before harvest, as the darting rain *when planting* the earth.

4 What shall I do to you, Oh Ephraim? What shall I do to you, Oh Judah? And your mercy *is* like a cloud of the dawn, and like the early dew; it walks away.

5 Therefore I have carved *on them* by the prophets; I have fatally struck them by the saying of my mouth, and your pronounced judgments *are as* the light going forth,

6 Because I desired mercy, and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God *more* than burnt offerings.

7 And they have crossed over the covenant like men; there they have covered up treacherously against me.

8 Gilead *is* a city of them who do vanity, and is swelled up with blood.

9 And as armies of robbers wait for a man, the company of priests murder in the way to Shechem because they make an *evil* scheme.

10 I have seen a horrible thing in the house of Israel; there is the adultery of Ephraim; Israel is unclean.

11 Also, Judah, he has placed a harvest for you when I turn back the captivity of my people.

**CHAPTER 7**

1 When I would have healed Israel, then the crookedness of Ephraim was revealed and the wickedness of Samaria because they make falsehood; and the thief comes inside; outside the army of robbers strips plunder.

2 And they failed to say in their hearts *that* I remember all their evil; now their own doings have come around to them; they are before my face.

3 They cause the king to rejoice with their evils, and the chief rulers with their lies.

4 They are all adulterers as a heated oven by the baker who ceases from stirring after he has kneaded the dough until it is leavened.

5 In the day of our king the chief rulers have made him worn *out* with leather bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand with scorners,

6 Because they have brought their heart near like an oven while they lie in wait; their baker sleeps all the night; in the dawn it burns as a flaming fire.

7 They are all hot as an oven, and have devoured their judges; all their kings are fallen; there is none among them who calls out to me.

8 Ephraim has mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned.

9 Strangers have devoured his power, and he does not know it; also, old age is sprinkled upon him, and he does not know *it*.

10 And the majesty of Israel answers to his face, and they do not turn back to Jehovah, their God, and do not seek him for all this.

11 And Ephraim is like an open dove without heart; they call out to Egypt; they walk to Assyria.

12 As they walk, I will spread out my net upon them; I will bring them down as the birds of the heavens; I will chastise them as a report to their congregation.

13 Woe to them, because they have been driven away from me; ravaging *is* theirs because they have broken away against me, and I have ransomed them, and they have spoken lies against me.

14 And they have not cried out to me with their heart because they howled upon their beds; they turn aside for grain and fresh grape juice, and they turn away against me.

15 And I have chastised *them*, strengthening their outstretched arms, and they calculated evil against me.

16 They turn back, not to the Most High; they are like a treacherous bow; their chief rulers shall fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue; this *shall be* their derision in the land of Egypt.

**CHAPTER 8**

1 *Set the* trumpet to your mouth. *He comes* as an eagle against the house of Jehovah because they have crossed over my

**HOSEA 9** *The calf of Samaria shall be broken in pieces; Ephraim has increased many altars to sin*  
covenant, and they have broken away against my law.

2 Israel shall cry out to me, My God, we know you.

3 Israel has pushed good aside; he who hates him shall run after him.

4 They have caused kings to ascend the throne, and not by me; they have exercised dominion, and I did not know it; they have made for themselves carved idols from their silver and their gold in order that they may be cut off.

5 Your calf, Oh Samaria, has pushed you aside; my nostrils are burning against them; until when will they not be able to be clean?

6 Because it *is* from Israel, and a fabricator made it; and it *is* not God because the calf of Samaria shall be broken in pieces.

7 Because they have sown the wind, then they shall reap the snatching hurricane; there exists no stalk to it; the sprouted branch shall not make any meal; and if it makes *anything*, strangers shall swallow it up.

8 Israel is swallowed up; now they shall be among the peoples like a vessel in which there exists no pleasure,

9 Because they are gone up to Assyria, a wild donkey alone by himself; Ephraim has been bargain hunting<sup>9-10</sup> with lovers.

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<sup>9-10</sup> **8:9-10 bargain hunting**, *tanah*, to make a present as an inducement to close the bargain, to bargain with a prostitute over the price. Israel went bargain hunting among the peoples for the best deal for a god.

10 Also, although they were bargain hunting among the peoples, now will I gather them, and they shall be wounded a little for the burden of the king of chief rulers.

11 Because Ephraim has increased many altars to sin, altars shall be for him to sin.

12 I have written to him a myriad things out of my law; they were calculated *to be* a strange thing.

13 They sacrifice flesh *for the* sacrifices of my offerings, and eat it; Jehovah is not satisfied with them; now he will remember their crookedness and visit their sins; they shall turn back to Egypt.

14 And Israel has forgotten his Maker and builds temples, and Judah has multiplied fortified cities, and I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour their citadels.

## CHAPTER 9

1 Do not rejoice, Israel, spinning around in emotion as *other* people, because you have gone a whoring from your God; you have loved a gift upon every threshingfloor of grain.<sup>1</sup>

2 The threshingfloor and the winepress shall not shepherd them, and the fresh grape juice shall be untrue to her.

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<sup>1</sup> **9:1** As Ruth sought a godly husband by lying down in one threshingfloor, Ruth 3:2, Israel has lain down in every threshingfloor taking every idolatrous baal (husband, idol) she could seduce.

*Ephraim shall not dwell in Jehovah's land; I will drive them out of my house* **HOSEA 9**

3 They shall not dwell in Jehovah's land, and Ephraim shall turn back to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean *things* in Assyria.

4 They shall not pour out wine to Jehovah, and they shall not give security to him; their sacrifices *shall be* as the food of vanity to them; all who eat of it shall be unclean because their food *is* for their soul;<sup>4</sup> it shall not come into the house of Jehovah.

5 What will you do in the day of appointed meeting, and in the day of the festival of Jehovah?

6 Because, lo, they have walked out from ravaging; Egypt shall gather them up; Memphis shall bury them; nettles shall possess the pleasant things of their silver; thorns shall be in their tents.

7 They have come! The days of visitation have come! The days of completion have come! Israel shall know *it*; the prophet *is* a fool; the spiritual man is raving insane over the abundance of your crookedness and the great hatred.<sup>7-8</sup>

<sup>4</sup> **9:4 food for their soul**, is in contrast to food God wants to give them for their spirits. Food for their soul is food their soul craves, what the taste buds in their blood call for. You remember that the soul of the flesh is in the blood, Lev 17:11.

<sup>7-8</sup> **9:7-8**. The prophet and spiritual man spoken of in verses 7 - 8 are the false prophets who, against all of God's prophets, have prophesied prosperity and against judgment for the sins of Israel. When the judgment comes they will be shown to be fools and raving insane, as snares entangled in all their ways, and hated in the house of God. Ephraim is leaning out peering into the distance, looking for revelation from his God, and the false prophets have given foolish, insane, entangling, and hateful messages - that is, they shall be recognized as such when the judgment comes, as it did some years later in the Assyrian captivity of northern Israel about 721 BC.

8 Ephraim leans out to peer into the distance with my God; the prophet *is* a snare entangled in all his ways; hatred *is* in the house of his God.

9 They *are* deeply corrupted as in the days of Gibeah; he will remember their crookedness; he will visit their sins.

10 I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstripe of the fig tree at her first time; they went to Baal Peor, and separated themselves to that shame, and their disgustingly filthy things were according as they loved.

11 Ephraim *is* like a bird; their heavy glory shall fly away from the birth, and from the womb, and from conception.

12 Though they make their children great, yet I will bereave them of *their children*, that *there shall not be* a man left, because, woe also to them when I turn away from them!

13 Ephraim, as I saw Tyre, is transplanted in a lovely home, and Ephraim shall bring out his children to him who strikes fatally.

14 Give to them, Jehovah! What will you give? Give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.

15 All their evil *is* in Gilgal because there I hated them; I will drive them out of my house for the wickedness of their doings; I will not love them any more; all their chief rulers have turned away.

**HOSEA 10** *Jehovah shall break down their idolatrous altars, the two calves; Israel shall pale in shame*

16 Ephraim is struck; their root is confused shame; they shall make fruit; also, though they give birth, yet I will kill the beloved of their womb.

17 My God will despise them because they did not attentively hear him, and they shall be driven away among the peoples.

### CHAPTER 10

1 Israel *is* an empty vine; he yields fruit to himself; he has increased the altars according to the abundance of his fruit; they have made goodly memorial columns according to the goodness of his land.

2 Their heart is divided; now they shall be found guilty; he shall break down their altars; he shall ravage their memorial columns.

3 Because now they shall say, There is no king to us because we did not fear Jehovah, and what shall a king do for us?<sup>3</sup>

4 They have spoken words, swearing ruinously in cutting a covenant, and judgment spreads as a poisonous plant on the furrows of the field.

5 Because of the calves of Beth Aven, the residents of Samaria, shall fear; surely its

<sup>3</sup> 10:3 what shall a king do for us? is a rhetorical question. When Israel asked God through Samuel for a king, 1 Sam 8:5, it was that a king might do for them what they did not want to do for themselves, and did not want to trust God for. They discovered that a king really does not do anything for you. He only takes from you. Many people in modern times have not learned yet that when you ask the government to do everything for you instead of living responsible to God, that the government takes away much more than it gives.

people shall mourn over it, and its ascetic idolatrous priests who spun around in emotion upon it over its heavy glory because it has departed from it.

6 It shall also flow to Assyria as a present to king Jared; Ephraim shall take shame, and Israel shall pale in shame of his own counsel.

7 Samaria cannot speak; her king *is* as a splinter upon the face of *the* water.

8 And the high places of Vanity, the sin of Israel, shall be desolate; the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars, and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us, and to the hills, Fall on us. Luke 23:30; Rev 6:16

9 Oh Israel, you have sinned from the days of Gibeah; there they stood that the battle in Gibeah against the children of crookedness might not reach them. Jud 19-20

10 When I desire, then I will chastise them; and the peoples shall be gathered against them when they shall yoke themselves in their two fountains of *sin*.<sup>10</sup>

11 And Ephraim *is* a taught calf, loving to tread out *the grain*, and I, *even* I have crossed over upon the goodness of her neck; I cause *one* to ride Ephraim; Judah shall plow; Jacob shall harrow for him.

<sup>10</sup> 10:10 fountains, *ayin*, the eye, or a fountain, since the eye and the fountain have a similar appearance. Since the word eye makes no sense here, the word fountain is the only other choice, and then it must be interpreted. It apparently refers to the two golden calves that Israel (Ephraim) worshipped, one at Dan and one at Bethel, as being the two fountains to which they are yoked, from which flows their sin as a fountain of corruption.

*It is time to tread seeking Jehovah until he rains righteousness upon you; How shall I give you up?* **HOSEA 11**

12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness; reap the fruit of mercy; plow up your plowed ground; and it is time to tread seeking Jehovah until he comes and rains righteousness upon you.

13 You have plowed wickedness; you have reaped crookedness; you have eaten the fruit of lies because you trusted in your way, in the abundance of your mighty men.

14 And an uproar shall rise among your people, and all your fortified cities shall be ravaged as Shalman<sup>14</sup> ravaged Beth Arbel in the day of battle; the mother was dashed in pieces upon her children.

15 So he does to you, Bethel, before the face of your evil evil; the king of Israel being unable to speak, shall be unable to speak in *the* dawn.

## CHAPTER 11

1 When Israel *was* a child, then I loved him, and I called my son out of Egypt. *Mat 2:15*

2 They called them, so they walked from before their face;<sup>2</sup> they sacrificed to Baals, and they burned perfumed incense to carved images.

<sup>14</sup> **10:14 Shalman**, an Assyrian king, apparently Shalmanezar of 2 Kng 17:3-6, and the invasion of northern Israel described in that passage about 727-721 BC.

<sup>2</sup> **11:2 They called them, so they walked from before their face**; they refers to God's prophets through whom God called Ephraim. Ephraim's response is that they, Ephraim, walked away from before the face of God's prophets to sacrifice to Baals, Lords, other gods of carved idols.

3 And I caused Ephraim to walk as a spy<sup>3</sup> for *the right*, taking them by their outstretched arms, and they did not know that I healed them.

4 I drew them with ropes of a man, with cords of love, and I was to them as those who raise off the yoke *that was* upon their jaws, and I gently fed them.

5 He shall not turn back into the land of Egypt; and Assyria, he *shall be* his king because they refused to turn back.

6 And the sword shall cause his cities to twist *in pain*, and shall consume his branches and devour them because of their own counsels.

7 And my people habitually turn back from me, and they<sup>7</sup> called them to the Most High; as a unit they would not exalt *him*.

8 How shall I give you up, Ephraim? *How* shall I deliver you, Israel? How shall I give you up as dirt?<sup>8</sup> Shall I put you as *a place of splendor*? My heart is turned

<sup>3</sup> **11:3 walk as a spy, ragal**, to walk as a spy, to do reconnaissance, to follow a specific strategy to search out the right way. It is the word Joseph used to accuse his brothers of being spies, Gen 42:9,11,14,16,30,31,34. It is the word used by Moses and Joshua when they sent out the spys to spy out the land of Canaan, Deu 1:24; Jos 2:1; 6:22,23,25, etc.

<sup>7</sup> **11:7 they**, God's prophets.

<sup>8</sup> **11:8** There is a strong play on words in the sentence. The word, dirt, is **Admah**, the name of a place near the Dead Sea, and means soil or dirt. The word for splendor is also a place in Palestine, **Zeboim**, meaning splendor or beauty. Jehovah God is holding His discussion with Israel in front of our ears to show the tremendous wrestlings within Himself over what to do to Israel. Shall He give them up, or deliver them? How can He give them up as dirt? Shall He put them to be a place of splendor? His heart is turning over within Him. His heart is intertwined with comforts. He gives the conclusion in verse 9, **I will not do the burning anger of my nostrils**, etc.

**HOSEA 12** *Israel makes deceptive covenants with Assyria and Egypt, but God will yet save them over within me; my comforts are intertwined together.*

9 I will not do the burning anger of my nostrils; I will not turn back to destroy Ephraim because I *am* God, and not man, the Holy One in the midst of you, and I will not come into the city.<sup>9</sup>

10 They shall walk after Jehovah; he shall roar like a lion; when he shall roar, then the children shall tremble from the west.

11 They shall tremble as a little bird out of Egypt, and as a dove out of the land of Assyria, and I will cause them to dwell in their houses - An oracle of Jehovah.

12 Ephraim surrounds me with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit, and Judah yet wanders freely with God, and is faithful with the holy ones.

### CHAPTER 12

1 Ephraim is shepherded by wind, and runs after the east wind; all day he increases lying and doing violence; and they cut a covenant with the Assyrians, and *their* oil flows into Egypt.

2 And to Jehovah *there is* a controversy with Judah, and he will visit upon Jacob according to his ways; he will turn *them* back to him according to his doings.

3 He seized his brother by the heel in the womb,<sup>3</sup> and by his effectiveness he prevailed

<sup>9</sup> 11:9 If God came into the city in their present condition, He would destroy them totally.

<sup>3</sup> 12:3 Jacob's seizing Esau by the heel at birth is not something Jacob did wrong, but what he

with God;

4 And he ruled over the Messenger, and prevailed; he wept, and stooped down to him asking for grace; he found him in Bethel, and there he spoke with us,

5 Even Jehovah God of hosts; Jehovah is his memorial.

6 And you turn back to your God; hedge about mercy and judgment, and bind yourself in expectation on your God always.

7 Canaan! In his hand *are* the balances of deceit; he loves to oppress.

8 And Ephraim said, Surely, I have become rich; I have found effectiveness for myself; in all my labors they shall not find in me crookedness that *is* sin.

9 And I, Jehovah, your God, from the land of Egypt, will yet cause you to dwell in tents as in the days of the appointed meeting.

10 And I have spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and have used comparisons by the hand of the prophets.

11 Lo *there is* vanity in Gilead; surely they are a ruin; they sacrifice bullocks in Gilgal; also, their altars *are* as heaps in the furrows of the fields.

did right. It caused his determination to go after God's blessing to stand out boldly. His seizing Esau by the heel shows the righteousness of Jacob, because of the subsequent wickedness and hatred exhibited by Edom. Jacob's seizing Esau by the heel is parallel to his prevailing in wrestling with God. God shows His total approval of Jacob by revealing Himself to Jacob, and promising never to leave him. See Notes Gen 25:27; 29:51.

*I am Jehovah, your God, from the land of Egypt, and you shall know no god except me* **HOSEA 13**

12 And Jacob fled into the field of Syria, and Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he hedged about *cattle and flock animals*.

13 And Jehovah caused Israel to ascend out of Egypt by a prophet, and he was hedged about by a prophet.

14 Ephraim provoked him in bitterness, and he shall thrust his blood upon him, and his Lord shall turn back his disgrace to him.

### CHAPTER 13

1 When Ephraim spoke, *there was* trembling; he was lifted up in Israel; and he was guilty in Baal, and he died.

2 And now they continue to sin, and have made for themselves poured metal images from their silver; *they have made* carved idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the fabricators; they say of them, Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves.

3 Therefore they shall be as a cloud of the dawn, and as the early dew that walks away, as the chaff rushed along out of the threshingfloor, and as smoke out of the chimney.

4 And *I am* Jehovah, your God, from the land of Egypt, and you shall know no god except me, and there exists no savior besides me.

5 I knew you in the wilderness, in the land of great thirst.

6 So they were filled to satisfaction according to their pasture; they were filled to satisfac-

tion, and their heart was exalted; therefore they have forgotten me.

7 And I will be to them as a lion; I will spy *them* out as a leopard by the way;

8 I will meet them as a bereaved bear, and will tear the breast of their heart; and there I will devour them like a lion; the living creature of the field shall rip them open.

9 Oh Israel, you have destroyed yourself, but your help *is* in me.

10 Where *is* your king now? And will they save you in all your cities? And *where are* your judges of whom you said, Give me a king and chief rulers? <sup>1 Sam 8:5</sup>

11 I gave you a king in the *burning* of my nostrils, and took him away in my wrath.

12 The crookedness of Ephraim is bound; his sin is hid.

13 The throes of giving birth shall come to him; he is an unwise son, because he would not stand long *enough* in the place of the breaking forth of children.<sup>13</sup>

14 I will ransom them from the hand of *the* world of the dead! I will redeem them from death! Oh death, where is your destruction? Oh world of the dead, where is your ruin? Sighing shall be hid from my eyes. <sup>1 Cor 15:55</sup>

15 Although he bears fruit among *his* brothers, the Spirit of Jehovah shall come from the east, from the wilderness, and his well shall pale in shame, and his foun-

<sup>13</sup> **13:13** Israel would not stand faithful long enough for God to multiply the children of Israel as he promised, Gen 15:5; 26:4; 28:14; 32:12 etc.

**HOSEA 14** *Take with you words, and turn back to Jehovah; I will love them freely*

tain shall be dried up; he shall plunder the treasure of all pleasant vessels.

16 Samaria shall become guilty, because she has become bitter against her God; they shall fall by the sword; their sucking infants shall be dashed down, and their women with child shall be torn open.

### CHAPTER 14

1 Turn back, Oh Israel, to Jehovah, your God, because you have tottered weak legged by your crookedness.

2 Take with you words, and turn back to Jehovah; say to him, Lift away all crookedness, and take *us* with goodness; and we will complete the young bullocks of our lips.<sup>2</sup> Heb 13:15

3 Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses, and we will not say to the work of our hands any more, Our gods, because compassion *is* in you for the bereaved.

4 I will heal their turning back; I will love them freely, because my *burning* nostrils are turned back from him.

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<sup>2</sup>14:2 Israel in exile in Assyria cannot sacrifice young bullocks to Jehovah God, because the only place on earth God directs that is in Jerusalem in His temple. The majority of Israel had forsaken God's altar in Jerusalem many years previously, and begun to sacrifice bullocks to the two golden calves Jeroboam set up at the death of Solomon around 933 BC, in Dan and in Bethel. Since they cannot complete sacrifices of young bullocks in Jerusalem, now being in Assyria, they can sacrifice words of repentance and praise to God, the bullocks of their lips, instead of sacrifices of bullocks in Jerusalem. Heb 13:15

5 I will be as the dew to Israel; he shall blossom as the lily, and strike in his roots as Lebanon.

6 His sprouts shall walk, and his glorious authority shall be as the olive tree, and his scent as Lebanon.

7 They who dwell under his shade shall turn back; they shall revive *as the* grain, and bloom as the vine; its memory *shall be* as the wine of Lebanon.

8 Ephraim *shall say*, What *are* idols any more to me? I have answered, and spied him out; I am like a green cypress. Your fruit is of me.

9 Who is wise, and he shall understand these *things*? *Who is* understanding, and knows them? Because the ways of Jehovah are right, and the just shall walk in them; and those breaking away shall totter weak legged there.