

# Hosea

## *Hosea's Wife and Children*

<sup>1</sup> This is the word of the LORD that came to Hosea son of Beerai in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and of Jeroboam son of Jehoash,\* king of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, He told him, “Go, take a prostitute as your wife and have children of adultery, because this land is flagrantly prostituting itself by departing from the LORD.”

<sup>3</sup> So Hosea went and married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

<sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to Hosea, “Name him Jezreel,† for soon I will bring the bloodshed of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel. <sup>5</sup> And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”

<sup>6</sup> Gomer again conceived and gave birth to a daughter, and the LORD said to Hosea, “Name her Lo-ruhamah,‡ for I will no longer have

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\* **1:1** Hebrew Joash, a variant of Jehoash † **1:4** Jezreel means God sows; also in verse 11. ‡ **1:6** Lo-ruhamah means she has not received mercy.

compassion on the house of Israel, that I should ever forgive them. <sup>7</sup> Yet I will have compassion on the house of Judah, and I will save them—not by bow or sword or war, not by horses and cavalry, but by the LORD their God.”

<sup>8</sup> After she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, Gomer conceived and gave birth to a son. <sup>9</sup> And the LORD said, “Name him Lo-ammi,<sup>§</sup> for you are not My people, and I am not your God.\*

<sup>10</sup> Yet the number of the Israelites will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or counted. And it will happen that in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’<sup>†</sup> <sup>11</sup> Then the people of Judah and of Israel will be gathered together, and they will appoint for themselves one leader, and will go up out of the land. For great will be the day of Jezreel.

## 2

### *Israel’s Adultery Rebuked*

<sup>1</sup> “Say of your brothers, ‘My people,’\*  
and of your sisters, ‘My loved one.’<sup>†</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Rebuke your mother,

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§ **1:9** Lo-ammi means not My people. \* **1:9** Hebrew I am not yours † **1:10** Cited in Romans 9:26 \* **2:1** Hebrew Ammi † **2:1** Or Mercy is shown; Hebrew Ruhamah, which means she has received mercy

rebuke her,  
for she is not My wife,  
and I am not her husband.  
Let her remove the adultery from her face  
and the unfaithfulness from between her  
breasts.

<sup>3</sup> Otherwise, I will strip her naked  
and expose her like the day of her birth.

I will make her like a desert  
and turn her into a parched land,  
and I will let her die of thirst.

<sup>4</sup> I will have no compassion on her children,  
because they are the children of adultery.

<sup>5</sup> For their mother has played the harlot  
and has conceived them in disgrace.

For she thought,  
'I will go after my lovers,  
who give me bread and water,  
wool and linen, oil and drink.'

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, behold,  
I will hedge up her path † with thorns;  
I will enclose her with a wall,  
so she cannot find her way.

<sup>7</sup> She will pursue her lovers but not catch them;  
she will seek them but not find them.

Then she will say,  
'I will return to my first husband,  
for then I was better off than now.'

<sup>8</sup> For she does not acknowledge  
that it was I who gave her grain,  
new wine, and oil,  
who lavished on her silver and gold—

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† 2:6 Hebrew your path

which they crafted for Baal.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore I will take back My grain in its time  
and My new wine in its season;

I will take away My wool and linen,  
which were given to cover her nakedness.

<sup>10</sup> And then I will expose her lewdness  
in the sight of her lovers,  
and no one will deliver her  
out of My hands.

<sup>11</sup> I will put an end to all her exultation:  
her feasts, New Moons, and Sabbaths—  
all her appointed feasts.

<sup>12</sup> I will destroy her vines and fig trees,  
which she thinks are the wages paid by her  
lovers.

So I will make them into a thicket,  
and the beasts of the field will devour them.

<sup>13</sup> I will punish her for the days of the Baals  
when she burned incense to them,  
when she decked herself with rings and jewelry,  
and went after her lovers.

But Me she forgot,”

declares the LORD.

### *God's Mercy to Israel*

<sup>14</sup> “Therefore, behold, I will allure her  
and lead her to the wilderness,  
and speak to her tenderly.

<sup>15</sup> There I will give back her vineyards  
and make the Valley of Achor §

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§ 2:15 Achor means trouble.

- into a gateway of hope.  
 There she will respond as she did  
 in the days of her youth,  
 as in the day she came up out of Egypt.
- 16 In that day,"  
 declares the LORD,  
 "you will call Me 'my Husband,'\*  
 and no longer call Me 'my Master.'†
- 17 For I will remove from her lips the names of  
 the Baals;  
 no longer will their names be invoked.
- 18 On that day I will make a covenant for them  
 with the beasts of the field and the birds of  
 the air  
 and the creatures that crawl on the ground.  
 And I will abolish bow and sword  
 and weapons of war in the land,  
 and will make them lie down in safety.
- 19 So I will betroth you to Me forever;  
 I will betroth you in righteousness and  
 justice,  
 in loving devotion ‡ and compassion.
- 20 And I will betroth you in faithfulness,  
 and you will know the LORD."
- 21 "On that day I will respond—"  
 declares the LORD—

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\* **2:16** Hebrew my Ishi    † **2:16** Hebrew my Baal    ‡ **2:19**  
 Forms of the Hebrew chesed are translated here and in most  
 cases throughout the Scriptures as loving devotion; the range  
 of meaning includes love, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, and  
 mercy, as well as loyalty to a covenant.

“I will respond to the heavens,  
and they will respond to the earth.

<sup>22</sup> And the earth will respond to the grain,  
to the new wine and oil,  
and they will respond to Jezreel. §

<sup>23</sup> And I will sow her as My own in the land,  
and I will have compassion on ‘No Com-  
passion.’\*

I will say to those called ‘Not My People,’ †  
‘You are My people,’ ‡

and they will say,  
‘You are my God.’ ”

### 3

#### *Hosea Redeems His Wife (Zechariah 2:6-13)*

<sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to me, “Go show love to your wife again, though she is loved by another\* and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and offer raisin cakes to idols. †”

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§ **2:22** Jezreel means God sows. \* **2:23** Hebrew Lo-ruhamah; LXX I will love her who was not loved † **2:23** Hebrew Lo-ammi ‡ **2:23** Cited in Romans 9:25 and 1 Peter 2:10 \* **3:1** Or Go show love to a woman who is loved by another † **3:1** Literally and love raisin cakes

<sup>2</sup> So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver † and a homer and a lethech of barley. § <sup>3</sup> Then I said to her, “You must live with me for many days; you must not be promiscuous or belong to another, and I will do the same for you.”

<sup>4</sup> For the Israelites must live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, and without ephod or idol. <sup>5</sup> Afterward, the people of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.

## 4

### *God's Case against His People*

<sup>1</sup> Hear the word of the LORD,  
O children of Israel,  
for the LORD has a case  
against the people of the land:

“There is no truth, no loving devotion,  
and no knowledge of God in the land!

<sup>2</sup> Cursing and lying,  
murder and stealing,  
and adultery are rampant;  
one act of bloodshed follows another.

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† **3:2** 15 shekels is approximately 6 ounces or 171 grams of silver. § **3:2** Or a homer and a half of barley; that is, a total of approximately 9.36 bushels or 330 liters (probably about 436 pounds or 198 kilograms of barley); LXX a homer of barley and a wineskin full of wine

<sup>3</sup> Therefore the land mourns,  
 and all who dwell in it will waste away  
 with the beasts of the field and the birds of the  
 air;  
 even the fish of the sea disappear.

<sup>4</sup> But let no man contend;  
 let no man offer reproof;  
 for your people are like those  
 who contend with a priest.\*

<sup>5</sup> You will stumble by day,  
 and the prophet will stumble with you by  
 night;  
 so I will destroy your mother—

<sup>6</sup> My people are destroyed  
 for lack of knowledge.  
 Because you have rejected knowledge,  
 I will also reject you as My priests.  
 Since you have forgotten the law of your God,  
 I will also forget your children.

<sup>7</sup> The more they multiplied,  
 the more they sinned against Me;  
 they exchanged their Glory †  
 for a thing of disgrace.

<sup>8</sup> They feed on the sins ‡ of My people  
 and set their hearts on iniquity.

<sup>9</sup> And it shall be  
 like people, like priest.  
 I will punish both of them for their ways

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\* **4:4** Or for My case is against you, O priests † **4:7** Or they  
 exchanged their glorious God (Syriac); MT I will exchange their  
 glory ‡ **4:8** Or the sin offerings



and repay them for their deeds.

<sup>10</sup> They will eat but not be satisfied;  
they will be promiscuous but not multiply.  
For they have stopped obeying the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> Promiscuity, wine, and new wine  
take away understanding.

<sup>12</sup> My people consult their wooden idols,  
and their divining rods inform them.

For a spirit of prostitution leads them astray  
and they have played the harlot against their  
God.

<sup>13</sup> They sacrifice on the mountaintops  
and burn offerings on the hills,  
under oak, poplar, and terebinth,  
because their shade is pleasant.

And so your daughters turn to prostitution  
and your daughters-in-law to adultery.

<sup>14</sup> I will not punish your daughters  
when they prostitute themselves,  
nor your daughters-in-law  
when they commit adultery.

For the men themselves go off with prostitutes  
and offer sacrifices with shrine prostitutes.

So a people without understanding  
will come to ruin.

<sup>15</sup> Though you prostitute yourself, O Israel,  
may Judah avoid such guilt!

Do not journey to Gilgal,

- do not go up to Beth-aven,<sup>§</sup>  
 and do not swear on oath,  
 'As surely as the LORD lives!'
- 16 For Israel is as obstinate  
 as a stubborn heifer.  
 Can the LORD now shepherd them  
 like lambs in an open meadow?
- 17 Ephraim \* is joined to idols;  
 leave him alone!
- 18 When their liquor is gone,  
 they turn to prostitution;  
 their rulers † dearly love disgrace.
- 19 The whirlwind has wrapped them ‡ in its  
 wings,  
 and their sacrifices will bring them shame.

## 5

### *Judgment on Israel and Judah*

- 1 "Hear this, O priests!  
 Take heed, O house of Israel!  
 Give ear, O royal house!  
 For this judgment is against you  
 because you have been a snare at Mizpah,  
 a net spread out on Tabor.
- 2 The rebels are deep in slaughter;  
 but I will chastise them all.

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§ 4:15 Beth-aven means house of wickedness. This is a derogatory term for Bethel, which means house of God; see 1 Kings 12:28-29. \* 4:17 That is, the northern kingdom of Israel  
 † 4:18 Hebrew her shields ‡ 4:19 Hebrew has wrapped her

3 I know all about Ephraim,\*  
 and Israel is not hidden from Me.  
 For now, O Ephraim,  
 you have turned to prostitution;  
 Israel is defiled.

4 Their deeds do not permit them  
 to return to their God,  
 for a spirit of prostitution is within them,  
 and they do not know the LORD.

5 Israel's arrogance testifies against them;  
 Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity;  
 even Judah stumbles with them.

6 They go with their flocks and herds  
 to seek the LORD,  
 but they do not find Him;  
 He has withdrawn Himself from them.

7 They have been unfaithful to the LORD;  
 for they have borne illegitimate children.  
 Now the New Moon † will devour them  
 along with their land.

8 Blow the ram's horn in Gibeah,  
 the trumpet in Ramah;  
 raise the battle cry in Beth-aven:‡  
 Lead on, O Benjamin!

9 Ephraim will be laid waste  
 on the day of rebuke.  
 Among the tribes of Israel

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\* 5:3 That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verses 5, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 14 † 5:7 Or their New Moon feast or the coming month ‡ 5:8 Beth-aven means house of wickedness. This is a derogatory term for Bethel, which means house of God; see 1 Kings 12:28-29.

- I proclaim what is certain.
- 10 The princes of Judah  
are like those who move boundary stones;§  
I will pour out My fury  
upon them like water.
- 11 Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgment,  
for he is determined to follow worthless  
idols.\*
- 12 So I am like a moth to Ephraim,  
and like decay to the house of Judah.
- 13 When Ephraim saw his sickness  
and Judah his wound,  
then Ephraim turned to Assyria  
and sent to the great king.†  
But he cannot cure you  
or heal your wound.
- 14 For I am like a lion to Ephraim  
and like a young lion to the house of Judah.  
I, even I, will tear them to pieces  
and then go away.  
I will carry them off  
where no one can rescue them.
- 15 Then I will return to My place  
until they admit their guilt and seek My face;  
in their affliction they will earnestly seek  
Me.”

## 6

### *The Unrepentance of Israel and Judah*

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§ 5:10 See Proverbs 22:28 and Proverbs 23:10. \* 5:11 Or to follow human precepts † 5:13 Or to King Jareb

1 Come, let us return to the LORD.

For He has torn us to pieces,  
but He will heal us;  
He has wounded us,  
but He will bind up our wounds.

2 After two days He will revive us;  
on the third day He will raise us up,  
that we may live in His presence.

3 So let us know—  
let us press on to know the LORD.

As surely as the sun rises,  
He will appear;  
He will come to us like the rain,  
like the spring showers that water the earth.

4 What shall I do with you, O Ephraim \*?  
What shall I do with you, O Judah?  
For your loyalty is like a morning mist,  
like the early dew that vanishes.

5 Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;  
I have slain them by the words of My mouth,  
and My judgments go forth like lightning.

6 For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, †  
and the knowledge of God  
rather than burnt offerings.

7 But they, like Adam, have transgressed ‡ the  
covenant;  
there they were unfaithful to Me.

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\* 6:4 That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 10

† 6:6 Cited in Matthew 9:13 and Matthew 12:7 ‡ 6:7 Or As at  
Adam, they have transgressed

- 8 Gilead is a city of evildoers,  
     tracked with footprints of blood.
- 9 Like raiders who lie in ambush,  
     so does a band of priests;  
 they murder on the way to Shechem;  
     surely they have committed atrocities.
- 10 In the house of Israel  
     I have seen a horrible thing:  
 Ephraim practices prostitution there,  
     and Israel is defiled.
- 11 Also for you, O Judah,  
     a harvest is appointed,  
 when I restore  
     My people from captivity. §

## 7

### *Ephraim's Iniquity*

- 1 When I heal Israel,  
     the iniquity of Ephraim \* will be exposed,  
     as well as the crimes of Samaria.  
 For they practice deceit and thieves break in;  
     bandits raid in the streets.
- 2 But they fail to consider in their hearts  
     that I remember all their evil.  
 Now their deeds are all around them;  
     they are before My face.
- 3 They delight the king with their evil,  
     and the princes with their lies.

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§ 6:11 Or restore the fortunes of My people \* 7:1 That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verses 8 and 11

- 4 They are all adulterers,  
like an oven heated by a baker  
who needs not stoke the fire  
from the kneading to the rising of the dough.
- 5 The princes are inflamed with wine  
on the day of our king;  
so he joins hands  
with those who mock him.
- 6 For they prepare their heart like an oven  
while they lie in wait;  
all night their anger smolders;†  
in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire.
- 7 All of them are hot as an oven,  
and they devour their rulers.  
All their kings fall;  
not one of them calls upon Me.
- 8 Ephraim mixes with the nations;  
Ephraim is an unturned cake.
- 9 Foreigners consume his strength,  
but he does not notice.  
Even his hair is streaked with gray,  
but he does not know.
- 10 Israel's arrogance testifies against them,  
yet they do not return to the LORD their God;  
despite all this, they do not seek Him.
- 11 So Ephraim has become like a silly, senseless  
dove—  
calling out to Egypt, then turning to Assyria.
- 12 As they go, I will spread My net over them;  
I will bring them down like birds of the air.

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† 7:6 Literally their baker sleeps

I will chastise them  
when I hear them flocking together.‡

13 Woe to them, for they have strayed from Me!  
Destruction to them, for they have rebelled  
against Me!

Though I would redeem them,  
they speak lies against Me.

14 They do not cry out to Me from their hearts  
when they wail upon their beds.

They slash themselves § for grain and new wine,  
but turn away from Me.

15 Although I trained and strengthened their  
arms,  
they plot evil against Me.

16 They turn, but not to the Most High;  
they are like a faulty bow.

Their leaders will fall by the sword  
for the cursing of their tongue;  
for this they will be ridiculed  
in the land of Egypt.

## 8

### *Israel Will Reap the Whirlwind*

1 Put the ram's horn to your lips!  
An eagle looms over the house of the LORD,  
because the people have transgressed My  
covenant

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‡ 7:12 Or I will chastise them according to what was reported against them in the assembly. § 7:14 Some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX; see 1 Kings 18:28. Most Hebrew manuscripts They gather together



- and rebelled against My law.  
2 Israel cries out to Me,  
    “O our God, we know You!”  
3 But Israel has rejected good;  
    an enemy will pursue him.
- 4 They set up kings, but not by Me.  
    They make princes, but without My approval.  
With their silver and gold they make themselves  
    idols,  
    to their own destruction.
- 5 He has rejected your calf,\* O Samaria.  
    My anger burns against them.  
How long will they be  
    incapable of innocence?
- 6 For this thing is from Israel—  
    a craftsman made it, and it is not God.  
It will be broken to pieces,  
    that calf of Samaria.
- 7 For they sow the wind,  
    and they shall reap the whirlwind.  
There is no standing grain;  
    what sprouts fails to yield flour.  
Even if it should produce,  
    the foreigners would swallow it up.
- 8 Israel is swallowed up!  
    Now they are among the nations  
    like a worthless vessel.
- 9 For they have gone up to Assyria  
    like a wild donkey on its own.

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\* 8:5 Or calf idol; see 1 Kings 12:29.

- Ephraim † has hired lovers.  
 10 Though they hire allies among the nations,  
 I will now round them up,  
 and they will begin to diminish  
 under the oppression of the king of princes.
- 11 Though Ephraim multiplied the altars for sin,  
 they became his altars for sinning.
- 12 Though I wrote for them the great things of My  
 law,  
 they regarded them as something strange.
- 13 Though they offer sacrifices as gifts to Me,  
 and though they eat the meat,  
 the LORD does not accept them.
- Now He will remember their iniquity and punish  
 their sins:  
 They will return to Egypt.
- 14 Israel has forgotten his Maker and built  
 palaces;  
 Judah has multiplied its fortified cities.  
 But I will send fire upon their cities,  
 and it will consume their citadels.

## 9

### *Israel's Punishment*

- 1 Do not rejoice, O Israel,  
 with exultation like the nations,  
 for you have played the harlot against your God;  
 you have made love for hire on every  
 threshing floor.

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† 8:9 That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 11

- 2 The threshing floor and winepress will not feed them,  
and the new wine will fail them.
- 3 They will not remain  
in the land of the LORD;  
Ephraim \* will return to Egypt  
and eat unclean food in Assyria.
- 4 They will not pour out wine offerings to the LORD,  
and their sacrifices will not please Him,  
but will be to them like the bread of mourners;  
all who eat will be defiled.  
For their bread will be for themselves;  
it will not enter the house of the LORD.
- 5 What will you do on the appointed day,  
on the day of the LORD's feast?
- 6 For even if they flee destruction,  
Egypt will gather them  
and Memphis will bury them.  
Their precious silver will be taken over by  
thistles,  
and thorns will overrun their tents.
- 7 The days of punishment have come;  
the days of retribution have arrived—  
let Israel know it.  
The prophet is called a fool,  
and the inspired man insane,  
because of the greatness  
of your iniquity and hostility.
- 8 The prophet is Ephraim's watchman,

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\* **9:3** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; similarly in verses 8, 11, 13, and 16

along with my God,<sup>†</sup>  
yet the snare of the fowler lies on all his paths.  
Hostility is in the house of his God!

<sup>9</sup> They have deeply corrupted themselves  
as in the days of Gibeah;  
He will remember their guilt;  
He will punish their sins.

<sup>10</sup> I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness.  
I saw your fathers as the firstfruits  
of the fig tree in its first season.  
But they went to Baal-peor,  
and consecrated themselves to Shame;  
so they became as detestable  
as the thing they loved.

<sup>11</sup> Ephraim's glory will fly away like a bird,  
with no birth, no pregnancy, and no concep-  
tion.

<sup>12</sup> Even if they raise their children,  
I will bereave them of each one.  
Yes, woe be to them  
when I turn away from them!

<sup>13</sup> I have seen Ephraim, like Tyre,  
planted in a meadow.  
But Ephraim will bring out  
his children for slaughter.

<sup>14</sup> Give them, O LORD—  
what will You give?  
Give them wombs that miscarry  
and breasts that dry up!

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<sup>†</sup> **9:8** Or The prophet is the watchman over Ephraim, the people of my God

- 15 All their evil appears at Gilgal,  
     for there I hated them.  
 I will drive them from My house  
     for the wickedness of their deeds.  
 I will no longer love them;  
     all their leaders are rebellious.
- 16 Ephraim is struck down;  
     their root is withered;  
     they cannot bear fruit.  
 Even if they bear children,  
     I will slay the darlings of their wombs.
- 17 My God will reject them  
     because they have not obeyed Him;  
 and they shall be wanderers  
     among the nations.

## 10

### *Retribution for Israel's Sin*

- 1 Israel was a luxuriant vine,  
     yielding fruit for himself.  
 The more his fruit increased,  
     the more he increased the altars.  
 The better his land produced,  
     the better he made the sacred pillars.
- 2 Their hearts are devious;  
     now they must bear their guilt.  
 The LORD will break down their altars  
     and demolish their sacred pillars.
- 3 Surely now they will say,  
     "We have no king,  
 for we do not revere the LORD.  
     What can a king do for us?"

4 They speak mere words;  
     with false oaths they make covenants.  
 So judgment springs up  
     like poisonous weeds in the furrows of a  
     field.

5 The people of Samaria will fear  
     for the calf of Beth-aven.\*  
 Indeed, its people will mourn  
     with its idolatrous priests—  
 those who rejoiced in its glory—  
     for it has been taken from them into exile.

6 Yes, it will be carried to Assyria  
     as tribute to the great king.†

Ephraim ‡ will be seized with shame;

    Israel will be ashamed of its wooden idols.§

7 Samaria will be carried off with her king  
     like a twig on the surface of the water.

8 The high places of Aven \* will be destroyed—  
     it is the sin of Israel;  
     thorns and thistles will overgrow their al-  
     tars.

Then they will say to the mountains, “Cover us!”  
 and to the hills, “Fall on us!”†

9 Since the days of Gibeah you have sinned, O  
 Israel,

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\* **10:5** Beth-aven means house of wickedness. This is a derogatory term for Bethel, which means house of God; see 1 Kings 12:28-29. † **10:6** Or to King Jareb ‡ **10:6** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 11 § **10:6** Or of its own counsel \* **10:8** Or of wickedness; Aven is a reference to Beth-aven (a derogatory term for Bethel); see verse 5. † **10:8** Cited in Luke 23:30; see also Revelation 6:16.

and there you have remained.  
Did not the battle in Gibeah  
overtake the sons of iniquity?‡

10 I will chasten them when I please;  
nations will be gathered against them  
to put them in bondage  
for their double transgression.

11 Ephraim is a well-trained heifer that loves to  
thresh;  
but I will place a yoke on her fair neck.  
I will harness Ephraim, Judah will plow,  
and Jacob will break the hard ground.

12 Sow for yourselves righteousness  
and reap the fruit of loving devotion;  
break up your unplowed ground.

For it is time to seek the LORD  
until He comes and sends righteousness  
upon you like rain.

13 You have plowed wickedness and reaped  
injustice;  
you have eaten the fruit of lies.

Because you have trusted in your own way  
and in the multitude of your mighty men,  
14 the roar of battle will rise against your people,  
so that all your fortresses will be demolished  
as Shalman devastated Beth-arbel  
in the day of battle,  
when mothers were dashed to pieces  
along with their children.

---

‡ 10:9 Or Did not the battle overtake the sons of iniquity in Gibeah?

15 Thus it will be done to you, O Bethel,  
 because of your great wickedness.  
 When the day dawns,  
 the king of Israel will be utterly cut off.

## 11

### *Out of Egypt I Called My Son* (Matthew 2:13-15)

1 When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
 and out of Egypt I called My son.\*  
 2 But the more I called Israel,  
 the farther they departed from Me.†  
 They sacrificed to the Baals  
 and burned incense to carved images.  
 3 It was I who taught Ephraim ‡ to walk,  
 taking them in My arms,  
 but they never realized  
 that it was I who healed them.  
 4 I led them with cords of kindness,  
 with ropes of love;  
 I lifted the yoke from their necks  
 and bent down to feed them.  
 5 Will they not return to the land of Egypt  
 and be ruled by Assyria  
 because they refused to repent?  
 6 A sword will flash through their cities;  
 it will destroy the bars of their gates  
 and consume them in their own plans.

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\* **11:1** Cited in Matthew 2:15 † **11:2** LXX; Hebrew The more they called them, the more they went from them. ‡ **11:3** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verses 8, 9, and 12



7 My people are bent on turning from Me.  
 Though they call to the Most High,  
 He will by no means exalt them.

*God's Love for Israel*

8 How could I give you up, O Ephraim?  
 How could I surrender you, O Israel?  
 How could I make you like Admah?  
 How could I treat you like Zeboiim?  
 My heart is turned within Me;  
 My compassion is stirred!

9 I will not execute the full fury of My anger;  
 I will not turn back to destroy Ephraim.  
 For I am God and not man—  
 the Holy One among you—  
 and I will not come in wrath.

10 They will walk after the LORD;  
 He will roar like a lion.

When He roars,  
 His children will come trembling from the  
 west.

11 They will come trembling like birds from Egypt  
 and like doves from the land of Assyria.

Then I will settle them in their homes,  
 declares the LORD.

12 Ephraim surrounds Me with lies,  
 the house of Israel with deceit;  
 but Judah still walks with God  
 and is faithful to the Holy One. §

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§ 11:12 Or and Judah is unruly against God, the faithful Holy One

# 12

## *A Reproof of Ephraim, Judah, and Jacob*

- <sup>1</sup> Ephraim \* chases the wind  
 and pursues the east wind all day long;  
 he multiplies lies and violence;  
 he makes a covenant with Assyria  
 and sends olive oil to Egypt.
- <sup>2</sup> The LORD also brings a charge against Judah.  
 He will punish Jacob † according to his ways  
 and repay him according to his deeds.
- <sup>3</sup> In the womb he grasped his brother's heel,  
 and in his vigor he wrestled with God.
- <sup>4</sup> Yes, he struggled with the angel ‡ and prevailed;  
 he wept and sought His favor;  
 he found Him at Bethel  
 and spoke with Him there §—
- <sup>5</sup> the LORD is the God of Hosts—  
 the LORD is His name of renown.
- <sup>6</sup> But you must return to your God,  
 maintaining love and justice,  
 and always waiting on your God.
- <sup>7</sup> A merchant loves to defraud  
 with dishonest scales in his hands.
- <sup>8</sup> And Ephraim boasts: "How rich I have become!  
 I have found wealth for myself.  
 In all my labors, they can find in me

---

\* **12:1** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verses 8 and 14 † **12:2** Jacob means he grasps the heel or he deceives.  
 ‡ **12:4** Or Angel § **12:4** LXX and Syriac; MT and there He spoke with us

no iniquity that is sinful.”

- <sup>9</sup> But I am the LORD your God  
ever since the land of Egypt.  
I will again make you dwell in tents,  
as in the days of the appointed feast.
- <sup>10</sup> I spoke through the prophets  
and multiplied their visions;  
I gave parables through the prophets.
- <sup>11</sup> Is there iniquity in Gilead?  
They will surely come to nothing.  
Do they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal?  
Indeed, their altars will be heaps of stones  
in the furrows of the field.
- <sup>12</sup> Jacob fled to the land of Aram \*  
and Israel worked for a wife—  
for a wife he tended sheep.
- <sup>13</sup> But by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out  
of Egypt,  
and by a prophet he was preserved.
- <sup>14</sup> Ephraim has provoked bitter anger,  
so his Lord will leave his bloodguilt upon  
him  
and repay him for his contempt.

## 13

### *God's Anger against Israel*

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\* **12:12** That is, northwest Mesopotamia

1 When Ephraim \* spoke, there was trembling;  
he was exalted in Israel.  
But he incurred guilt through Baal,  
and he died.

2 Now they sin more and more  
and make for themselves cast images,  
idols skillfully made from their silver,  
all of them the work of craftsmen.  
People say of them,  
“They offer human sacrifice  
and kiss the calves!”†

3 Therefore they will be like the morning mist,  
like the early dew that vanishes,  
like chaff blown from a threshing floor,  
like smoke through an open window.

4 Yet I am the LORD your God  
ever since the land of Egypt;  
you know no God but Me,  
for there is no Savior besides Me.

5 I knew you in the wilderness,  
in the land of drought.

6 When they had pasture,  
they became satisfied;  
when they were satisfied,  
their hearts became proud,  
and as a result they forgot Me.

7 So like a lion I will pounce on them;  
like a leopard I will lurk by the path.

---

\* **13:1** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 12

† **13:2** Or “The men who sacrifice kiss the calves!” See 1 Kings 19:18.

8 Like a bear robbed of her cubs I will attack them,  
 and I will tear open their chests.  
 There I will devour them like a lion,  
 like a wild beast would tear them apart.

*Death and Resurrection*  
*(1 Corinthians 15:50–58)*

9 You are destroyed, O Israel,  
 because you are against Me—  
 against your helper.

10 Where is your king now †  
 to save you in all your cities,  
 and the rulers to whom you said,  
 “Give me a king and princes”?

11 So in My anger I gave you a king,  
 and in My wrath I took him away.

12 The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up;  
 his sin is stored up.

13 Labor pains come upon him,  
 but he is an unwise son.

When the time arrives,  
 he fails to present himself at the opening of  
 the womb.

14 I will ransom them from the power of Sheol;  
 I will redeem them from Death. §  
 Where, O Death, are your plagues?

---

† 13:10 Or Shall I be your King now § 13:14 Or Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death?

Where, O Sheol, is your sting?\*

Compassion is hidden from My eyes.

### *Judgment on Samaria*

15 Although he flourishes among his brothers,  
     an east wind will come—  
 a wind from the LORD  
     rising up from the desert.  
 His fountain will fail,  
     and his spring will run dry.  
 The wind will plunder his treasury  
     of every precious article.

16 Samaria will bear her guilt  
     because she has rebelled against her God.  
 They will fall by the sword;  
     their little ones will be dashed to pieces,  
     and their pregnant women ripped open.

## 14

### *A Call to Repentance* *(Jeremiah 3:11-25; Zechariah 1:1-6)*

1 Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God,  
     for you have stumbled by your iniquity.  
 2 Bring your confessions  
     and return to the LORD.  
 Say to Him: "Take away all our iniquity  
     and receive us graciously,

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\* **13:14** LXX Where, O Death, is your penalty? Where, O Hades, is your sting? Cited in 1 Corinthians 15:55

that we may present  
the fruit of our lips.\*

<sup>3</sup> Assyria will not save us,  
nor will we ride on horses.  
We will never again say, 'Our gods!'  
to the work of our own hands.

For in You the fatherless find compassion."

*A Promise of God's Blessing*

<sup>4</sup> I will heal their apostasy;  
I will freely love them,  
for My anger has turned away from them.

<sup>5</sup> I will be like the dew to Israel;  
he will blossom like the lily  
and take root like the cedars of Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup> His shoots will sprout,  
and his splendor will be like the olive tree,  
his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon.

<sup>7</sup> They will return and dwell in his shade;  
they will grow grain and blossom like the  
vine.  
His renown will be like the wine of Lebanon.

<sup>8</sup> O Ephraim,† what have I to do  
anymore with idols?

It is I who answer and watch over him.  
I am like a flourishing cypress;‡  
your fruit comes from Me.

---

\* **14:2** LXX and Syriac; Hebrew that we may present our lips as  
sacrificial bulls † **14:8** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel

‡ **14:8** Or pine or juniper or fir

9 Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;  
whoever is discerning, let him know them.  
For the ways of the LORD are right,  
and the righteous walk in them  
but the rebellious stumble in them.



**Berean Standard Bible**  
**The Holy Bible in English: Berean Standard Bible**  
Public Domain

Language: English

Contributor: BSB Publishing, LLC

2024-03-19

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PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 19 Mar 2024 from source  
files dated 19 Mar 2024

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