

HOSEA

THE PROPHECY

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HOSEA - The PROPHECY

Chapter One

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Hosea 1** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Hosea 1** and mark every time the Lord says, "I will...", including synonyms with a purple underline.

Read through **Hosea 1** and mark every reference to Hosea with a green capital "H".

Read through **Hosea 1** and mark every reference to Gomer with an orange capital "G".

Read through **Hosea 1** and mark every reference to harlotry with an orange box.

Read through **Hosea 1** and mark every reference to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 1** and mark every reference to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 1** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Hosea 1** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash, i.e. "black/white".

Read through **Hosea 1** and mark every term of conclusion (therefore, etc.) with a pink capital "T".

Read through **Hosea 1** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Take a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry
2. Son – Jezreel
3. Daughter – Lo-ruhamah
4. Son – Lo-ammi
5. Sons of Israel will be sons of the Living God

READ AND ANSWER

Hosea 1:1-3

Who is Hosea?

When did the Word of the LORD come to Hosea?

- 1.
- 2.

To whom is the LORD speaking when He speaks through Hosea?

POINT OF DEPTH

Notice in verse 1 the kings of Judah are listed separately from the king of Israel. This is because the nation of Israel had been divided into two kingdoms because of sin. The Northern Kingdom was called Israel, while the Southern Kingdom was called Judah. To which of these two kingdoms was Hosea sent?

What does the LORD tell Hosea to do?

- 1.

2.

Why does the LORD tell Hosea to do this?

What is flagrant harlotry synonymous with?

What did Hosea do?

1.

2.

Who did Hosea take as his wife?

What child was born to them?

Hosea 1:4-5

What did the LORD tell Hosea to call his son?

Why did the LORD tell Hosea to call his son Jezreel?

1.

2.

When would the LORD punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed of Jezreel?

When would the LORD put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel?

What would the LORD do on the day that he punished the house of Jehu and put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel?

Does the kingdom of the house of Israel refer to both the Northern and the Southern Kingdoms of Israel or just the Northern Kingdom?

Where would the bow of Israel be broken? (Look it up on a Bible map.)

Hosea 1:6-7

Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. What did the LORD name her?

Why did the LORD name her Lo-ruhamah?

Does the house of Israel refer to both the Northern and the Southern Kingdoms or just the Northern Kingdom?

Although the LORD would no longer have compassion on the house of Israel, what would the LORD do for Judah?

1.

2.

How would the LORD deliver Judah?

What would the LORD not use in His deliverance of Judah?

1.

2.

3.

Hosea 1:8-9

What did Gomer do when she had weaned her daughter Lo-ruhamah?

1.

2.

What did the Lord name this son?

Why did the Lord name the boy Lo-ammi?

1.

2.

Who would not be God's people? (The Northern Kingdom of Israel, or both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel?)

Hosea 1:10-11

Even though God was sending terrifying messages to the house of Israel (Northern Kingdom), what did He say would be true of the sons of Israel (entire nation)?

Why can't you number or measure the sand of the sea?

What will be said to the sons of Israel in contrast to “Lo-ammi”?

Where is the place in which this would be said?

What will happen to the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel?

What will they appoint for themselves?

From where will they go up?

What day will be great?

READ AND REASON

The names of Hosea’s three children are three messages to the house of Israel. List the messages below.

JEZREEL		
Meaning		Message

LO-RUHAMAĦ

Meaning

Message

LO-AMMI

Meaning

Message

HOSEA – The PROPHECY

Chapter Two

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Hosea 2** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Hosea 2** and mark every time the Lord says, “I will...”, including synonyms with a purple underline.

Read through **Hosea 2** and mark every reference to Hosea with a green capital “H”.

Read through **Hosea 2** and mark every reference to Gomer with an orange capital “G”.

Read through **Hosea 2** and mark every reference to harlotry with an orange box.

Read through **Hosea 2** and mark every reference to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 2** and mark every reference to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 2** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time reference is to “That Day” fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Hosea 2** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash, i.e. “black/white”.

Read through **Hosea 2** and mark every term of conclusion (therefore, etc.) with a pink capital “T”.

Read through **Hosea 2** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Stop your harlotry—or else!
2. Israel will not remember her Husband (the Lord) so He will punish her!
3. God will allure Israel and betroth her to Him forever
4. God will respond in that Day and His people will say, “You are my God!”

READ AND ANSWER

Hosea 2:1-7

Who will be called Ammi?

What does Ammi mean?

Who will be called Ruhamah?

What does Ruhamah mean?

Who are the brothers and the sisters?

Who is speaking?

POINT OF DEPTH

Hosea 2:1 requires a little explanation.

Hosea’s children represented the children of Israel. As Gomer was the mother of her children, so Israel is the mother of her children. Hosea named the children Jezreel, Lo-ruhamah, and Lo-ammi which were all names which showed God’s punishment on the nation of Israel, God withdrawing His compassion from the nation of Israel,

and God declaring that Israel was not His people and He was not their God.

**Yet immediately, in Hosea 1:10-11,
God spoke of the future restoration for Israel and her children.
Eventually Israel's numbers would be like the sand of the sea
and He would say to them, "You are the sons of the living God."**

**The sons of Judah (Southern Kingdom) and the sons of Israel (Northern
Kingdom) would be gathered together in the great day of Jezreel (God sows).
Where God would punish the house of Israel,
He would in due course sow His people.**

**Hosea 2:1 goes with Hosea 1:10-11.
In that great day of Jezreel, God's chosen people would *be* His people,
and Israel would obtain His compassion once again.**

**Hosea 2:1 goes, as well, with Hosea 2:2-7.
Before that great day of Jezreel came
would be a long drawn out time of harlotry and punishment for Israel.
God would punish His wife, and would not have compassion on Israel's children,
but to no avail; Israel would still seek after her lovers (other gods).
God would hedge her in so that she could not find her lovers;
He would punish her even more severely before ultimately,
He would allure her back to Himself, and sow her in the land of Israel.
Then, at long last, she would be His people and He would be her God.
Hosea 2:1 is an enduring promise that God will fulfill His oath to Israel.**

Who is told to contend with their mother? (Israel, the nation, is the mother.)

Why are the children of Israel told to contend with their mother?

Why is Israel, in all practicality, no longer God's wife?

Why is God no longer her Husband?

Who separated from Whom?

What are the children of Israel to plead with their mother to do?

1.

2.

If she does not respond, what will God do to her?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Besides what God will do to Israel, what will He do to her children?

Why will He have no compassion on her children?

Why are they children of harlotry?

Who conceived the children?

How has she acted?

Why? What did she do?

What are bread and water, wool and flax, oil and drink?

Who did Israel think gave her her provisions?

Israel did not stop her harlotry. What did God do next?

1.

2.

What would be true when she pursued her lovers?

Would she find her lovers?

What would Israel's response be when she could no longer overtake or find her lovers?

Who is Israel's first husband?

What two times is she contrasting?

POINT OF DEPTH

Read below to understand how Israel played the harlot and who her lovers were.

“But you trusted in your beauty and played the harlot because of your fame, and you poured out your harlotries on every passer-by who might be willing.

You took some of your clothes, made for yourself high places of various colors and played the harlot on them, which should never come about nor happen.

You also took your beautiful jewels made of My gold and of My silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself male images that you might play the harlot with them.

Then you took your embroidered cloth and covered them, and offered My oil and My incense before them.

Also My bread which I gave you, fine flour, oil and honey with which I fed you, you would offer before them for a soothing aroma; so it happened,” declares the Lord God.

Moreover, you took your sons and daughters whom you had borne to Me and sacrificed them to idols to be devoured. Were your harlotries so small a matter?

You slaughtered My children and offered them up to idols by causing them to pass through the fire.

Besides all your abominations and harlotries you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare and squirming in your blood.

Then it came about after all your wickedness (‘Woe, woe to you!’ declares the Lord God),

that you built yourself a shrine and made yourself a high place in every square.

You built yourself a high place at the top of every street and made your beauty abominable, and you spread your legs to every passer-by to multiply your harlotry.

You also played the harlot with the Egyptians, your lustful neighbors, and multiplied your harlotry to make Me angry.

Behold now, I have stretched out My hand against you and diminished your rations. And I delivered you up to the desire of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, who are ashamed of your lewd conduct.

Moreover, you played the harlot with the Assyrians because you were not satisfied; you played the harlot with them and still were not satisfied.

You also multiplied your harlotry with the land of merchants, Chaldea, yet even with this you were not satisfied.”

“How languishing is your heart,” declares the Lord God, “while you do all these things, the actions of a bold-faced harlot.”

When you built your shrine at the beginning of every street and made your high place in every square, in disdain of money, you were not like a harlot.

You adulteress wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband!

Men give gifts to all harlots, but you give your gifts to all your lovers to bribe them to come to you from every direction for your harlotries. Thus you are different from those women in your harlotries, in that no one plays the harlot as you do, because you give money and no money is given you; thus you are different.”

Hosea 2:8-13

What doesn't Israel know?

Who gave Israel grain, new wine and oil, and lavished silver and gold on her?

What did Israel use God's gifts of provision for?

Why will God take back His grain at harvest time?

1.

2.

Why will God take back His new wine in its season?

1.

2.

What else will God take away from Israel?

1.

2.

Why had God given her wool and flax?

What will God do to her?

In whose sight will God uncover Israel's lewdness?

Will any of her lovers be able to rescue her out of God's hand?

What will God put an end to?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

What will God destroy?

1.

2.

What had Israel said about her vines and fig trees?

Who did she say gave them to her?

What will God make the vines and fig trees into?

What will happen to them?

What will God punish her for?

What did Israel do in the days of the Baals?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Because she followed after her lovers in every respect, what did Israel do to God?

Hosea 2:14-20

Because it is part of God's plan, what will He do to Israel, who has forgotten Him?

To where will He bring her?

What will He do to her in the wilderness?

When will God give her vineyards?

When is then?

What else will God give to Israel?

What will the valley of Achor become to Israel?

POINT OF DEPTH

**The Valley of Achor had been the Valley of Trouble for many centuries.
It was a picture of how Israel received God's lost favor on His people
By punishing the transgressor in their midst.**

**But God had a new name in store for the Valley of Trouble—the Door of Hope!
The place where His people had learned how to procure His favor after their sin,
would be a promise that His favor was indeed coming again—
And this time, it would last for all of eternity!**

Joshua 7

“But the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully in regard to the things under the ban, for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, took some of the things under the ban, therefore the anger of the Lord burned against the sons of Israel.

Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, “Go up and spy out the land.”

So the men went up and spied out Ai. They returned to Joshua and said to him, “Do not let all the people go up; only about two or three thousand men need go up to Ai; do not make all the people toil up there, for they are few.” So about three thousand men from the people went up there, but they fled from the men of Ai. The men of Ai struck down about thirty-six of their men, and pursued them from the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them down on the descent, so the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until the evening, both he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. Joshua said, "Alas, O Lord God, why did You ever bring this people over the Jordan, only to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? If only

we had been willing to dwell beyond the Jordan!

O Lord, what can I say since Israel has turned their back before their enemies?

For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it, and they will surround us and cut off our name from the earth.

And what will You do for Your great name?"

So the Lord said to Joshua, "Rise up! Why is it that you have fallen on your face?

Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things under the ban and have both stolen and deceived. Moreover, they have also put them among their own things. Therefore the sons of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies, for they have become accursed.

I will not be with you anymore

unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst.

Rise up! Consecrate the people and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, for thus the Lord, the God of Israel, has said, "There are things under the ban in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you have removed the things under the ban from your midst."

'In the morning then you shall come near by your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the Lord takes by lot shall come near by families, and the family which the Lord takes shall come near by households, and the household which the Lord takes shall come near man by man. 'It shall be that the one who is taken with the things under the ban shall be burned with fire, he and all that belongs to him, because he has transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he has committed a disgraceful thing in Israel.'

So Joshua arose early in the morning and brought Israel near by tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken.

He brought the family of Judah near, and he took the family of the Zerahites; and he brought the family of the Zerahites near man by man, and Zabdi was taken.

He brought his household near man by man; and Achan,

son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, was taken.

Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I implore you, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and give praise to Him; and tell me now what you have done. Do not hide it from me."

So Achan answered Joshua and said, "Truly, I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel, and this is what I did: when I saw among the spoil a beautiful

mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it.”

So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was concealed in his tent with the silver underneath it. They took them from inside the tent and brought them to Joshua and to all the sons of Israel, and they poured them out before the Lord.

Then Joshua and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the mantle, the bar of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent and all that belonged to him; and they brought them up to the valley of Achor.

Joshua said, “Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day.” And all Israel stoned them with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones. They raised over him a great heap of stones that stands to this day, and the Lord turned from the fierceness of His anger.

Therefore the name of that place has been called the valley of Achor to this day. “

What will Israel do there?

What will her singing be reminiscent of?

What specific time of her youth?

POINT OF CONNECTION

Jeremiah 16:14-15
“Therefore behold, days are coming,”
declares the Lord,
“when it will no longer be said,

‘As the Lord lives,
who brought up the sons of Israel
out of the land of Egypt,’

but,

***'As the Lord lives,
who brought up the sons of Israel
from the land of the north
and from all the countries where He had banished them.'***

For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers."

What will come about in That Day?

Ishi means "my husband" and Baali means "my master". Who will Israel call her husband?

What will Israel no longer call the Lord?

Why? (Remember why Israel was no longer God's wife. **Hosea 2:2; Ezekiel 16:15-34**)

What will God do to the names of the Baals?

How completely will God remove the names of the Baals from His wife's mouth?

What else will God do in That Day?

With whom will God make a Covenant for Israel in That Day?

1.

2.

3.

How will God make Israel lie down in safety?

1.

2.

3.

What will God do to Israel?

For how long will Israel be betrothed to God?

In what will God betroth Israel to Himself?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

What will Israel know?

When will this all take place?

Has it taken place yet?

How do you know?

Hosea 2:21-23

What else will come about in that day?

To what will God respond?

To what will the heavens respond?

To what will the earth respond?

1.

2.

3.

To what will the grain, the new wine and the oil respond?

Jezreel means “God sows”. What will respond to God’s sowing?

1.

2.

3.

What will respond to the grain, the new wine and the oil?

What will respond to the earth?

Who will respond to the heavens?

God will sow and God will bring it about! *How marvelous are His ways! For from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things! To Him be glory forever! Amen!*
Romans 11:26

What will God sow?

For Whom will God sow Israel?

God will sow Israel for Himself! Can you picture God planting Himself a field, knowing that He plans on harvesting it Himself for His use? Can you picture that harvest being Israel, His Beloved Wife?

Where will God sow Israel?

God will also have compassion on her. Who, previous to the time prophesied, had not obtained compassion from God?

What will God say to those who were not His people?

What will they say to God?

POINT OF CONNECTION

Hosea 2:23

*I will sow her for Myself in the land.
I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion,
And I will say to those who were not My people,
“You are My people!” And they will say, “You are my God!”*

Is this the first time Israel has heard this promise from God?

Oh, no, no, no!

He has told them again and again and again!

FROM THE TIME OF MOSES...

Genesis 17:18

*I will give to you and to your descendants after you,
The land of your sojournings,
All the land of Canaan,
For an everlasting possession;
And I will be their God.*

Deuteronomy 26:17-19

*You have today declared the Lord to be your God,
And that you would walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments
And His ordinances, and listen to His voice.
The Lord has today declared you to be His people,
A treasured possession, as He promised you,
And that you should keep all His commandments;
And that He will set you high above all nations which He has made,
For praise, fame, and honor;
And that you shall be a consecrated people to the Lord your God,
As He has spoken.*

THROUGH THE TIME OF HIS KINGS...

Song of Solomon 2:16

*My beloved is mine, and I am his;
He pastures his flock among the lilies.*

THROUGH THE TIME OF HIS PROPHETS...

Jeremiah 24:7

*"I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the Lord;
And they will be My people, and I will be their God,
For they will return to Me with their whole heart."*

Jeremiah 30:22

*You shall be My people,
And I will be your God.*

Ezekiel 11:20

*That they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them.
Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God.*

Ezekiel 36:28

*You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers;
So you will be My people,
And I will be your God.*

Ezekiel 37:23

*They will no longer defile themselves with their idols,
Or with their detestable things,
Or with any of their transgressions;
But I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned,
and will cleanse them.
And they will be My people,
And I will be their God.*

Ezekiel 37:27

*My dwelling place also will be with them;
And I will be their God, and they will be My people.*

Zechariah 8:8

*And I will bring them back and they will live in the midst of Jerusalem;
And they shall be My people,
And I will be their God in truth and righteousness.*

CONCERNING THE REMNANT OF THE FINAL DAYS...

Jeremiah 31:1

*"At that time," declares the Lord,
"I will be the God of all the families of Israel,
And they shall be My people."*

Jeremiah 31:33

***“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel
After those days,” declares the Lord,
“I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it;
And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”***

CONCERNING THE REMNANT OF THE JEWS IN FINAL HOUR...

Zechariah 13:9

***“And I will bring the third part through the fire,
Refine them as silver is refined,
And test them as gold is tested.
They will call on My name,
And I will answer them;
I will say, ‘They are My people,’
And they will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’ ”***

CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF THE GENTILES...

II Corinthians 6:16

***Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols?
For we are the temple of the living God;
Just as God said, “I will dwell in them and walk among them;
And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”***

Hebrews 8:10

***For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel
After those days, says the Lord:
“I will put My laws into their minds,
And I will write them on their hearts.
And I will be their God,
And they shall be My people.”***

THROUGH THE LAST PAGES OF HOLY SCRIPTURE CONCERNING THE AGES TO COME...

Revelation 21:3

***And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying,
“Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men,
And He will dwell among them,
And they shall be His people,
And God Himself will be among them,”***

**What a promise!
What a precious, precious promise!**

**What a future!
What a fabulous, wonderful future!**

**What a God!
What a Glorious, Magnificent God!**

READ AND REASON

The names of Hosea's children were Jezreel, Lo-ruhamah, and Lo-ammi, in that order.

Jezreel was named so because in a little while God would punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed of Jezreel, and He would put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. On that day God would break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.

Lo-ruhamah was named "she has not obtained compassion" because God would no longer have compassion on the house of Israel, that He would ever forgive them. But He would have compassion on the house of Judah and deliver them by the LORD their God, and would not deliver them by bow, sword, battle, horses or horsemen.

Lo-ammi was named "not my people" because they were not His people and God was not their God.

Despite these names of judgment God also revealed they were also names of hope.

He told them,
*"Yet the number of the sons of Israel will be like the sand of the sea,
Which cannot be measured or numbered (Lo-ruhamah)."*

*And in the place where it is said to them, "You are not My people," (Lo-ammi)
It will be said to them, "You are the sons of the Living God."*

*And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel will be gathered together, and they
will appoint for themselves one leader (Lo-ruhamah),*

And they will go up from the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel (God sows).

Say to your brothers, "Ammi," (My people)

And to your sisters, "Ruhamah" (she has obtained compassion)."

Now, before I lose you with all these names and their meanings,

Let's go to the last three verses of Chapter 2.

I have printed it below for you.

Do you see the three names of Hosea's children once more?

Do you see hope or judgment in the names?

"It will come about in that day that I will respond," declares the Lord. "I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the earth, and the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine and to the oil, and they will respond to Jezreel. I will sow her for Myself in the land.

(Whose name is this?)

I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion

(Whose name is this?)

And I will say to those who were not My people, "You are My people!"

(Whose name is this?)

And they will say, "You are my God!"

(The Name above all names!!!)

HOSEA - The PROPHECY

Chapter Three

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Hosea 3** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Hosea 3** and mark every reference to Israel with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 3** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Hosea 3** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash, i.e. "black/white".

Read through **Hosea 3** and mark every reference to Hosea with a green capital "H".

Read through **Hosea 3** and mark every reference to Gomer with an orange capital "G".

Read through **Hosea 3** and mark every reference to harlotry or adultery, including synonyms, with an orange box.

Read through **Hosea 3** and mark every reference to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 3** and mark every reference to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 3** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time reference is to the last days fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Hosea 3** and mark every term of conclusion (therefore, etc.) with a pink capital "T".

Read through **Hosea 3** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Time of Christ—past
2. Time of Church Age—present
3. Time of Millennial Reign—future

READ AND ANSWER

Hosea 3:1-2

The LORD speaks to Hosea again. What does He tell Hosea to do?

Who is the woman who is loved by her husband?

Despite being loved by her husband, what is this woman?

As Hosea loved Gomer, yet she was an adulteress, so does the LORD love Israel, yet she is an adulteress. What do the sons of Israel do?

1.

2.

In ancient times in the Middle East, adulteresses were often stripped naked publicly and then sold to the highest bidder. What did God threaten to do unless Israel stopped her harlotry? (**Hosea 2:3**)

Hosea would not stop her harlotry. What did God do to her? (**Hosea 2:9-10**)

Why does Hosea buy Gomer? Where is she?

What did Hosea pay for Gomer?

1.

2.

POINT OF DEPTH

**15 shekels plus a homer and a half of barley
= 30 shekels, the price paid for a slave (Exodus 21:32)
= the price to redeem a female dedicated to the Lord (Leviticus 27:4)
= 30 pieces of silver, the price Judas was paid to deliver up Christ**

Christ bought Israel with His own precious blood!

I Peter 1:17-19

***If you address as Father the One
Who impartially judges according to each one's work,
Conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;
Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things
Like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,
But with precious blood,
As of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.***

Hosea 3:3-4

What does Hosea tell Gomer will happen to her?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Gomer will stay with Hosea for many days. She would not be allowed to play the harlot nor would she have a husband.

Would Hosea commit adultery during this time?

Would Hosea have any woman during this time?

Why not? What is the picture?

What will be true of the sons of Israel? What will they remain without for many days?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

POINT OF DEPTH

God has cut these things off from Israel:

No king or prince
= no monarchy
= no heir of the Davidic Throne
= NK rejected Davidic throne and established their own in Samaria
Ezekiel 34:23-24

No sacrifice or sacred pillar
= no Jehovah worship
= No temple meant no place to make a sacrifice,

No ephod or household idols (divination tools)
= no priesthood
= no temple meant no access to God!

Hosea 3:5

What would happen afterward?

1

2.

3.

4.

After what?

Does it say why the sons of Israel will return?

Has the book of Hosea in either of the previous two chapters told you why the sons of Israel will return?

Where?

When they return, after many days, Who will the sons of Israel seek?

When will the sons of Israel come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness?

POINT OF DEPTH

Deuteronomy 4:30

When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and listen to His voice.

READ AND REASON

The third chapter of Hosea is really very short, only five verses, yet it covers thousands of years!

The first two verses reflect the time of Christ, when He came to visit (take care of) His people. This is when Christ bought Israel with His precious blood.

I Corinthians 6:20

For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

I Corinthians 7:23

You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.

I Peter 1:17-19

If you address as Father the One Who impartially judges according to each one's work,

***Conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;
Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things
Like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,
But with precious blood,
As of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.***

The second two verses reflect the present age, when a partial hardening has happened to Israel. They will not have their God, king, temple or idols.

II Chronicles 15:2

and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: the Lord is with you when you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you."

Daniel 8:11-13

It even magnified itself to be equal with the Commander of the host; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down. And on account of transgression the host will be given over to the horn along with the regular sacrifice; and it will fling truth to the ground and perform its will and prosper. Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to that particular one who was speaking, "How long will the vision about the regular sacrifice apply, while the transgression causes horror, so as to allow both the holy place and the host to be trampled?"

Daniel 9:27

And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.

Daniel 12:11

From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.

Ezekiel 20:32

What comes into your mind will not come about, when you say, "We will be like the nations, like the tribes of the lands, serving wood and stone."

Hosea 5:6

***"They will go with their flocks and herds to seek the Lord,
But they will not find Him; He has withdrawn from them."***

Hosea 5:15

***I will go away and return to My place
Until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face;
In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.***

Micah 5:11-14

*I will also cut off the cities of your land and tear down all your fortifications.
I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you will have fortune-tellers no more. I
will cut off your carved images and your sacred pillars from among you,
So that you will no longer bow down to the work of your hands.
I will root out your Asherim from among you and destroy your cities.*

Zechariah 13:2

*“It will come about in that day,” declares the Lord of hosts,
“That I will cut off the names of the idols from the land,
And they will no longer be remembered;
And I will also remove the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land.”*

Matthew 24:1-2

*Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up
to point out the temple buildings to Him. And He said to them, “Do you not see all
these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another,
which will not be torn down.”*

Luke 21:24

*and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the
nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times
of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

Romans 11:25

*For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—
So that you will not be wise in your own estimation—
That a partial hardening has happened to Israel
Until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;*

The last verse reflects the future age when Christ will rule over the entire earth from Jerusalem and David will once again rule over Israel. Israel will finally seek the Lord because the Lord will call them to Himself.

Deuteronomy 4:30

*When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you,
In the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and listen to His voice.*

Isaiah 27:12-13

*In that day the Lord will start His threshing from the flowing stream of the
Euphrates to the brook of Egypt, and you will be gathered up one by one,
O sons of Israel. It will come about also in that day that a great trumpet will be
blown, and those who were perishing in the land of Assyria and who were
scattered in the land of Egypt will come and worship the Lord in the holy
mountain at Jerusalem.*

Jeremiah 3:22

***Return, O faithless sons, I will heal your faithlessness.
Behold, we come to You; for You are the Lord our God.***

Jeremiah 30:9

***But they shall serve the Lord their God and David their king,
Whom I will raise up for them.***

Jeremiah 31:6-10

***For there will be a day when watchmen on the hills of Ephraim call out,
“Arise, and let us go up to Zion, To the Lord our God.”
For thus says the Lord,
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations;
Proclaim, give praise and say, ‘O Lord, save Your people, The remnant of Israel.’
Behold, I am bringing them from the north country,
And I will gather them from the remote parts of the earth,
Among them the blind and the lame,
The woman with child and she who is in labor with child, together;
A great company, they will return here.
With weeping they will come, and by supplication I will lead them;
I will make them walk by streams of waters,
On a straight path in which they will not stumble;
For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn.”
Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
And declare in the coastlands afar off,
And say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him
And keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.”***

Jeremiah 50:4-5

***“In those days and at that time,” declares the Lord,
“The sons of Israel will come, both they and the sons of Judah as well;
They will go along weeping as they go,
And it will be the Lord their God they will seek.
They will ask for the way to Zion, turning their faces in its direction;
They will come that they may join themselves to the Lord
In an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten.”***

Ezekiel 34:23-4

***Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David,
And he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd.
And I, the Lord, will be their God,
And My servant David will be prince among them;
I the Lord have spoken.***

Ezekiel 37:22-25

And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel;

***And one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations
And no longer be divided into two kingdoms.
They will no longer defile themselves with their idols,
Or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions;
But I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned,
and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God.
My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd;
And they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them.
They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant,
In which your fathers lived; and they will live on it,
They, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever;
And David My servant will be their prince forever***

Amos 9:11

***In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, and wall up its breaches;
I will also raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old;***

Acts 15:16-18

***“After these things I will return,
And I will rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen,
And I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it,
So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,
And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,”
Says the Lord, Who makes these things known from long ago.***

HOSEA – The PROPHECY

Chapter Four

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Hosea 4** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Hosea 4** and mark every reference to harlotry with an orange box.

Read through **Hosea 4** and mark every reference to knowledge or know with a yellow highlighted circle.

Read through **Hosea 4** and mark every time the Lord says, “I will...”, including synonyms with a purple underline.

Read through **Hosea 4** and mark every reference to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 4** and mark every reference to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 4** and mark every reference to prophet, including pronouns, with a green trumpet.

Read through **Hosea 4** and mark every reference to priest, including pronouns, with a green box.

Read through **Hosea 4** and mark every reference to king, including pronouns, with a green crown.

Read through **Hosea 4** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time reference is to “That Day” fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Hosea 4** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash, i.e. “black/white”.

Read through **Hosea 4** and mark every term of conclusion (therefore, etc.) with a pink capital “T”.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. LORD’S case against Israel
2. LORD rejects Israel
3. LORD will punish Israel
4. Spirit of harlotry in Israel
5. Do not let Judah become guilty

READ AND ANSWER

Hosea 4:1-3

What are the sons of Israel told to do?

What does the LORD have to say to the sons of Israel?

Against whom does the LORD have a case?

What does it mean that the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land? What picture does that bring to mind?

What is absent from the LORD’S land?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What seems to be the obvious mandates God requires of those who are dwelling in His land?

1.

2.

3.

What things are the inhabitants of God's land doing that God clearly prohibits?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Why does the land mourn?

Why does everyone who lives in the land languish?

What else does the sin of the inhabitants of the land affect?

1.

2.

3.

What is the judgment on the land, along with the earth, sky and sea?

POINT OF DEPTH

**It seems that a judgment of drought is brought upon the land; one that affects the beasts of the field (earth), the birds of the sky (sky) and the fish of the sea (sea).
The drought is so severe that the fish of the sea are disappearing.**

**It is a regular occurrence with God
that mankind's sin brings judgment upon His whole creation.**

Hosea 4:4-6

The Lord has a case against the inhabitants of the land. The picture of a lawsuit against the people comes to mind. Because of the flagrant rebellion of the people there is no room for them to disagree with God. They are told not to even think of bringing a rebuttal to their defense! He declares there will be no debate over this, and that is final! To what does God compare their offense? (**Deuteronomy 17:12**)

Who will stumble by day and night (at all times)?

1.

2.

Who will be destroyed?

Who is the mother of the sons of Israel?

Who will destroy Israel?

Why are God's people destroyed?

What knowledge is available to them?

What did God's people do?

In like manner, what would God do?

What had Israel's position been (between God and the nations)?

POINT OF DEPTH

**A priest can be described as a bridge-builder,
Providing a way for people to communicate with God.
Israel had been a priest of God for the nations of the world.**

Exodus 19:5-6

*Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant,
Then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples,
for all the earth is Mine;
And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.
These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.*

What had Israel forgotten?

In like manner, what would God do?

POINT OF DEPTH

The word for forgotten means
to cease to care,
to cause to forget,
to ignore or wither.

How could anyone cease to care for God, their Creator?
How could anyone ignore the Lord of all the earth?
It is hard to imagine.

How frightening if God ceased to care.
How terrifying if God's concern withered away to nothing.
It is impossible to imagine.

Who are the children of the sons of Israel?

Hosea 4:7-10

Who multiplied?

What happened the more they multiplied?

Against Whom did they sin?

What will God do to their glory?

What do they feed on?

Where is their desire directed?

What will be true of both people and priest?

What will God do to both people and priest?

1.

2.

Why will God punish them?

For what will God repay them?

Will they eat?

Yet what will be lacking?

Will they continue to play the harlot?

Yet what will not increase?

Why will these things happen to them?

Compare **verse 10** with **verse 6**. What do you see?

Hosea 4:11-14

What takes away understanding?

1.

2.

3.

What do God's people do?

1.

2.

Why?

Astray from what or Whom?

POINT OF DEPTH

**When God's people need direction, which is all the time,
To Whom should they turn?**

Where do you go?

What have God's people been?

What did they do?

Where did they go?

What did they do on the tops of the mountains?

Where did they burn incense?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Why?

Therefore, what do their daughters do?

Therefore, what do their brides do?

Who led them into this?

Will God punish their daughters when they play the harlot?

Will God punish their brides when they commit adultery?

Why not?

What do the men do?

1.

2.

Therefore what do they lack?

Therefore what is the state of the people?

Hosea 4:15-19

What does Israel do?

Though Israel plays the harlot, what is she not to do?

1.

2.

3.

Who is referred to as Israel?

How do you know?

What is the Northern Kingdom of Israel like?

How stubborn is Israel?

Because Israel is like a stubborn heifer (one with which a master cannot plow), God will now let him graze like a lamb in a large field. What will happen to a lamb in a large field where there is no shepherd to protect it?

What is Ephraim (Israel) joined to?

POINT OF DEPTH

Ephraim refers to the Northern Kingdom of Israel for two reasons:

**One, because Ephraim was the dominant tribe of the northern ten tribes
And two, because Ephraim was not taken captive until 722 BC,
ten years after the other tribes were exiled to the Assyrians**

Because Ephraim is joined to idols (will not let go of them), God is going to let him alone. In other words, because Ephraim would not heed the voice of God, God would no longer use His voice to speak to Ephraim. God was going to leave Ephraim to the destruction that was his own choice.

How is Ephraim described in **verse 18**?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What is the wind seen as doing to Ephraim?

When will Ephraim be ashamed of their sacrifices?

READ AND REASON

Can you see the figure of speech Hosea uses in the last verse of chapter four? The wind wraps its wings around the nation of Israel (Ephraim) and carries her away to the land of Assyria. He uses the concept of the wind of the Lord twice more.

Hosea 8:7

***For they sow the wind And they reap the whirlwind.
The standing grain has no heads; it yields no grain.
Should it yield, strangers would swallow it up.***

Hosea 13:15

***Though he flourishes among the reeds, an east wind will come,
The wind of the Lord coming up from the wilderness;
And his fountain will become dry
And his spring will be dried up;
It will plunder his treasury of every precious article.***

Listen to what the prophet Jeremiah says when comparing the Lord God with idols. Can you see why Israel will be ashamed of their sacrifices?

Notice also his reference to the wind of the Lord,
and how He violently throws His people out of the land for their sin against Him!

Jeremiah 10:1-18

Hear the word which the Lord speaks to you, O house of Israel.

***Thus says the Lord, "Do not learn the way of the nations,
And do not be terrified by the signs of the heavens
Although the nations are terrified by them;
For the customs of the peoples are delusion;
Because it is wood cut from the forest,
The work of the hands of a craftsman with a cutting tool.
They decorate it with silver and with gold;
They fasten it with nails and with hammers so that it will not totter.
Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field are they, and they cannot speak;
They must be carried, because they cannot walk!
Do not fear them, for they can do no harm, nor can they do any good.***

***There is none like You, O Lord; You are great, and great is Your name in might.
Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? Indeed it is Your due!
For among all the wise men of the nations and in all their kingdoms,
There is none like You.***

***But they are altogether stupid and foolish in their discipline of delusion
—their idol is wood!
Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz,
The work of a craftsman and of the hands of a goldsmith;
Violet and purple are their clothing; they are all the work of skilled men.***

***But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King.
At His wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure His indignation.
Thus you shall say to them, "The gods that did not make the heavens and the
earth will perish from the earth and from under the heavens."
It is He who made the earth by His power,
Who established the world by His wisdom;
And by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens.
When He utters His voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens,
And He causes the clouds to ascend from the end of the earth;
He makes lightning for the rain, and brings out the wind from His storehouses.***

***Every man is stupid, devoid of knowledge;
Every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols; for his molten images are deceitful,
And there is no breath in them. They are worthless, a work of mockery;
In the time of their punishment they will perish.***

***The portion of Jacob is not like these; for the Maker of all is He,
And Israel is the tribe of His inheritance; The Lord of hosts is His name.
Pick up your bundle from the ground, you who dwell under siege!
For thus says the Lord,
“Behold, I am slinging out the inhabitants of the land at this time,
And will cause them distress, that they may be found.”***

HOSEA – The PROPHECY

Chapter Five

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Hosea 5** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Hosea 5** and mark every reference to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 5** and mark every reference to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 5** and mark every reference to harlotry with an orange box.

Read through **Hosea 5** and mark every reference to knowledge or know with a yellow highlighted circle.

Read through **Hosea 5** and mark every time the LORD says, “I will...”, including synonyms with a purple underline.

Read through **Hosea 5** and mark every reference to repent, or returning to the Lord, with a green arrow.

Read through **Hosea 5** and mark every reference to priest, including pronouns, with a green box.

Read through **Hosea 5** and mark every reference to king, including pronouns, with a green crown.

Read through **Hosea 5** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time reference is to “That Day” or the “Day of Rebuke” fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Hosea 5** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash, i.e. “black/white”.

Read through **Hosea 5** and mark every term of conclusion (therefore, etc.) with a pink capital “T”.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Give heed! The judgment applies to you! – The LORD has withdrawn from them
2. Blow the horn! The Day of Rebuke! – Until they acknowledge their guilt and seek the LORD’S face

READ AND ANSWER

Hosea 5:1-7

Who is to “Hear this!”?

Who is to “Give heed!”?

Who is to “Listen!”?

Why?

God will lay out what His judgment will be, but first, He will quickly remind them of their sin. What does He say they are guilty of?

What is a snare? What is a trap?

Who does God say set the snare or the trap?

Who does God single out as having set the snare and the trap?

If the priests set a snare or trap, who would be their prey? Reason through the entire chapter.

If the king set a snare or trap, who was his prey? Reason through the entire chapter.

If the house of Israel set a snare or trap, who was its prey? Reason through the entire chapter.

POINT OF DEPTH

Mizpah was in the east of the Northern Kingdom's land; Tabor was in the west. Mizpah means watchtower and Tabor means lofty place. Both were mountainous regions, or high places, where altars had been placed to false gods.

The priests and the king should have been watching over God's people carefully, leading them to worship Him. Instead of guarding God's people from evil, they had been like hunters, leading them to destruction.

Israel had done the same with its wicked example to Judah.

Who are the revolters?

To what depths have they gone?

The phrase translated gone deep in depravity literally means waded deep in slaughter. How does this compare with the hunting motif of the snare and trap?

Who is being slaughtered?

What will God do to all those who hunt His people?

What does chastise mean? Look it up in a Bible concordance.

What is God's purpose in chastisement?

Read the last line of **verse 15** and note what you see regarding the result of chastisement.

When God says that He *knows* Ephraim, what does He mean?

What is not hidden from God?

What has Ephraim done that God knows about?

What has Israel done that God has seen?

Will Ephraim and Israel return to their God?

Why not?

1.

2.

3.

What are their deeds?

What is within them? (Note **Hosea 4:12.**)

What is their relationship with the LORD?

What do **Hosea 4:1** and **4:6** tell us is the reason for their lack of knowledge? Why don't God's people know the LORD?

What testifies against Israel?

Why are Israel and Ephraim stumbling?

What does **Proverbs 16:18** say?

Who has stumbled with Israel and Ephraim?

Because they are stumbling, what will they do?

What does it mean that they will go with their flocks and herds to seek the LORD?

What connection is there between seeking the LORD and their flocks and herds?

To their surprise, what will Israel find?

Why will they not find the LORD?

How does this fit with **Hosea 3**?

What have they done?

Against Whom?

How have they dealt treacherously against the LORD?

What will happen to them?

Hosea 5:8-15

In the economy of God, the certainty of the judgment became present tense, as if it were already happening. Where was a horn of warning to blow?

Where was the trumpet of warning to be blown?

Where was the alarm to be sounded?

Where are Gibeah, Ramah, and Beth-aven? (Look them up on a Bible map.)

Who is to watch out?

Where is the land of the tribe of Benjamin located? (Look it up on a Bible map.)

Where are Gibeah, Ramah, and Beth-aven located in reference to the land of Benjamin?

What will happen to Ephraim?

When?

What is declared?

What is sure?

Who declares what is sure?

What have the princes of Judah become like?

Those who move a boundary are those who have no respect for God or His recognized leaders of authority. What will be poured out on the princes of Judah?

What will God's wrath on the princes of Judah be like?

What is true of Ephraim?

1.

2.

Why?

Why is God like a moth to Ephraim?

Why is God like rottenness to the house of Judah?

What happened when Ephraim saw his sickness and Judah saw his wound?

Where did Ephraim go for help?

Is any earthly king, earthly person, or earthly possession able to cure you from a spiritual sickness or spiritual judgment?

What should Ephraim have done instead?

What would God require of Ephraim in order to heal him?

Like what would God be to Ephraim?

Like what would God be to the house of Judah?

What would God do (as a young lion would)?

1.

2.

Would anyone or anything be able to deliver Ephraim and Judah from God?

God said in **verse 6** that He would withdraw from Ephraim and Judah. To where would God go?

Where is God's place?

POINT OF DEPTH

The Glory of the LORD fills the Tabernacle

At the end of Exodus we see God filling the Tabernacle with His Glory. So much so that Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because of the cloud that had settled on it. God had come to dwell in the midst of His people. Exodus 29:43; 40:34-35

The Glory of the LORD leaves Israel

Later, at one of Israel's many points of disobedience, God's Glory left the presence of Israel. Eli, God's priest, had two rebellious sons who took the Ark of the Covenant into battle against the Philistines. The Israelites were soundly defeated and the Ark was taken captive to Philistine. Eli and his two sons died. When Eli's pregnant daughter-in-law gave birth to her son she called him Ichabod saying "the Glory of the Lord has departed from Israel." I Samuel 4:17-22

The Glory of the LORD fills the House of the LORD

Solomon later built a Temple for the Lord. The House of God was dedicated and consecrated to Him with great ceremony. God showed His acceptance of the house by filling it with His Glory. It was so great that the priests couldn't even minister because of the thick cloud of Glory in the house where God had said that He would dwell! I Kings 8:10-13

God's Glory, sometimes called the "Shekinah Glory," remained in the Temple until the sin of His people became so great that He had to move out of His own house!

The Glory of the LORD departs from Israel

Ezekiel is living as an exile in Babylon when God commissions him to speak to the Jews, whether they listen or not! Nebuchadnezzar had successfully attacked Jerusalem twice—the first time was 605 BC, and the second was 597 BC. Ezekiel had been taken captive to Babylon in the second siege. There was one more siege to come in 586 BC which would completely destroy Jerusalem. They have seen the wrath of God come on them, yet they still will not repent. God's decision has been made. He will judge and judge them harshly! Ezekiel 2:3-5, 7; 3:4-9, 26-27

The Jews are rebellious and stubborn, even more rebellious than all the other nations! They refuse to listen! God, through Ezekiel, gives them a stinging prophecy of their own future. It is horrible what will happen to them. In fact, God says, *“Because of all your abominations, I will do among you what I have not done, and the like of which I will never do again.”* Fathers will eat their sons and sons will eat their fathers! God will execute His judgment on them and they will be scattered to every wind of the world! Ezekiel 5:5-10

Verse 11 is a key verse to understand what is happening in the book of Ezekiel. God orders that the Jews be taken out of the land. But because the Jews have defiled His sanctuary with all their detestable idols and all their abominations, God Himself is going to leave, too. He is going to withdraw, first from the Temple of His Sanctuary, and then from the city of Jerusalem itself! Ezekiel 5:11

By His Spirit, God takes Ezekiel to Jerusalem and shows him what the Jews are doing in His Temple and in His city.

➤ **Ezekiel 8:3-6**

He shows Ezekiel the entrance of the north gate of the inner court. There, in God’s house was a seat for an “idol of jealousy.” To the north of the altar gate was the idol of jealousy at the entrance. Unbelievable! In God’s Own house, where He should be sitting on His Mercy Seat, the people were instead worshipping an idol sitting on its own seat! Should God have to leave because an idol has taken His place??? God tells Ezekiel, *“You haven’t seen anything yet!”*

➤ **Ezekiel 8:7-13**

In the inner rooms of the Temple, God shows Ezekiel the false, disgusting carvings of creeping things and beasts and detestable idols. And who is worshipping these carvings? Why, it’s none other than God’s own elders! They are offering incense to other gods in God’s own house with the lights blown out! And they have the audacity to say, *“The Lord doesn’t see us doing this. After all, He has abandoned us!”* Aughhh! Then God gives Ezekiel the next bad news, *“Prepare yourself, Ezekiel. It gets even worse!”*

➤ **Ezekiel 8:14-15**

God now takes Ezekiel to the actual entrance to the house of God. And there are the women of Israel, sitting and weeping for Tammuz! Tammuz was believed to be the reincarnation of his father, Nimrod. Tammuz is also known as “Osirus” or “Adonis.” He is pictured on seals as a protector of

flocks against wild beasts. This “weeping for Tammuz” lasted for 40 days preceding the pagan Spring Equinox Festival. The women were grieving over his death in hopes that he would come back to life, representing a renewal of nature. Can it get worse? God tells Ezekiel that it does and then He shows him...

➤ **Ezekiel 8:16**

He takes Ezekiel to the inner court and there, at the entrance to the Temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs to the Temple of the Lord and their faces toward the east. They were laying down worshipping the sun!

➤ **Ezekiel 8:17-18**

God has had it! He says to Ezekiel rhetorically, *“Wasn’t it bad enough to sin the terrible sins they sinned against Me? Wasn’t it bad enough that they polluted the land with their abominations? Wasn’t it bad enough that they wouldn’t repent?”* No, I guess it wasn’t bad enough because they went one step further and committed their horrible abominations right in God’s own house!

I want to give you a graphic example of what they had done to God. Israel was God’s wife; she committed adultery against Him. That, in itself, was bad enough, but then she actually took her lover to God’s bedroom and flagrantly made love to him right there in front of God, her husband. I can’t imagine the pain God must have felt and the anger...

Starting in chapter 9 of Ezekiel, we see the Glory of the Lord beginning to depart—first from His Sanctuary, then from His Temple and then from His city... Ezekiel 9-11

Before God leaves, He calls for destroyers to execute those Jews who are part of this awful sin against God. A mark is put on the forehead of every person who sighs and groans over all the abominations which are being committed in the city. The executioners are given orders to utterly slay everyone who does not have that mark, whether it is an old man or a young man, a maiden or a women, or even a little child. And He commands that the execution begin in His Sanctuary! Judgment begins with the house of God! I Peter 4:17

Now, heartbreakingly, we see the Glory of the God of Israel departing from the Holy of Holies and hovering over the entrance of the east gate of the Lord's house. Ezekiel 10:4, 18, 19

In verses 22-23 of Ezekiel 11, we see the Glory of the God of Israel going up from the midst of the city and standing over the mountain which is east of the city.

Yet in verses 14-21 of Ezekiel 11, before God actually leaves, He gives His people a promise of a New Covenant. He is leaving because they sinned against Him. They sinned against Him because they could not keep the Law He had given them. They could not keep the Law because their hearts were wicked and evil. They were slaves to sin. Because they broke the Law, God had to scatter them from the land of Israel He promised to them.

In this New Covenant, God would give them one heart to obey Him. He would put a new spirit within them—one that would seek after God. He would take their heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh so they could walk in His statutes and keep His ordinances. This heart of flesh would be sensitive and responsive to the finger of God. Their old heart of stone never even felt or noticed His touch. In this New Covenant, God would be their God and they would be His people.

As God departs from His Temple, He promises to send the New Covenant to them. He is promising to send Jesus to them! He is promising The Seed!

The Glory of the LORD returns to Israel

The Glory of the Lord does return to Israel when Jesus is born. Jesus' parents brought Him to the Temple to present Him to the Lord; He was only eight days old. Luke 2:21-22

Simeon, a righteous and devout man, was looking for The Seed. God brought Simeon into the Temple by His Spirit and when he saw this tiny baby, he took Him in his arms and announced to the people that the Glory of God had returned! God Himself was among them once again. Luke 2:25-35 Anna, the prophetess, also gave witness that He was indeed The Seed. Luke 2:36-38

He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. God was back with Israel tabernacling among them in the flesh. He was full of Glory as the only begotten of God, full of grace and truth, and yet their eyes would not see Him. They would not see His Glory. John 1:11, 14

Jesus teaches the nation of Israel for three long years. A few people believe, but most turn their backs on Him when He offers to let them enter into the New Covenant with Him. Instead of receiving Him they murder Him.

The Glory of the LORD departs from Israel

Finally, it is Jesus' last week. He goes into the Temple one last time to teach the people. When He leaves, He informs them He will not be back again to the Temple. They will not see Him as the Glory of Israel until He comes again in all His Glory at the end of the age. O Jerusalem... How Jesus wept for you... Matthew 21:23; 23:37-39

The Glory of the LORD returns!

God's Glory does return after Jesus leaves the earth. He sends His Holy Spirit to indwell all believers. The Holy Spirit causes believers to walk in God's ways and to obey Him—conforming each one into the image of God's Own Son, Jesus. True believers give Glory to God simply by being seen by the world! II Corinthians 3:18

The Glory of the LORD returns to Israel!

Jesus is coming again! He will return to the earth in all His Glory. The whole earth will see Him. All the tribes of Israel will see Him and mourn because they will realize that this Jesus that they crucified was indeed The Seed. And, just as He predicted, they will say, "Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord!" Revelation 19:11-16; Zechariah 12:10; Revelation 1:7

The Glory of the LORD remains!

Ezekiel finishes his book with a description of the new Temple that will be in existence during the Millennial Reign of Christ. In this Temple the Glory will stay forever! It will never leave. And just as we saw the Glory of the God of Israel leaving to the east, we see the Glory of the God of Israel coming back from the east. Ezekiel 44:4

God tells Ezekiel, "*This is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever. And the house of Israel will not again defile My Holy Name.*" Why won't they? Because they will enter a New Covenant with God—a Covenant where God keeps both sides of the Covenant and causes them to obey Him—a Covenant where God gives them a new heart—a Covenant where God gives them Jesus, His Holy Son—The Seed to bring them Life! Ezekiel 43:1-9

How long would God remain in His place?

1.

2.

What would it take for Ephraim and Judah to finally acknowledge their guilt and seek God's face?

READ AND REASON

Are you determined to follow man's command or God's command?

**If you are determined to follow man's command,
your rebuke and destruction from God is sure...**

**If you are determined to follow God's command,
You must know Him;
You must know His Word.**

**You cannot follow the Commander or His command if you have not studied His
Word...**

It literally breaks my heart to hear so many "church" people today talking about all sorts of books they have read—books about the world, about themselves, even about God—but who *will not* take the time God demands of them to study His Word. We don't need books about the Bible! We need the Bible!!! You don't need someone else's opinion about the Word of God. You need to know what God says in the Word of God!

The Word of God is pure, unadulterated TRUTH. If you don't know what He says, then you won't know when you hear a lie! And if you can't recognize a lie, you might believe it. And if you believe a lie, you will sin.

God had told the Jews all about The Seed and His coming in His Word, but they didn't recognize TRUTH (The Seed) when He came because they had thrown out the Word of God. Today is no different...

What will you do?

HOSEA – The PROPHECY

Chapter Six

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Hosea 6** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Hosea 6** and mark every reference to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 6** and mark every reference to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 6** and mark every reference to harlotry with an orange box.

Read through **Hosea 6** and mark every reference to knowledge or know with a yellow highlighted circle.

Read through **Hosea 6** and mark every time the LORD says, “I will...” or “I have...”, including synonyms with a purple underline.

Read through **Hosea 6** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time reference is to “That Day” fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Hosea 6** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash, i.e. “black/white”.

Read through **Hosea 6** and mark every contrast with a pink equal sign.

Read through **Hosea 6** and mark every term of conclusion (therefore, etc.) with a pink capital “T”.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Let us return and press on to know the LORD
2. LORD delights in loyalty and the knowledge of God

READ AND ANSWER

Hosea 6:1-3

Read the last verse of the last chapter and notice the connection with the first verse of this chapter. What will God's people eventually say?

What has the LORD done to His people? (Note the cross-reference in **Hosea 5:14.**)

- 1.
- 2.

What has the LORD promised to His people?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What will God's people do on the third day?

In the light of what the LORD has promised, what are His people to do?

What is certain?

How do you know you can depend on a dawn each day?

POINT OF DEPTH

Genesis 8:22

***While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
And cold and heat,
And summer and winter
And day and night
Shall not cease.***

Who makes the dawn a certainty?

What is “His going forth”? (Note the cross-reference in **Hosea 5:14, 15.**)

What will He do?

How will the LORD come to His people?

What is the comparison?

What will the LORD produce in them?

POINT OF DEPTH

Deuteronomy 11:13-15

*It shall come about,
if you listen obediently to my commandments which I am commanding you today,
to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul,
that He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early and late rain,
that you may gather in your grain and your new wine and your oil.
He will give grass in your fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.*

Hosea 6:4-11

What rhetorical lament is given for Ephraim and Judah?

Is there anything else God should have done to keep His people from their sin?

Having done everything to procure their faithfulness to Him, God's people are all the more condemned. What is their loyalty to God like?

1.

2.

Because of the fickle and fading faithfulness of the people, what did God do to them?

1.

2.

3.

Through whom did God announce His judgments on His people?

What did the words of God's mouth through the prophets bring to His disobedient people?

What are His judgments on them like?

What does the light do?

What does God delight in?

1.

2.

What takes second place to loyalty and the knowledge of God?

1.

2.

In making sacrifices and burnt offerings, what needed to be present, but wasn't?

Who transgressed the Covenant?

Who does God use as an example?

In transgressing the Covenant, how have His people dealt with God?

Look up the word for treacherous and write out its meaning below.

Verse 7 speaks in the language of a marriage covenant. What example had God given His people through Hosea and Gomer?

What does it mean to transgress the Covenant (referring to a marriage covenant)?

What does it mean to transgress the Covenant (referring to God's Covenant with His people)?

What does it mean to deal treacherously (referring to a marriage covenant)?

What does it mean to deal treacherously (referring to God's Covenant with His people)?

How is Gilead described?

1.

2.

How is Shechem described?

1.

2.

What horrible thing has been seen in the house of Israel?

1.

2.

Judah is also mentioned, once again, when listing Israel's sin. What does God have to say to Judah?

What is appointed for Judah?

When will this harvest take place?

READ AND REASON

What is the knowledge of God?

Make a list of the things you learn about knowing God and the knowledge of God below these Scripture references.

Proverbs 2:5

Then you will discern the fear of the Lord and discover the knowledge of God.

Hosea 4:1

Listen to the word of the Lord, O sons of Israel, for the Lord has a case against the inhabitants of the land, because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land.

Hosea 6:6

For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

I Corinthians 1:21

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

I Corinthians 15:34

Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

II Corinthians 10:5

We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

Galatians 4:8-9

However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?

Colossians 1:10

so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

I Thessalonians 4:5

...not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

II Thessalonians 1:8

...dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Titus 1:16

They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

II Peter 1:2

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

I John 4:6-8

We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

HOSEA – The PROPHECY

Chapter Seven

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Hosea 7** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Hosea 7** and mark every reference to harlotry with an orange box.

Read through **Hosea 7** and mark every reference to knowledge or know with a yellow highlighted circle.

Read through **Hosea 7** and mark every time the Lord says, “I will...”, including synonyms with a purple underline.

Read through **Hosea 7** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Hosea 7** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash, i.e. “black/white”.

Read through **Hosea 7** and mark every term of conclusion (therefore, etc.) with a pink capital “T”.

Read through **Hosea 7** and mark every reference to evil or wickedness with an orange “do not” sign (a circle with a slash through it.)

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. LORD would heal Israel, but they do not consider that the LORD remembers all their wickedness
2. LORD would redeem Israel, but they have not returned to the LORD in spite of His chastisement

READ AND ANSWER

Hosea 7:1-7

What comes to light in God's efforts to heal Israel?

1.

2.

What are their deeds?

1.

2.

3.

What doesn't Israel consider?

What is the result of God remembering their wickedness?

How is their gross amount of sin described?

1.

2.

How do the king of Israel and the princes of Israel feel about Israel's great sin?

What are they called?

What illustrative picture is used?

What characterizes the oven?

What characterizes the baker?

What happened to the princes of Israel on a festive occasion with the king?

What did the king do?

What are their hearts like?

What are they going to do?

What smolders all night like an oven?

What happens to the flame in the morning?

What are they like?

What do they do to their rulers?

What has happened to their kings?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Four of the Northern Kingdom's last six kings were murdered.
Nine out of Israel's seventeen kings were murdered by their successors.**

What one thing does all of Ephraim (Israel) have in common?

Hosea 7:8-16

The imagery of baking continues. With what does Ephraim mix himself?

How does the cake (Ephraim) turn out?

What has happened to Ephraim's strength?

Does he realize his strength is gone?

Why not?

What has happened to Ephraim's vitality?

Does he realize he has grown own and is feeble?

Why not?

What testifies against Ephraim?

Despite all the misery Ephraim is enduring, what has he not done?

Have they even tried to return to the LORD their God?

What has Ephraim become like?

What metaphor does Hosea use to describe Israel's actions?

Why is Ephraim compared to a silly dove?

What senseless thing does Ephraim do in its distress?

1.

2.

When Ephraim tries to secure deliverance through Egypt or Assyria, what will God do?

What does God's net catch?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Hosea is still using a bird metaphor.
God says He will bring them down like the birds of the sky.
They, in flying about looking for help from Egypt and Assyria,
do not notice God's net
and are taken from freedom into captivity for their foolishness.**

**God will chastise them in accordance with the proclamation to their assembly.
They have not obeyed and God will send the curses of the Law upon them.**

**Deuteronomy 28:18
*Cursed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground,
the increase of your herd and the young of your flock.***

Why is woe pronounced against Ephraim?

Why is destruction promised for Israel?

What do they do that excludes God from redeeming them?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

5.

What, in general, are their lies against God?

POINT OF DEPTH

**The greatest lie of all is that God is not God!
Israel's God is the God of the universe!
He is her Father, Commander, Protector and Provider,
Yet she denies His authority by rebellion against Him.
She denies His power to save by seeking deliverance from other nations.**

Why is Ephraim wailing on their beds?

To Whom is Ephraim wailing?

Why is Ephraim wailing?

Is Ephraim's wail one of sincere repentance and supplication to God?

How do you know?

What has God done to punish Ephraim that they are wailing about?

Does Ephraim acknowledge the crop failure as chastisement from the Lord?

Instead of turning to God in brokenness for their sin, what does Ephraim do?

What had God done for them?

1.

2.

POINT OF DEPTH

**God trained and strengthened their arms for battle,
Yet Ephraim devised evil against the Lord.**

Psalm 18:35

***You have also given me the shield of Your salvation,
And Your right hand upholds me;
And Your gentleness makes me great.***

Psalm 78:57

***But turned back and acted treacherously like their fathers;
They turned aside like a treacherous bow.***

Did Ephraim turn for help?

Did Ephraim turn to the Most High God for help?

What imagery does Hosea use to describe Ephraim's actions?

What is a deceitful bow?

Why will Ephraim's princes fall by the sword?

Who had Ephraim cursed?

Why?

They had turned to Egypt for help instead of to the Most High God—their own God! What would the attitude of the Egyptians be toward the Israelites? (Look up derision in a dictionary if you are not sure what it means.)

READ AND REASON

Was this new behavior for Israel?

Psalm 78:37

*For their heart was not steadfast toward Him,
Nor were they faithful in His covenant.*

Isaiah 9:13

Yet the people do not turn back to Him who struck them, Nor do they seek the Lord of hosts.

Isaiah 29:13

*Then the Lord said, “Because this people draw near with their words
And honor Me with their lip service,
But they remove their hearts far from Me,
And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote,”*

Amos 4:6-13

*“But I gave you also cleanness of teeth in all your cities
And lack of bread in all your places,
Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the Lord.
“Furthermore, I withheld the rain from you
While there were still three months until harvest.
Then I would send rain on one city
And on another city I would not send rain;
One part would be rained on, while the part not rained on would dry up.
So two or three cities would stagger to another city to drink water
But would not be satisfied;
Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the Lord.*

***“I smote you with scorching wind and mildew;
And the caterpillar was devouring
Your many gardens and vineyards, fig trees and olive trees;
Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the Lord.***

***“I sent a plague among you after the manner of Egypt;
I slew your young men by the sword along with your captured horses,
And I made the stench of your camp rise up in your nostrils;
Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the Lord.***

***“I overthrew you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah,
And you were like a firebrand snatched from a blaze;
Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the Lord.***

***Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel;
Because I will do this to you,
Prepare to meet your God, O Israel.
For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind
And declares to man what are His thoughts,
He who makes dawn into darkness
And treads on the high places of the earth,
The Lord God of hosts is His name.***

Did Judah learn from the lessons of Israel?

Jeremiah 3:10

***“Yet in spite of all this
her treacherous sister Judah did not return to Me with all her heart,
but rather in deception,” declares the Lord.***

Jeremiah 8:5-6

***Why then has this people, Jerusalem, turned away in continual apostasy?
They hold fast to deceit, they refuse to return.
I have listened and heard, they have spoken what is not right;
No man repented of his wickedness, saying, ‘What have I done?’
Everyone turned to his course, like a horse charging into the battle.”***

Jeremiah 25:5-7

***saying, ‘Turn now everyone from his evil way and from the evil of your deeds,
and dwell on the land which the Lord has given to you and your forefathers
forever and ever;
and do not go after other gods to serve them and to worship them,
and do not provoke Me to anger with the work of your hands,
and I will do you no harm.’
“Yet you have not listened to Me,” declares the Lord,***

“in order that you might provoke Me to anger with the work of your hands to your own harm.”

Did Judah learn after her own calamity?

Zechariah 1:4

Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets proclaimed, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, “Return now from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.”’ “But they did not listen or give heed to Me,” declares the Lord.

Malachi 2:2

“If you do not listen, and if you do not take it to heart to give honor to My name,” says the Lord of hosts, “then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings; and indeed, I have cursed them already, because you are not taking it to heart.”

Would they ever learn to obey the Lord with their full heart?

Would they ever learn to turn to the Lord and not away from Him?

What will it take?

Ezekiel 36:23-28

“I will vindicate the holiness of My great Name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst.

Then the nations will know that I am the Lord,” declares the Lord God, “when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.

For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

HOSEA – The PROPHECY

Chapter Eight

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Hosea 8** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Hosea 8** and mark every reference to the Law or Covenant, including pronouns, with a brown set of tablets (sort of a rounded capital “M” with an underline.)

Read through **Hosea 8** and mark every reference to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 8** and mark every reference to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 8** and mark every reference to knowledge or know with a yellow highlighted circle.

Read through **Hosea 8** and mark every time the LORD says, “I will...”, including synonyms, such as “He will...”, (when it refers to the LORD) with a purple underline.

Read through **Hosea 8** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Hosea 8** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash, i.e. “black/white”.

Read through **Hosea 8** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through **Hosea 8** and mark every reference to the nations with a purple flag.

Read through **Hosea 8** and mark every reference to a place or location with a pair of orange brackets.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Enemies against Israel
2. Israel is all alone among the nations
3. Israel has sinned; God will remember their sin and punish them

READ AND ANSWER

Hosea 8:1-7

What is Israel to do?

Why?

How will the enemy come?

Why is the enemy coming against the house of the LORD?

1.

2.

What does Israel cry out to God?

Is that true? Does Israel know God? (**Hosea 5:4**)

What has Israel done?

What will happen to Israel because he has rejected the good?

What have they set up?

Was it according to the Word of God that they set up kings?

What did they appoint?

Was it according to the Word of the LORD that they appointed princes?

What have they done with their silver and gold?

What is the result of worshiping idols?

What had Israel rejected? (**Verse 3**)

What now did God reject?

Samaria, being the capitol city of the Northern Kingdom, represented the whole of the Northern Kingdom. Against who does God's anger burn?

What rhetorical question is asked in **verse 5**?

Who is incapable of innocence?

The calf emanated from Israel—the servant of God! How could this be! What obvious proof is there that the calf is not God?

What will surely happen to the calf of Samaria?

Why?

What does Israel sow?

What does Israel reap?

How is what they have reaped (using a sowing metaphor) described?

What kind of crop has no heads of grain?

Why does it not yield anything useful?

What would happen even if it should yield?

Sowing the wind is useless, meaningless. Reaping the whirlwind brings about annihilation and devastation.

Hosea 8:8-10

The sowing and reaping metaphor is not finished. Watch for it throughout this section.

Who is swallowed up by strangers?

Where is Israel?

How is Israel considered?

Where did Israel go?

To what is her travel compared?

What has Ephraim hired?

Why? What are they trying to hire?

To what are the hired lovers, or hired allies among the nations, compared? (**Verse 7**)

What is Ephraim trying to produce? (**Verse 7**)

Yet what would God do?

What would happen to them?

What would God use?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Verses 8-10 are a little difficult to understand.
But we can understand the general thrust of the passage.**

God's anger burned against Israel because of her sin.

In desperation, she went to Assyria to gather help.
Rather than be saved by Assyria, Assyria became her defeat.
God used the very one she sought for help—to punish her.
She ended up all alone, and with a greater burden than before.

Hosea 8:11- 14

What had Ephraim built?

POINT OF DEPTH

Rather than altars, upon which a sin offering could be placed to “make up” for their sin, they are altars, by which every act of the people is a sin itself, thereby increasing their sin.

Why?

Because the only way you can seek the favor of God is through His means.
He had told His people that they should seek Him at the place which He chose,
Jerusalem—there and there alone!

Deuteronomy 12:5

*But you shall seek the LORD at the place
which the Lord your God will choose from all your tribes,
to establish His name there for His dwelling,
and there you shall come.*

Leviticus 10:1-11

*Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron,
took their respective firepans,
and after putting fire in them,
placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD,
which He had not commanded them.*

*And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them,
and they died before the LORD.*

*Then Moses said to Aaron, “It is what the Lord spoke, saying,
‘By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy,
And before all the people I will be honored.’”
So Aaron, therefore, kept silent.*

**Moses called also to Mishael and Elzaphan,
the sons of Aaron's uncle Uzziel,
and said to them,
"Come forward, carry your relatives away from the front of the sanctuary to the
outside of the camp."
So they came forward and carried them still in their tunics to the outside of the
camp, as Moses had said.**

**Then Moses said to Aaron and to his sons Eleazar and Ithamar,
"Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes,
so that you will not die
and that He will not become wrathful against all the congregation.
But your kinsmen, the whole house of Israel,
shall bewail the burning which the LORD has brought about.
You shall not even go out from the doorway of the tent of meeting, or you will die;
for the LORD's anointing oil is upon you.
So they did according to the word of Moses.
The LORD then spoke to Aaron, saying,
"Do not drink wine or strong drink, neither you nor your sons with you,
when you come into the tent of meeting, so that you will not die—
it is a perpetual statute throughout your generations—
and so as to make a distinction between the holy and the profane,
and between the unclean and the clean,
and so as to teach the sons of Israel
all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them through Moses.**

What did God write down for Israel?

Should Israel have known what God required?

Did Israel know what God required?

How did Israel treat God's Law?

What did they do with their sacrificial gifts?

1.

2.

How did the LORD respond to their acts?

What will God do?

When God considers their iniquity, what will He do?

What will be their punishment?

What has Israel done?

1.

2.

What has Judah done?

What will God do?

What will God's fire consume?

READ AND REASON

Read through verse 12 one more time.

Can you see how this is so true of today?

**Do people, individuals and churches, have Bibles—
God's precepts and Law written down for them to hear?**

**Are people able to read and understand their Bibles?
How many people really read and study their Bibles?**

**Why is the Word of God regarded as a strange thing?
Because people do not want to hear the Word of God.
They do not want to hear the Word of God accuse them of sin.
They want to do what they want—
not what God wants—
yet they still want to be thought of as righteous.**

**But it doesn't work that way—
at least not forever.
God says your sin will find you out.
God will judge all ungodliness and all unrighteousness.**

**As for me and my house...
We will serve the Lord.**

**As for me and my house...
We are waiting for His return.**

HOSEA – The PROPHECY

Chapter Nine

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Hosea 9** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Hosea 9** and mark every reference to harlotry with an orange box.

Read through **Hosea 9** and mark every reference to knowledge or know with a yellow highlighted circle.

Read through **Hosea 9** and mark every time the LORD says, “I will...”, including synonyms with a purple underline.

Read through **Hosea 9** and mark every reference to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 9** and mark every reference to Israel or Ephraim, including pronouns, with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 9** and mark every reference to prophet, including pronouns, with a green trumpet.

Read through **Hosea 9** and mark every reference to the nations with a purple flag.

Read through **Hosea 9** and mark every reference to a place or location with a pair of orange brackets.

Read through **Hosea 9** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time reference is to “That Day” fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Hosea 9** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash, i.e. “black/white”.

Read through **Hosea 9** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Ephraim will not remain in the land
2. Days of punishment have come for Ephraim
3. Ephraim devoted themselves to shame
4. God will cast Ephraim away

READ AND ANSWER

Hosea 9:1-6

What is Israel not to do?

Why? What has Israel done?

Who did Israel forsake?

What has Israel loved?

Where has Israel loved harlots' earnings?

POINT OF DEPTH

Keep in mind what the book of Hosea is about.

Remember the first three chapters?

What did God tell Hosea to do?

What happened when Hosea married Gomer?

What were the names of their three children?

What did that adulterous union represent?

**Israel is married to God.
Yet she is continually committing adultery against Him.**

What is she doing here?

**Instead of obeying the Lord's commands
and waiting for Him to provide them with the blessings of a good harvest,
Israel is forsaking the Lord and seeking Baal, instead.
She offers herself as a prostitute (on every threshing floor in Israel)
in order to be paid a good harvest from Baal.**

**But God informs her that they will be disappointed in what they were paid for
their adultery—the threshing floor and wine press will not feed them,
and the new wine will fail them.**

In addition, what will happen to Israel, herself?

To where will Israel be returned?

Egypt was a place of captivity for Israel. She would return to captivity in Assyria. What would she eat while in Assyria?

What will they not do in Assyria?

Why not?

Will their sacrifices please God?

Why not?

What will their bread be like?

What will happen to those who eat it?

What will not enter the house of the LORD?

What would Israel normally do on the day of the appointed festival?

What would Israel normally do on the day of the feast of the LORD?

What would not happen in Egypt or Assyria?

Why will they go into captivity?

What does it mean that they went because of destruction?

Why was destruction sent upon them?

What will Egypt do?

What will Memphis do?

What will happen to the treasures of silver?

What will be in their tents?

Hosea 9:7-9

What has come?

1.

2.

What is Israel to know?

Why is the prophet a fool, and the inspired man demented?

1.

2.

What was Ephraim?

1.

2.

Instead, what was in all his ways?

What is in the house of his God?

How far have they gone into depravity?

POINT OF CONNECTION

Read Judges 19 to see just how far Israel had gone into depravity.

What will God do?

1.

2.

Hosea 9:10-14

What was Israel like when God first saw her?

As what did God see Israel's forefathers?

POINT OF CONNECTION

Jeremiah 2:1-8

*Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
"Go and proclaim in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says the Lord,
"I remember concerning you the devotion of your youth,
The love of your betrothals,
Your following after Me in the wilderness,
Through a land not sown.*

*Israel was holy to the Lord,
The first of His harvest.
All who ate of it became guilty;
Evil came upon them," declares the Lord.*

*Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob,
and all the families of the house of Israel.
Thus says the Lord, "What injustice did your fathers find in Me,
That they went far from Me
And walked after emptiness and became empty?*

***They did not say, 'Where is the Lord Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt,
Who led us through the wilderness,
Through a land of deserts and of pits,
Through a land of drought and of deep darkness,
Through a land that no one crossed and where no man dwelt?'***

***I brought you into the fruitful land to eat its fruit and its good things.
But you came and defiled My land,
And My inheritance you made an abomination.
The priests did not say, 'Where is the Lord?'
And those who handle the law did not know Me;
The rulers also transgressed against Me,
And the prophets prophesied by Baal
And walked after things that did not profit."***

What did the forefathers do?

1.

2.

What did they become?

POINT OF CONNECTION

Read what happened at Baal-peor in Numbers 25.

While Israel remained at Shittim, the people began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab. For they invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel joined themselves to Baal of Peor, and the Lord was angry against Israel.

The Lord said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and execute them in broad daylight before the Lord, so that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel." So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Each of you slay his men who have joined themselves to Baal of Peor."

Then behold, one of the sons of Israel came and brought to his relatives a Midianite woman, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the sons of Israel, while they were weeping at the doorway of the tent of meeting.

When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he arose from the midst of the congregation and took a spear in his hand, and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and pierced both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman, through the body. So the plague on the sons of Israel was checked. Those who died by the plague were 24,000.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned away My wrath from the sons of Israel in that he was jealous with My jealousy among them, so that I did not destroy the sons of Israel in My jealousy. “Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give him My covenant of peace; and it shall be for him and his descendants after him, a covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the sons of Israel.’ ”

Now the name of the slain man of Israel who was slain with the Midianite woman, was Zimri the son of Salu, a leader of a father’s household among the Simeonites. The name of the Midianite woman who was slain was Cozbi the daughter of Zur, who was head of the people of a father’s household in Midian. Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Be hostile to the Midianites and strike them; for they have been hostile to you with their tricks, with which they have deceived you in the affair of Peor and in the affair of Cozbi, the daughter of the leader of Midian, their sister who was slain on the day of the plague because of Peor.”

What did they love?

What will happen to Ephraim? (**Hosea 4:7**)

What will not happen?

1.

2.

3.

Even if they were to bring up the children they already had, what would God do?

What is pronounced against Ephraim?

Why?

Where is Ephraim planted?

What will happen to Ephraim's children?

What will the LORD give Ephraim?

1.

2.

Hosea 9:15-17

What was at Gilgal?

POINT OF CONNECTION

What happened at Gilgal?

I Samuel 11:14

Then Samuel said to the people, "Come and let us go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom there." So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. There they also offered sacrifices of peace offerings before the Lord; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

In installing Saul as king, the people formally discarded the Lord.

I Samuel 8:7

The Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them."

**Whether this incident is in view here or not,
we know from Hosea and Amos
that Gilgal became a center of cultic sacrificial evil in their time.**

Hosea 4:15

***Though you, Israel, play the harlot,
Do not let Judah become guilty;
Also do not go to Gilgal,
Or go up to Beth-aven and take the oath: "As the Lord lives!"***

Hosea 9:15

***"All their evil is at Gilgal;
Indeed, I came to hate them there!
Because of the wickedness of their deeds I will drive them out of My house!
I will love them no more;
All their princes are rebels."***

Hosea 12:11

***"Is there iniquity in Gilead?
Surely they are worthless.
In Gilgal they sacrifice bulls,
Yes, their altars are like the stone heaps
Beside the furrows of the field."***

Amos 4:4

***Enter Bethel and transgress;
In Gilgal multiply transgression!
Bring your sacrifices every morning,
Your tithes every three days.***

Amos 5:5

***But do not resort to Bethel
And do not come to Gilgal,
Nor cross over to Beersheba;
For Gilgal will certainly go into captivity
And Bethel will come to trouble.***

How did God choose to feel toward Ephraim?

Why?

As an adulterous wife is driven out, what did God do to Ephraim?

What did God choose to discontinue for them?

What was true of all their princes?

Who struck Ephraim?

If the root is dried up, what happens to the plant?

What would happen to Ephraim?

And what would happen to the children if Ephraim bore them?

What would happen to the children?

Who would do this?

What was Hosea's God going to do to Ephraim?

Why?

What would become of Ephraim?

READ AND REASON

God's punishments are always righteous and true.

In the first part of Chapter 9, we saw that Israel was playing the harlot, adultery against God, with Baal, the god of fertility. The worshipers of Baal believed he had power over agriculture, animal husbandry, and human sexuality.

What was the punishment for giving Baal credit for the harvest?

1. (What had they put their trust in? So what will *fail*?)
2. (Where were the fields? So where will they *not remain*?)
3. (They defiled themselves, so what would they *eat*?)
4. (They offered themselves to Baal, so what would they *not offer* to God?)
5. (The Baal worshipers of the nations rejoiced in their harvest giving credit for food to a false god, so what *bread* would Ephraim eat?)
6. (They had robbed God of His glory, so what would He *not accept* from them?)
7. (They celebrated in festivals for Baal, so what would they *not do*?)
8. (They played the harlot to get a perfect crop, so what would *grow*?)

In the last part of Chapter 9, we saw that Israel devoted themselves to Baal. They offered their bodies to temple prostitutes in search of fertility.

What was the punishment for seeking fertility from Baal?

1. (Ephraim meant "doubly fruitful". What would happen to the glory of Ephraim's fruitfulness?)
2. (What would happen to their birth rate?)
3. (What would happen to their pregnancy rate?)
4. (What would happen to their rate of conception?)
5. (What would happen to the life expectancy of their children?)
6. (What would happen to their wombs?)
7. (What would happen to their breasts?)
8. (What would happen to the root of Ephraim?)
9. (What fruit would Ephraim bear?)
10. (What would happen to the children they bore?)

HOSEA – The PROPHECY

Chapter Ten

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Hosea 10** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Hosea 10** and mark every reference to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 10** and mark every reference to Israel or Ephraim, including pronouns, with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 10** and mark every time the LORD says, “I will...”, including synonyms with a purple underline.

Read through **Hosea 10** and mark every reference to a place or location with a pair of orange brackets.

Read through **Hosea 10** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time reference is to “That Day” fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Hosea 10** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash, i.e. “black/white”.

Read through **Hosea 10** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through **Hosea 10** and mark every term of conclusion (therefore, etc.) with a pink capital “T”.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Now they must bear their guilt
2. When it is the LORD'S desire, He will chastise them
3. It is time to seek the LORD

READ AND ANSWER

Hosea 10:1-2

What is Israel called?

Luxuriant sounds like a positive thing, yet the context here is negative. How can a plant be destructive?

What does he produce?

Why or how does he produce fruit?

Is a plant to produce fruit for itself or for its Owner's use?

What did he do when he produced more fruit?

What did he do when his land was richer?

POINT OF DEPTH

It seems the point here is that God's vine, although lavishly supplied for (by God), did not produce what it was supposed to. Instead, it produced bad fruit for itself and not the fruit that was useful for its Master. The provision that God gave to His vine, it used on itself and for other gods.

Isaiah 5:1-2

*Let me sing now for my well-beloved
A song of my beloved concerning His vineyard.
My well-beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill.
He dug it all around, removed its stones,
And planted it with the choicest vine.
And He built a tower in the middle of it
And also hewed out a wine vat in it;
Then He expected it to produce good grapes,
But it produced only worthless ones.*

Jeremiah 2:21

*Yet I planted you a choice vine,
A completely faithful seed.
How then have you turned yourself before Me
Into the degenerate shoots of a foreign vine?*

How is their heart described? (Look in your side margin to see the literal translation. Smooth means slippery and deceitful.)

What must now happen?

What will the LORD do?

1.

2.

Hosea 10:3-10

What will they now say?

When is “now”? What has happened? (**Verse 2**)

What do they say about the Lord?

What is the result of not revering the Lord?

What do they say about the king?

Can the king help them?

What do they speak?

Of what do their covenants consist?

What sprouts in the furrows of the field?

Where do you put seed when you plant it in a field?

Who will fear?

For what will they fear?

For what will the people mourn?

Who will cry out over the calf of Beth-aven?

What is the calf of Beth-aven?

Why will they mourn over it and cry out over it?

What has happened to its glory?

What does Hosea prophesy will happen to the calf itself?

Where will the calf be taken?

To whom will the calf be a tribute?

Who will be seized with shame?

Who will be ashamed of their own counsel?

What will happen to Samaria?

What will happen to the king of Samaria?

What happens to a stick on the surface of the water? It is carried along by the current of the water until out of sight; helpless to do anything about it.

What will be destroyed?

What are the high places of Aven?

POINT OF DEPTH

I Kings 12:25-33; 13:33; II Chronicles 13:8-9

In 931 BC, God tore the kingdom of Israel in two. Ten of the twelve tribes of Israel became the Northern Kingdom under the rule of Jeroboam, one of Solomon's servants. The Northern Kingdom was sometimes referred to as "Ephraim" because Jeroboam first built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. He went out from there and built Peniel. Samaria eventually became the capital of the Northern Kingdom.

Jeroboam had a problem, though. The Israelites needed to follow the ceremonies of the Law which required them to go to Jerusalem three times a year to the Temple. The Temple in Jerusalem was the only place that Jews could worship, sacrifice or keep their feasts. Jeroboam was worried that the people from the ten tribes God had given him would defect to the Southern Kingdom if they went down to familiar Jerusalem. Now, did he have a legitimate concern? Not if he obeyed God, he didn't! God had given him those ten tribes, and God promised to let him keep them if he would simply obey!

Well, it seems Jeroboam must have forgotten that it was God Who gave him his position as king, and it was God Who could and would take it away! Jeroboam decided to take matters into his own hands and fix everything. He thought he had a great idea. All he had to do was arrange it so the people didn't have to go south to Jerusalem to worship God. You can tell where this idea was leading!

He made two golden calves and he told the ten northern tribes, *"It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt."* He set one in Bethel and the other one he put in Dan. Just in case that little ploy wasn't enough, he also built houses on high places (altars in the hills for foreign gods).

But he wasn't done yet; he would need priests to take care of all the ceremonial stuff. So... he just made his own! God was very clear to Moses that *only* Levites could be priests,

**but Jeroboam was on a roll. Why be burdened with all those restrictive rules?
He would make priests from all the people who were not of the sons of Levi!
His rule was simply, “If you want to be a priest, let me know! I’ll make you one!”**

**As far as that goes, he thought, “Why be stuck with God’s calendar?”
Jereboam would just go ahead and devise his own feast days too!
After all, he was king, wasn’t he?**

**Well, needless to say idolatry increased abundantly in the Northern Kingdom.
So God sent prophets calling the people to repent.
The king and the people stopped up their ears
and would not listen to the prophets; instead they stoned them.**

**In the book of Hosea, God’s prophet is speaking about this very same calf in
Beth-el (the house of God), only Hosea called it Beth-aven, (house of iniquity.)**

What would grow on the altars of the high places of Aven?

- 1.
- 2.

If thorns and thistles are growing on the altars of the high places of Aven, what does that say about the use of those altars?

What does that say about those who used the altars?

Do you notice a contrast between the vine that was growing unhindered, although it produced no useful fruit, and the thorns and thistles?

What will the people say to the mountains when these calamities strike them?

What will the people say to the hills when these calamities strike?

Remember what horrible event happened at Gibeah (**Judges 19-20.**) Had Israel ever repented of her wickedness?

Where did Israel still stand?

What will overtake Israel?

When will God chastise Israel?

Who will God use to chastise Israel?

For what will they be bound?

Will Israel escape its punishment?

Hosea 10:11-15

How is Ephraim described?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Threshing is a much more pleasant task for the oxen than plowing.
While threshing, the animal was left to tread the harvest,
all the while eating all it desired.**

**Deuteronomy 25:4
*You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing.***

What would God put over Ephraim's fair neck?

Who would God harness?

Who would plow?

Who would harrow for himself?

Verse 12 is a call to repentance. How are they exhorted to sow?

What does that mean literally? How can you sow with a view to righteousness? God says you reap what you sow! What could they sow that would reap righteousness?

What are they to reap in accordance with?

What does that mean literally? How can you reap in accordance with kindness?

What did they need to do?

What is fallow ground? (Look it up in a concordance.)

Why do you break up fallow ground if you want to sow?

What time was it?

What time is it now? Do you have fallow ground? Then what must you do?

For how long must they seek the Lord?

When did God come to rain righteousness on His people?

Will He come again?

What had Israel plowed?

What had Israel reaped?

What had Israel eaten?

In what had Israel trusted?

1.

2.

In what should have Israel trusted?

What would arise among the people of Israel?

Why?

What would be destroyed?

How horrific would this tumult be?

1.

2.

Look up Beth-arbel in a concordance. What does it mean?

Although we do not know for sure who the reference to Shalman is (it could possibly be Shalmanezar of Assyria), what do we know about the coming tumult?

Why will this same atrocity happen to God's people?

What will happen to the king of Israel?

When will the king of Israel be completely cut off?

READ AND REASON

Isn't verse 12 a wonderful insert in chapter 10?—especially the last part, *“For it is time to seek the Lord until He comes to rain righteousness of you.”*

Hosea 6:3.

“So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth.”

The Messiah will come again! And when He does, He will bring righteousness to the nation of Israel! Seek Him until He comes!

Joel 2:23-27

*So rejoice, O sons of Zion, And be glad in the Lord your God;
For He has given you the early rain for your vindication.*

***And He has poured down for you the rain, the early and latter rain as before.
The threshing floors will be full of grain,
And the vats will overflow with the new wine and oil.
Then I will make up to you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
The creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust,
My great army which I sent among you.
You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied
And praise the name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you;
Then My people will never be put to shame.
Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel,
And that I am the Lord your God, and there is no other;
And My people will never be put to shame.***

Read Psalm 72 below. Although Solomon was the historical son of David referred to, this psalm is referring prophetically to Messiah, the Greater Son of David!

A Psalm of Solomon.

***Give the king Your judgments, O God,
And Your righteousness to the king's Son.
May He judge Your people with righteousness
And Your afflicted with justice.***

***Let the mountains bring peace to the people,
And the hills, in righteousness.
May He vindicate the afflicted of the people,
Save the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.***

***Let them fear You while the sun endures,
And as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
May He come down like rain upon the mown grass,
Like showers that water the earth.
In His days may the righteous flourish,
And abundance of peace till the moon is no more.
May He also rule from sea to sea
And from the River to the ends of the earth.***

***Let the nomads of the desert bow before Him,
And His enemies lick the dust.
Let the kings of Tarshish and of the islands bring presents;
The kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.
And let all kings bow down before Him,
All nations serve Him.***

***For He will deliver the needy when he cries for help,
The afflicted also, and him who has no helper.
He will have compassion on the poor and needy,
And the lives of the needy He will save.
He will rescue their life from oppression and violence,
And their blood will be precious in His sight;***

***So may He live, and may the gold of Sheba be given to Him;
And let them pray for Him continually;
Let them bless Him all day long.
May there be abundance of grain in the earth on top of the mountains;
Its fruit will wave like the cedars of Lebanon;
And may those from the city flourish like vegetation of the earth.
May His name endure forever;
May His name increase as long as the sun shines;
And let men bless themselves by Him;
Let all nations call Him blessed.***

***Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who alone works wonders.
And blessed be His glorious name forever;
And may the whole earth be filled with His glory.
Amen, and Amen.
The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.***

Revelation 22:20

***He Who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly."
Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus.***

HOSEA – The PROPHECY

Chapter Eleven

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Hosea 11** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Hosea 11** and mark every reference to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 11** and mark every reference to Israel, or Ephraim, including pronouns, with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 11** and mark every reference to knowledge or know with a yellow highlighted circle.

Read through **Hosea 11** and mark every time the LORD says, “I will...”, including synonyms with a purple underline. Also mark every time the LORD says He did something, i.e. “I loved, I called, I taught” etc.

Read through **Hosea 11** and mark every reference to prophet, including pronouns, with a green trumpet. (Check **verses 2** and **7**.)

Read through **Hosea 11** and mark every reference to a place or location with a pair of orange brackets.

Read through **Hosea 11** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time reference is to “That Day” fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Hosea 11** and mark every term of conclusion (therefore, etc.) with a pink capital “T”.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. God cared for Israel from his youth—Israel did not know
2. God's people are bent on turning from Him—none at all exalt Him
3. God is the Holy One in their midst—He will not destroy Ephraim again
4. Ephraim and Judah are unfaithful—against the Holy One, Who is faithful

READ AND ANSWER

Hosea 11:1-4

Who loved Israel?

When did God love Israel?

What relationship did God have to Israel?

What relationship did Israel have to God?

Where was Israel when God called him?

Who did God use to call them?

What did Israel do the more God's prophets called them?

What did Israel continue to do?

1.

2.

Who taught Ephraim how to walk?

Who did God take in His arms?

What didn't Israel know?

What did Israel refuse to know?

What did God lead them with?

1.

2.

What did God become to them?

When God lifted the yoke from their jaws, what did He do?

1.

2.

*Such love! Such holy condescending love! Such immeasurably pure love!
Oh, Israel, the LORD is your God! Oh, Israel, the LORD your God loves you!*

Hosea 11:5-7

Reread **Hosea 10:14-15** to remember the context of the tumult that would arise. When it happens, who will not return to the land of Egypt?

Where will Ephraim be sent?

Who will be Ephraim's king?

Why?

What will whirl against their cities?

Whose sword?

What will the sword do?

1.

2.

Why?

What are God's people, Ephraim, bent on doing?

Who calls God's people to turn to the One on High?

Who sent the prophets?

What is Hosea doing?

Who exalts the One on High?

Hosea 11:8-11

What four rhetorical “How can I” questions does God ask?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

POINT OF DEPTH

Deuteronomy 29:23

All its land is brimstone and salt, a burning waste, unsown and unproductive, and no grass grows in it, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the Lord overthrew in His anger and in His wrath.

What did God do to Admah and Zeboiim?

What did Ephraim deserve?

Yet, what was keeping God from destroying Israel utterly and completely?

How did God describe His emotions?

***What great love! What intense and powerful love! What extreme and passionate love!
Oh, Israel, consider His eternal love for you! Return His love! Oh, Israel, return to Him!***

What will God not execute?

What will God not do to Ephraim?

Why?

How does God describe Himself?

1.

2.

Where does God say He is?

How will God *not* come to them?

Instead, what will God cause to happen?

What will God do?

Why will God roar like a lion?

Who will come when God roars like a lion?

From where will God's sons come?

1.

2.

3.

What will they be like as they come from the west?

What will they be like as they come from the land of Assyria?

What will God do when they come back to the land of Israel?

Has this happened yet? Is this yet future?

Hosea 11:12

How does God describe the magnitude of Ephraim's lies and deceit?

How does God describe the sin of Judah?

How does God describe Himself?

READ AND REASON

Why does God describe Himself as faithful? (Remember the context of Hosea, especially the first three chapters.)

Deception, treachery and roaming—all words that portray a faithless wife...

Yet God, her faithful husband, would not destroy her...

Neither would He, in His faithfulness, leave her unpunished...

HOSEA – The PROPHECY

Chapter Twelve

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Hosea 12** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Hosea 12** and mark every reference to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 12** and mark every reference to Israel or Ephraim with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 12** and mark every time the Lord says, “I will...”, including synonyms with a purple underline.

Read through **Hosea 12** and mark every reference to prophet, including pronouns, with a green trumpet.

Read through **Hosea 12** and mark every reference to a city, region, or nation with a pair of orange brackets.

Read through **Hosea 12** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time reference is to “That Day” fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Hosea 12** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash, i.e. “black/white”.

Read through **Hosea 12** and mark every term of conclusion (therefore, etc.) with a pink capital “T”.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Lord has disputes with both Ephraim and Judah
2. Jacob as example to obtain the favor of the Lord
3. Lord has been their God since the land of Egypt
4. Lord will leave Ephraim's bloodguilt on him

READ AND ANSWER

Hosea 12:1-6

On what does Ephraim feed?

What does Ephraim pursue?

How often does Ephraim pursue the east wind?

What does he multiply?

- 1.
- 2.

POINT OF DEPTH

“Ephraim feeds on wind” can be translated “Ephraim shepherds the wind”. Either way the meaning is the same—what Ephraim is doing is futile. Feeding on wind gives you no sustenance and shepherding the wind is an impossibility. However, the latter fits more easily with the second line “pursues the east wind continually”. The east wind is the dangerous Sirocco, which is hot, arid and tornadic, not only untamable, but full of certain destruction.

Ephraim has been pursuing Assyria for protection (the dangerous Sirocco) and yet is deceptively courting Egypt (Assyria's rival) at the same time, thereby multiplying her lies and violence. Her appeal for protection to both nations (rather than to her God) will turn out to be her undoing.

What did Ephraim make with Assyria?

What did Ephraim make with Egypt?

Why?

Hosea has just recorded the Lord's case against Ephraim, and now goes on to address His dispute against Judah. What will the Lord do to Jacob (the descendants of Jacob or twelve tribes of Israel)?

1.

2.

What did Jacob do while still in his mother's womb?

What did Jacob do many years later while in his maturity?

1.

2.

When he wrestled with the angel, what was the outcome?

What “tools” did he use?

For what did he weep?

Whose favor did he seek?

What is the commonality between the two events in **verse 3**?

What happened at Bethel?

1.

2.

What was going on in Bethel in the time of Hosea?

Write out Whose favor Jacob was seeking and Who he found.

How did Jacob prevail in obtaining the Lord’s favor?

Why did Hosea give the example of Jacob’s all-out efforts to obtain what he desired?

How could Israel prevail in obtaining the Lord’s favor in Hosea’s time?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Do you see how important it was for Israel to perpetually and with all their strength (just like Jacob) wait for the Lord?

Hosea 12:7-11

In whose hands are false balances?

What does the merchant with false balances love to do?

POINT OF DEPTH

The word for merchant is literally Cana. Canaanites were known for cheating and defrauding in their business dealings. False balances were scales in which the weight system was manipulated so that the purchaser thought he was getting what he was paying for, when in fact; he was getting less than what he was paying for.

Ephraim is compared to these merchants. What did Ephraim say?

To what or whom did Ephraim attribute his wealth?

What did Ephraim claim was true of his endeavor for riches?

Were Ephraim's conclusions truthful?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Ephraim had worshiped false gods and followed the ways of those gods, thereby becoming oppressive just like the treacherous merchant.
He had also become arrogant and gave himself credit for his wealth.
Ephraim should have depended on His God and His Ways of Truth and Righteousness.
Ephraim needed to be humbled in order to remember the Lord his God Who brought him out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**

How long had God been Ephraim's God?

What would God make Israel do again?

When did Israel live in tents? (Look at the context.)

What was the purpose of living in tents?

What did the nation do for forty years (after Egypt and before entering the Promised Land of Israel)?

Where did Israel live for those forty years?

Who provided everything for the Israelites during those years?

Of what should the Feast of Booths remind God's people?

POINT OF CONNECTION

Deuteronomy 29:5

*I have led you forty years in the wilderness;
your clothes have not worn out on you,
and your sandal has not worn out on your foot.*

Nehemiah 9:21

*Indeed, forty years You provided for them in the wilderness
and they were not in want; their clothes did not wear out, nor did their feet swell.*

Matthew 6:31-32

*Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?'
or 'What will we drink?'
or 'What will we wear for clothing?'
(what you shouldn't)
for the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things;
for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things
(why you shouldn't).*

**What is a master responsible to provide for his servant?
What is a father responsible to provide for his son?**

Why is God saying that He will make Ephraim live in tents again?

If they live in tents again, as in the days of the *appointed festival*, of what would they be mindful? (It does *not* say, "as in the days of the *wilderness*.")

Verse 9 starts with "but", a connecting word. Can you see the connection between **verses 7 and 8** and **verse 9**?

What was Ephraim's attitude in **verse 8**?

POINT OF DEPTH

Deuteronomy 8:11-20

***Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God
by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes
which I am commanding you today;
otherwise,
when you have eaten and are satisfied,
and have built good houses and lived in them,
and when your herds and your flocks multiply,
and your silver and gold multiply,
and all that you have multiplies,
then your heart will become proud
and you will forget the Lord your God
Who brought you out from the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery.
He led you through the great and terrible wilderness,
with its fiery serpents and scorpions
and thirsty ground where there was no water;
He brought water for you out of the rock of flint.
In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know,
that He might humble you and that He might test you,
to do good for you in the end.
Otherwise, you may say in your heart,
'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.'
But you shall remember the Lord your God,
for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth,
that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers,
as it is this day.
It shall come about if you ever forget the Lord your God
and go after other gods and serve them and worship them,
I testify against you today that you will surely perish.
Like the nations that the Lord makes to perish before you, so you shall perish;
because you would not listen to the voice of the Lord your God.***

As the Lord their God, what, besides providing for them, had God done?

1.

2.

3.

What were the messages of the prophets?

What were the messages of the visions?

Were the people able to understand the prophets' messages?

How?

Had God been remiss in reproofing Ephraim for his sin? Was there something else God should have done?

Verse 11 is itself, a parable. Let's look at it closely. It is broken into two thoughts by the two places mentioned. What are they?

1.

2.

Gilead is mentioned in **Hosea 6:8**. How is Gilead described in that passage?

Obviously Gilead is seen as a place of sin for Ephraim. Ephraim was arrogant and thought he did not need to obey the Lord. But, because of their sin, God would have to punish them, and when God judged them, what would they become?

Ephraim thought he was really something. But, in reality, what was Ephraim without God?

Now let's look at the second part of the parable of **verse 11**. What did they do in Gilgal?

Did God allow sacrifices in any place besides the place He had chosen?

What place did God choose?

What does Hosea say that made their altars?

What are heaps of stone beside the furrows of the field? Are they a help to the farmer?
Are they a hindrance?

What do they hinder the field from doing?

What have Ephraim's false altars become to him—a help in seeking God, or a hindrance?

What do they hinder Ephraim from doing?

Hosea 12:12-14

Hosea has mentioned Jacob, Ephraim's forefather in this chapter as an example to God's people to motivate them to return to the Lord and wait faithfully for Him with all of their strength and perseverance. Now Hosea used Jacob as an example once again, this time to show the contrasts between what Jacob did without God and what God does for His people. How did Jacob leave the land of Canaan?

To where did he flee?

In contrast, how did Israel leave Egypt?

Back to Jacob's example; how did Jacob acquire a wife?

How did Jacob keep his wife?

In contrast, how was Israel kept?

In the example, Jacob had to flee to a foreign land and work very hard to obtain a wife. He even had to work hard to keep his wife. What contrast does Hosea give between Jacob (Israel's ancestor) and Israel (Jacob's descendant)?

What is the contrast between having to work hard in order to keep and being kept?

What does Jacob mean?

What does Israel mean?

Had Ephraim shown any acknowledgement of his state before he received the grace of the LORD?

Had Ephraim shown any gratefulness to the LORD for the wonderful things the Lord had done for him?

What has Ephraim done?

Who has Ephraim provoked to bitter anger?

What is on Ephraim?

What will the Lord do with Ephraim's bloodguilt?

What will leaving Ephraim's bloodguilt on him ultimately mean? What will have to come to Ephraim?

READ AND REASON

Observe the verses below and mark them carefully. Try to answer the following questions:

Whose feast is the Feast of Booths?

Who is the Feast to?

When is the Feast of Booths?

What would the people have just finished doing on the fifteenth of the seventh month each year?

What is the purpose of the Feast of Booths?

What key repeated phrases do you see in these cross-references?

Who provided the offerings that were to be made?

What was to be celebrated?

What were the people *not* to do during the Feast of Booths?

Why not? (Think it through, ask God to help you to understand His magnificent plan.)

Do you see a connection between the people gathering in the fruit of their labors and the people not doing any laborious work?

Write out what you see.

Will the Feast of Booths still be celebrated once the Messiah comes again?

Why?

Why will any nation that does not come up to Jerusalem and celebrate the Feasts of Booths be punished?

What will be its punishment?

What is the connection between not celebrating the Feast of Booths and not receiving rain?

Why will there not be a Canaanite in the house of the Lord of hosts any longer? (Reason through this one carefully and, of course, prayerfully. Remember what they were celebrating.)

Exodus 23:16

Also you shall observe...the Feast of the Ingathering at the end of the year when you gather in the fruit of your labors from the field.

Exodus 34:22

You shall celebrate...the Feast of Ingathering at the turn of the year.

Leviticus 23:39-43

***On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month,
when you have gathered in the crops of the land,
you shall celebrate the feast of the Lord for seven days,
with a rest on the first day and a rest on the eighth day.
Now on the first day you shall take for yourselves the foliage of beautiful trees,
palm branches and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook,
and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days.
You shall thus celebrate it as a feast to the Lord for seven days in the year.
It shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations;
you shall celebrate it in the seventh month.
You shall live in booths for seven days;
all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths,
so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel live in booths
when I brought them out from the land of Egypt.
I am the Lord your God.***

Numbers 29:12-39

***Then on the fifteenth day of the seventh month
you shall have a holy convocation;
you shall do no laborious work,
and you shall observe a feast to the Lord for seven days.
You shall present a burnt offering,
an offering by fire as a soothing aroma to the Lord:
thirteen bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs one year old,
which are without defect;
and their grain offering, fine flour mixed with oil:
three-tenths of an ephah for each of the thirteen bulls,
two-tenths for each of the two rams,
and a tenth for each of the fourteen lambs;
and one male goat for a sin offering, besides the continual burnt offering,
its grain offering and its drink offering.***

***Then on the second day: twelve bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs one year
old without defect;
and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams and for
the lambs, by their number according to the ordinance;
and one male goat for a sin offering, besides the continual burnt offering and its
grain offering, and their drink offerings.***

***Then on the third day: eleven bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs one year old
without defect;
and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams and for***

***the lambs, by their number according to the ordinance;
and one male goat for a sin offering, besides the continual burnt offering and its grain offering and its drink offering.***

***Then on the fourth day: ten bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs one year old without defect;
their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams and for the lambs, by their number according to the ordinance;
and one male goat for a sin offering, besides the continual burnt offering, its grain offering and its drink offering.***

***Then on the fifth day: nine bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs one year old without defect;
and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams and for the lambs, by their number according to the ordinance;
and one male goat for a sin offering, besides the continual burnt offering and its grain offering and its drink offering.***

***Then on the sixth day: eight bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs one year old without defect;
and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams and for the lambs, by their number according to the ordinance;
and one male goat for a sin offering, besides the continual burnt offering, its grain offering and its drink offerings.***

***Then on the seventh day: seven bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs one year old without defect;
and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams and for the lambs, by their number according to the ordinance;
and one male goat for a sin offering, besides the continual burnt offering, its grain offering and its drink offering.***

On the eighth day you shall have a solemn assembly; you shall do no laborious work.

***But you shall present a burnt offering, an offering by fire, as a soothing aroma to the Lord: one bull, one ram, seven male lambs one year old without defect;
their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bull, for the ram and for the lambs, by their number according to the ordinance;
and one male goat for a sin offering, besides the continual burnt offering and its grain offering and its drink offering.***

You shall present these to the Lord at your appointed times, besides your votive offerings and your freewill offerings, for your burnt offerings and for your grain offerings and for your drink offerings and for your peace offerings.

Deuteronomy 16:13-18

You shall celebrate the Feast of Booths seven days after you have gathered in

***from your threshing floor and your wine vat;
and you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter and your
male and female servants and the Levite and the stranger and the orphan and the
widow who are in your towns.***

***Seven days you shall celebrate a feast to the Lord your God in the place which
the Lord chooses, because the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce
and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful.***

***Three times in a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the
place which He chooses, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread and at the Feast of
Weeks and at the Feast of Booths, and they shall not appear before the Lord
empty-handed.***

***Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your
God which He has given you.***

***You shall appoint for yourself judges and officers in all your towns which the
Lord your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the
people with righteous judgment.***

Deuteronomy 29:5

***I have led you forty years in the wilderness;
your clothes have not worn out on you,
and your sandal has not worn out on your foot.
and they were not in want; their clothes did not wear out, nor did their feet swell.***

Deuteronomy 31:10-11

***Then Moses commanded them, saying, "At the end of every seven years,
at the time of the year of remission of debts, at the Feast of Booths,
when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God
at the place which He will choose,
you shall read this law in front of all Israel in their hearing."***

Nehemiah 8:13-18

***Then on the second day the heads of fathers' households of all the people,
the priests and the Levites were gathered to Ezra the scribe
that they might gain insight into the words of the law.
They found written in the law how the Lord had commanded through Moses that
the sons of Israel should live in booths during the feast of the seventh month.
So they proclaimed and circulated a proclamation
in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying,
"Go out to the hills, and bring olive branches and wild olive branches, myrtle
branches, palm branches and branches of other leafy trees, to make booths,
as it is written."***

***So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves,
each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God,
and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim.
The entire assembly of those who had returned from the captivity***

made booths and lived in them.

The sons of Israel had indeed not done so from the days of Joshua the son of Nun to that day. And there was great rejoicing.

He read from the book of the law of God daily, from the first day to the last day.

And they celebrated the feast seven days,

and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly according to the ordinance.

Nehemiah 9:21

Indeed, forty years You provided for them in the wilderness

These next two references concern the time of the Millennial Reign of Messiah.

Ezekiel 45:25

In the seventh month, on the fifteenth day of the month, at the feast,

he shall provide like this,

seven days for the sin offering, the burnt offering, the grain offering and the oil.

Zechariah 14:16-21

Then it will come about that any who are left

of all the nations that went against Jerusalem

will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts,

and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to

Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, there will be no rain on them.

If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them;

it will be the plague with which the Lord smites the nations

who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations

who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

In that day there will be inscribed on the bells of the horses,

“HOLY TO THE LORD.”

And the cooking pots in the Lord’s house will be like the bowls before the altar.

Every cooking pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be holy to the Lord of hosts;

and all who sacrifice will come and take of them and boil in them.

And there will no longer be a Canaanite

in the house of the Lord of hosts in that day.

If you think you understand the purpose and the symbolism of the Feast of Booths, think on the questions below:

What did God provide for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden?

When man was cursed because of sin, did any part of the curse have to do with labor?

What did the curse require man to do?

If you understand the reasoning of the questions above, go on to a last few:

What does Hosea say about God and rain and righteousness? (Hosea 6:3; 10:12)

What did Jesus say at the Feast of Booths? (John 7)

Don't worry if you don't understand the questions I have asked. It is God Who gives revelation and understanding; and He gives it in His time. His ways are perfect!

HOSEA - The PROPHECY

ChapterThirteen

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Hosea 13** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Hosea 13** and mark every reference to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 13** and mark every reference to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 13** and mark every reference to knowledge or know with a yellow highlighted circle.

Read through **Hosea 13** and mark every time the Lord says, "I will...", including synonyms with a purple underline.

Read through **Hosea 13** and mark every reference to king, including pronouns, with a green crown.

Read through **Hosea 13** and mark every reference to death or died with a black box.

Read through **Hosea 13** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Hosea 13** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through **Hosea 13** and mark every term of conclusion (therefore, etc.) with a pink capital "T".

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Ephraim died through idols
2. Ephraim forgot the Lord their God so Lord will be like a lion to them
3. Israel's king cannot save them
4. Ephraim's sin is stored up
5. Ephraim will be held guilty

READ AND ANSWER

Hosea 13:1-3

When Ephraim spoke, what was the response in Israel?

Why?

Who exalted Ephraim?

Of what was Ephraim guilty?

What was the penalty of Ephraim's guilt?

Did Ephraim stop sinning?

What did he do instead?

What does Ephraim make for themselves?

How are their idols made?

Of what are the idols made?

Is there even one idol that is a god?

How do you know?

What do the craftsmen say to do with the idols?

Which men are encouraged to kiss the calves?

Why do these men sacrifice?

To whom do these men sacrifice?

Why would men kiss the idols?

Who will be like the morning cloud?

What happens to the morning cloud?

Who will be like the dew?

What happens to the morning dew?

What happens to chaff on the threshing floor?

What happens to smoke from a chimney?

Who will be like the chaff on the threshing floor and the smoke from a chimney?

Why will Ephraim disappear and be no more?

Why will Ephraim be blown away?

Read **Hosea 6:4**. What do you see that is like **Hosea 13:3**?

In **Hosea 13:3** the picture is of Ephraim disappearing like the morning cloud or the dew. In **Hosea 6:4** what is compared to the morning cloud or the dew?

Why do you think God uses the exact same imagery?

What do you see in **Hosea 13:1-3** that shows Ephraim's betrayal?

God's judgments are righteous and true. Amen.

Hosea 13:4-8

What has God been to Ephraim?

How long has God been Ephraim's LORD God?

POINT OF DEPTH

Exodus 6:7-8

***Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God;
and you shall know that I am the LORD your God,
Who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.
I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
and I will give it to you for a possession;
I am the LORD.***

Think it through:

God created Creation; therefore, He owned it all.

**God created man from the dust of the ground of the earth of His creation;
therefore, He owned all rights over man.**

**God took one man out of His creation, Abraham,
and made him into a great nation—the nation of Israel;
therefore, He owned the nation.**

Keep thinking it through:

God created Creation; therefore, He owned it all.

**God created the earth and all its ground; therefore He owned all rights to it.
Because God owned the nation of Israel and God owned the land of Canaan;
therefore, God had all the rights to give it to them.**

Therefore:

**Since God owned the land and the nation,
He had and has all the rights, entitlements, privileges and claims
to expect whatever He wants of the land or the nation.**

He does...

And Ephraim knew it...

What requirement was imposed upon God's people?

Who is the only God they were to know?

Yet, to whom had they sacrificed?

What had they 'kissed' (given homage and worship)?

Had Ephraim been holy to God?

POINT OF DEPTH

A holy nation to God—

Exodus 19:1-6

*In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt,
on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai.
When they set out from Rephidim,
they came to the wilderness of Sinai and camped in the wilderness;
and there Israel camped in front of the mountain.
Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying,
“Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel:
‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians,
and how I bore you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself.
Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant,
then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples,
for all the earth is Mine;
and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’
These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”*

God promised to cut a covenant with the nation of Israel.

It would be His Law Covenant.

They were HIS people—HIS nation!

They were His Own—a special treasured possession.

They only had value because HE valued them as HIS Own possession.

He had always owned them—the whole earth was, and is, and always will be His,
but He chose to create a unique nation out of one man (Abraham)

and to favor that nation with His lovingkindness and make it great.

He set conditions upon HIS great nation of Israel in His Covenant with them—

Israel must obey His voice.
They were not allowed to govern themselves or follow the ways of another nation.
Israel must keep His Covenant.
They were required to obey His laws, His precepts, His ordinances.

IF and ONLY IF
Israel obeyed—
THEN and ONLY THEN
Israel would be—

God's Own possession!
A kingdom of priests to God!
A holy nation to God!

Who is the Savior?

Is there any other Savior?

Did the people know what God expected of them?

POINT OF DEPTH

Exodus 19:7-8

*So Moses came and called the elders of the people,
and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him.
All the people answered together and said,
“All that the LORD has spoken we will do!”
And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.*

**Not only did God own His people, but they knew it very well.
In fact, they had voluntarily agreed to His demands.**

**They had wanted Him for their God when they thought they needed Him;
They discarded Him for false images of false gods when they thought they didn't.**

**God's lesson for Ephraim would be painful,
but it would be simple—
"I AM the Lord your God.
There is no other Savior besides Me."**

Who cared for Ephraim in the wilderness?

What was the wilderness like?

How well did God care for them in the wilderness? What did He provide for them?

Did they receive His provision?

What did they become?

Once they were satisfied, what did they do to their heart?

Once their heart was proud, what did they do?

Completely the opposite of forgetting God, what were they supposed to do (**verse 4**)?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Read through the following verses, Hosea 13:4-6,
Mark 'know' and 'cared for' each with a red circle.
Mark 'forgot' with a black circle.**

Hosea 13:4-6

**4 Yet I have been the Lord your God Since the land of Egypt;
And you were not to know any god except Me,
For there is no savior besides Me.**

**5 I cared for you in the wilderness,
In the land of drought.**

**6 As they had their pasture, they became satisfied,
And being satisfied, their heart became proud;
Therefore they forgot Me.**

**The words know and cared for are exactly the same word in Hebrew—*yada*.
It means to care for and to consider.**

**The Hebrew word for forgot is *shakach*.
It means to forget, to ignore, to cease to care for.**

**God cared for Ephraim.
Ephraim was not to know any god except God.
Ephraim ceased to care for God.
Ephraim cared for Baal.**

What would God become to Ephraim?

Why?

What does a leopard do?

For what does a leopard wait?

For whom would God wait?

How would God encounter Ephraim?

How would you describe a bear robbed of her cubs?

What would God do to them (as a bear would do)?

How would God be like a lioness?

God had cared for His people splendidly. Like a well-pastured flock, they had grazed contentedly. They were so well cared for that they became proud of the condition, rather than be thankful to the giver of the condition. In caring so perfectly for His sheep, God also protected them from wild beasts. Now, He would become like a wild beast and tear them apart Himself.

Hosea 13:9-11

Who is Israel against?

What is God to them?

What is synonymous with being against God?

Why will Israel be destroyed?

What does God sarcastically ask Israel?

Could Israel's king save Israel?

Could Israel's judges save Israel?

Who was Israel's King from the beginning?

What did Israel ask God to give them?

In asking God to give them a human king, they were discarding God, Himself, as their true King. Yet, did God give them a king?

Who took Israel's king away?

Why?

Hosea 13:12-14

Has God overlooked Ephraim's sin?

How do you know?

What is true of Ephraim's iniquity?

What is true of Ephraim's sin?

Where, do you think, is Ephraim's iniquity and sin bound up and kept on record?

What has come upon Ephraim?

Why isn't Ephraim wise?

Hosea pictures a son that is about to be born. The pains of childbirth are upon him. Evidently a wise son cooperates with the childbirth process, but foolishly, this child will not break forth from the womb into new birth. What will happen to both the child and the mother if the child is not born?

How does this compare with Ephraim? What will happen to Ephraim if he does not flee the pains coming upon him by repenting and being born into a new life?

God asks two rhetorical questions and then follows with two more. What are the first two questions?

1.

2.

Ransom and redeem who?

From what?

1.

2.

Why is Ephraim in the power of Sheol and death?

What are the second two questions?

1.

2.

Look at the first question of the first pair of questions. Compare it with the second pair of questions. Is there a connection? What is it?

Look at the second question of the first pair of questions. Compare it with the second pair of questions. Is there a connection? What is it?

What is the answer?

What will be hidden from God's sight?

Why?

Hosea 13:15-16

Even if Ephraim flourished among the reeds, what would happen to him?

How sure was Ephraim's judgment?

What would the east wind, the wind of the LORD coming up from the wilderness, do to Ephraim?

1.

2.

3.

Why will Samaria be held guilty?

What will happen to Samaria, representing the Northern Kingdom of Israel?

1.

2.

3.

READ AND REASON

Context rules over any and every interpretation!

What is the context of verse 4? Is it one of judgment for sin or victory over judgment?

Read I Corinthians 15:55.

O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?

**Those words are amazingly the same as Hosea 13:14.
Paul quoted Hosea's words in his letter to the Corinthians.
Yet, the context is quite different.**

**Hosea's words were uttered in the context of judgment for Ephraim's sin.
Paul's words were declared in the context of victory over death (death is judgment for sin.)**

Paul took Hosea's words, which once had been spoken as a call for Sheol and Death (personified) to bring their judgment on Ephraim for his refusal to repent and his rebellious stubbornness to remain in his sin, and used them as a clarion cry of victory!

All who are in Christ will someday put on the imperishable and inherit the heavenly Kingdom of God!

Death, the last enemy to be abolished, will be finally and eternally swallowed up in that victory!

**Read the rest of I Corinthians 15 and cry out with Paul and all the saints,
“O Death, where is your victory! O Death, where is your sting!
The sting of death is sin,
And the power of sin is the law (by which Ephraim's judgment came);
But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”**

***Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you,
which also you received,***

***in which also you stand,
by which also you are saved,
if you hold fast the word which I preached to you,
unless you believed in vain.***

***For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received,
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
and that He was buried,
and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
and that He appeared to Cephas,
then to the twelve.***

***After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time,
most of whom remain until now,
but some have fallen asleep;
then He appeared to James,
then to all the apostles;
and last of all, as to one untimely born,
He appeared to me also.***

***For I am the least of the apostles,
and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.
But by the grace of God I am what I am,
and His grace toward me did not prove vain;
but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.***

Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

***Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead,
how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?
But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised;
and if Christ has not been raised,
then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.
Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God,
because we testified against God that He raised Christ,
whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.***

***For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;
and if Christ has not been raised,
your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.
Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.
If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.***

***But now Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who are asleep.
For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.***

**For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.
But each in his own order:
Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,**

**Then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father,
when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.**

**For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.
The last enemy that will be abolished is death.
For He has put all things in subjection under His feet.
But when He says, "All things are put in subjection,"
it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.**

**When all things are subjected to Him,
then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to
Him, so that God may be all in all.**

**Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead?
If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them?
Why are we also in danger every hour?
I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord,
I die daily.**

**If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus,
what does it profit me?
If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.**

**Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."
Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning;
for some have no knowledge of God.
I speak this to your shame.**

**But someone will say,
"How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?"
You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies;
and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be,
but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else.**

**But God gives it a body just as He wished,
and to each of the seeds a body of its own.
All flesh is not the same flesh,
but there is one flesh of men,
and another flesh of beasts,
and another flesh of birds,
and another of fish.**

***There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies,
but the glory of the heavenly is one,
and the glory of the earthly is another.***

***There is one glory of the sun,
and another glory of the moon,
and another glory of the stars;
for star differs from star in glory.***

***So also is the resurrection of the dead.
It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body;
it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory;
it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;
it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.***

***If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.
So also it is written,
“The first man, Adam, became a living soul.”
The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.***

***However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.
The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.***

***As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy;
and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.
Just as we have borne the image of the earthy,
we will also bear the image of the heavenly.***

***Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;
nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.***

***Behold, I tell you a mystery;
we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,
in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,
at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound,
and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.***

***For this perishable must put on the imperishable,
and this mortal must put on immortality.
But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable,
and this mortal will have put on immortality,
then will come about the saying that is written,
“Death is swallowed up in victory.***

“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

***The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;
but thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

***Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord,
knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.***

Amen!

HOSEA - The PROPHECY

Chapter Fourteen

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Hosea 14** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the Word of the LORD, Thus says the LORD of hosts, answered, declares, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Hosea 14** and mark every reference to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 14** and mark every reference to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Hosea 14** and mark every reference to knowledge or know with a yellow highlighted circle.

Read through **Hosea 14** and mark every time the LORD says, "I will...", including synonyms with a purple underline.

Read through **Hosea 14** and mark every reference to return with a green arrow.

Read through **Hosea 14** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time reference is to "That Day" fill the box in with blue.

Read through **Hosea 14** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Call for Israel to return to the LORD her God
2. What God will do for Israel when she returns to the LORD her God
3. Final call to Ephraim
4. Final word of wisdom

READ AND ANSWER

Hosea 14:1-3

Who does Hosea address?

What is Israel called to do?

To Whom is Israel called to return?

Why does Israel need to return?

Why has Israel stumbled?

What is Israel to take with her when she returns to the LORD?

What words will Israel say to the LORD? (Write them all out. I will give you extra room.)

What is Israel to ask Him to do for her?

1.

2.

What will Israel do when God takes away her iniquity and receives her graciously?

In presenting the fruit of her lips to the LORD, Israel would be fulfilling God's desire. What does **Hosea 6:6** say that God delights in?

Can you see the connection between sacrifice and presenting the fruit of the lips?

POINT OF CONNECTION

*Through Him then,
Let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God,
That is,
The fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.
Hebrews 13:15*

In what ways will Israel repent?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Why?

What does seeking Assyria for help in time of distress say about what Israel believes about God?

What does seeking horses in time of distress say about what Israel believes about God?

What does calling an inanimate object, “god” say about what Israel believes about God?

What does seeking God in time of distress say about what Israel believes about God?

What does seeking God in time of distress, or not seeking Him, say about what you believe about God?

What does trusting in God rather than in the strength of horses say about what Israel believes about God?

What does trusting in God rather than in the strength of “horses”, or not trusting in God, say about what you believe about God?

What does calling God, “Our God!” say about what Israel believes about God?

What does calling God, “your God”, or not calling Him your God, say about what you believe about God?

In Whom does the orphan find mercy?

What does the orphan find in God?

Who has been an orphan?

Hosea 14:4-7

What will be God's response to the words Israel takes with her when she returns to the LORD?

How will things be different for Israel when God heals her apostasy?

How will God love them?

Why will He be able to love them freely?

In order for God's anger to turn away from them, His perfect justice must be satisfied. How will that happen?

What will God be like to Israel?

What will Israel be like with God's continual nourishment?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What will those do who live in Israel's shadow?

1.

2.

Israel's renown will be like the wine of Lebanon. What will be known about him?

Hosea 14:8

The first line of **verse 8** can be a bit puzzling. Perhaps God is saying, "O Ephraim, I am so opposite of a worthless idol; I cannot even be compared with the vanity of idols—I am rich and alive and fulfilling, I AM your God!

Ephraim has, (in the prophetic future) returned to the Lord with words of confession and praise. Whereas idols cannot answer, God, Himself answers His people's call. When He answers, what does God do for them?

Could their worthless, dead idols care for Ephraim?

To what does God compare Himself?

From where does Ephraim's fruit come?

POINT OF CONNECTION

Compare the following cross-references with Chapter 14.

Hosea 9:15

***All their evil is at Gilgal; indeed, I came to hate them there!
Because of the wickedness of their deeds I will drive them out of My house!
I will love them no more; all their princes are rebels.***

What promise does God make about His love for His people in Chapter 14?

Hosea 9:16

***Ephraim is stricken, their root is dried up, they will bear no fruit.
Even though they bear children, I will slay the precious ones of their womb.***

Hosea 10:1-2

***Israel is a luxuriant vine; he produces fruit for himself.
The more his fruit, the more altars he made;
The richer his land, the better he made the sacred pillars.
Their heart is faithless; now they must bear their guilt.
The Lord will break down their altars and destroy their sacred pillars.***

What promise does God make concerning their fruit in Chapter 14?

Hosea 9:17

***My God will cast them away because they have not listened to Him;
And they will be wanderers among the nations.***

What glorious promise does God make concerning Israel in Hosea 14:5-7?

**God will love His people freely once again—
Once His righteous anger is spent against them.**

**Ephraim will once again have fruit and prosperity—
in the Kingdom of Messiah!
But always Ephraim's fruit will come from the LORD—
The LORD alone.**

**Whereas once Ephraim considered himself a luxuriant vine—
Ephraim would realize God was the luxuriant cypress
from Whom his fruit would come.**

**Ephraim will no longer be a wanderer—
But will be firmly established in God's land, roots deep.
A wanderer has no name—
But Ephraim will be renowned.**

Hosea 14:9

What is the wise person to do? (This does not mean if you are wise enough, you will understand these things; it means if you are wise, you will study until you understand these things.)

What is the discerning person to do? (This does not mean if you have enough discernment, you will know these things; it means if you are discerning, you will study until you know these things.)

Why will the wise person make sure he understands these things?

Why will the discerning person make sure he knows these things?

How can you know if your ways are right?

What will the righteous person do?

What will transgressors do with the ways of the LORD?

READ AND REASON

Are you wise?

Will you study so as to understand these things?

What are these things—they are the ways of the LORD!

Are you discerning?

Will you study so as to know these things?

What are these things—they are the ways of the LORD?

Should you study so as to understand and know the ways of the Lord, you will show wisdom and discernment.

Why?

**Because the ways of the Lord are right; they are what the righteous walk in.
Because the ways of the Lord are right; they make transgressors stumble.**

It is significant that the word for stumble, *kashal*, is used twice in Chapter 14, once in verse 1 and again in verse 9—the first and the last verse. It means to be weak and feeble, to decay or fail, to be overthrown. Why has Israel stumbled according to verse 1? What will all transgressors do according to verse 9? No wise man wants to stumble; a wise man would avoid stumbling if possible. And it is so very possible; it is obtainable to all who would learn His ways (by studying His Word) and simply walk in them (by obeying what you learn).

Go back through the book of Hosea. Read each chapter carefully and thoughtfully, looking for the ways of the Lord. As you find them, list them below. Of course, this will not be a complete list, but it will be a great list all the same!

**Think about His ways...are they the ways you walk in?
Why or why not?
Will you walk in them?**

**Think about His ways...can you walk in them today?
Of course, you can!
So then...walk in them!**

The Ways of The LORD from Hosea:

Chapter 1

Chapter 2

Chapter 3

Chapter 4

Chapter 5

Chapter 6

Chapter 7

Chapter 8

Chapter 9

Chapter 10

Chapter 11

Chapter 12

Chapter 13

Chapter 14

**Don't wait! Walk in the ways of the LORD this moment!
Take words with you (Hosea 14:1) and return to the LORD...**