Hosea

1 The word of the LORD that came to Hosea
son of Beeri in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz,
and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of
Jeroboam son of Joash, king of Israel.
2 When the LORD first spoke through Hosea,
the LORD said to him, “Go, take for yourself a
promiscuous wife and children born of
promiscuity, for the land commits flagrant
prostitution, forsaking the LORD.”
3 So he went and married Gomer daughter of
Diblaim. She conceived and bore him a son.
4 The LORD said to him, “Name him Jezreel, for
in a little while I will punish the house of Jehu
for the bloodshed of Jezreel, and I will put an
end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.
5 On that day I will break the bow of Israel in
the Valley of Jezreel.”
6 She conceived again and bore a daughter.
The LORD said to him, “Name her Lo-ruhamah,
for I will no longer show compassion to the
house of Israel or forgive them at all.
7 But I will show compassion to the house of
Judah and save them by the LORD their God. I
will not save them by bow or sword or warfare,
by horses or horsemen.”
8 After she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she
conceived and bore a son.
9 He said, “Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not
my people, and I will not be yours.”

10 Yet the number of the people of Israel will be
like the sand of the sea, which cannot be
measured or counted.
In the place where they were told, “You are
not my people,” they will be called
“children of the living God.”
11 The people of Judah and the people of Israel
will be gathered together.
They will appoint one head over themselves
and come up from the land, for great will
be the day of Jezreel.

2

1 Say to your brothers, “Ammi,” and to your
sisters, “Ruhamah.”
2 “Contend with your mother, contend, for she is
not my wife, and I am not her husband.
Let her remove her prostitution from her
face and her adultery from between her
breasts,
3 lest I strip her naked and leave her as on the
day she was born, make her like a
wilderness, turn her into a parched land,
and kill her with thirst.
4 I will have no compassion on her children, for
they are children born of promiscuity.
5 For their mother has prostituted herself;
she who conceived them has acted
shamefully.
She said, ‘I will go after my lovers, who give
me my bread and water, my wool and
flax, my oil and drink.’

6 Therefore I will hedge up your way with
thorns.
I will wall her in, so that she cannot find her
paths.
7 She will pursue her lovers but not overtake
them;
she will seek them but not find them.
Then she will say, 'I will go back to my first
husband, for I was better off then than
now.'
8 She did not know that it was I who gave her
the grain, new wine, and oil, who lavished
silver on her, and gold that they used for
Baal.
9 Therefore I will take back my grain in its time
and my new wine in its season.
I will reclaim my wool and flax that were to
cover her nakedness.
10 Now I will expose her shame before the eyes
of her lovers, and no one will deliver her
from my hand.
11 I will put an end to all her rejoicing, her
festivals, new moons, Sabbaths, and all
her appointed feasts.
12 I will lay waste her vines and fig trees, of
which she said, 'These are my wages that
my lovers have given me.' I will make
them a thicket, and the beasts of the field
will devour them.
13 I will punish her for the days of the Baals,
when she burned incense to them,
adorned herself with her ring and
jewelry, and went after her lovers,
forgetting me, declares the LORD.

14 Therefore I will allure her, lead her into the
wilderness, and speak to her heart.
15 From there I will give her her vineyards and
make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.
There she will respond as in the days of her
youth, as on the day she came up from the
land of Egypt.

16 On that day, declares the LORD, you will call
me ‘My husband,’ and you will no longer
call me ‘My Baal.’
17 I will remove the names of the Baals from her
mouth, and they will no longer be
remembered by name.
18 On that day I will make a covenant for them
with the beasts of the field, the birds of
the heavens, and the creatures that move
along the ground.
I will break bow and sword and end
warfare in the land, and make them lie
down in safety.
19 I will betroth you to myself forever.
I will betroth you to myself in righteousness
and justice, in steadfast love and
compassion.
20 I will betroth you to myself in faithfulness,
and you will know the LORD.

21 On that day I will answer, declares the LORD.
I will answer the heavens, and they will
answer the earth.
22 The earth will answer the grain, the new wine,
and the oil, and they will answer Jezreel.

23 I will sow her for myself in the land.
I will have compassion on Lo-ruhamah, and
I will say to Lo-ammi, ‘You are my people,’
and he will say, ‘My God.’ ”

3

1 The LORD said to me again, “Go, love a
woman who is loved by a companion but
commits adultery, as the LORD loves the people
of Israel, though they turn to other gods and
love raisin cakes.”
2 So I bought her for myself for about six
ounces of silver, about five bushels of barley,
and about two and a half bushels of barley.
3 I said to her, “You must stay with me for many
days. You must not prostitute yourself or belong
to any man, and I will be the same toward you.”
4 For the people of Israel will remain many
days without king or prince, without sacrifice or
sacred pillar, without ephod or household gods.
5 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 latter days.

4

1 Hear the word of the LORD, people of Israel,
for the LORD has a charge against the
inhabitants of the land: there is no
faithfulness, no steadfast love, and no
knowledge of God in the land.
2 “Swearing, lying, murder, theft, and adultery
break all bounds;

bloodshed follows bloodshed.
3 Therefore the land mourns, and everyone
dwelling in it wastes away, along with the
beasts of the field and the birds of the
heavens.
Even the fish of the sea are taken away.
4 Yet let no one contend, and let no one accuse
another, for your people are like those
who contend with a priest.
5 You will stumble by day, and the prophet will
also stumble with you by night.
I will destroy your mother.
6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Because you have rejected knowledge, I will
reject you from serving as priest to me.
Because you have forgotten the law of your
God, I too will forget your children.
7 The more they increased, the more they sinned
against me.
I will exchange their glory for shame.
8 They feed on the sin of my people, and each
sets his desire on their iniquity.
9 It will be the same for priest as for people.
I will punish him for his ways and repay
him for his deeds.
10 They will eat but not be satisfied;
they will prostitute themselves but not
increase, because they have ceased to
heed the LORD.
11 Prostitution, wine, and new wine take away
understanding.
12 My people consult their wood, and their staff
gives them answers.

For a spirit of promiscuity has led them
astray, and they have prostituted
themselves, turning away from their God.
13 They sacrifice on the mountaintops and burn
incense on the hills, under oaks, poplars,
and terebinths, because their shade is
good.
Therefore your daughters prostitute
themselves, and your daughters-in-law
commit adultery.
14 I will not punish your daughters when they
prostitute themselves or your
daughters-in-law when they commit
adultery, for the men themselves go aside
with prostitutes and sacrifice with cult
prostitutes.
A people without understanding will come
to ruin.
15 Though you prostitute yourself, Israel, let
Judah not become guilty.
Do not go to Gilgal or go up to Beth-aven,
and do not swear, 'As the LORD lives.'
16 For Israel is stubborn, like a stubborn heifer.
Can the LORD now pasture them like a lamb
in a broad meadow?
17 Ephraim is joined to idols;
leave him alone.
18 When their drinking is over, they give
themselves wholly to prostitution;
her rulers dearly love dishonor.
19 The wind has wrapped her in its wings, and
they will be put to shame because of their
sacrifices."

5

1 “Hear this, O priests!
Pay attention, house of Israel!
Listen, royal house, for judgment is against you.
You have been a snare at Mizpah and a net spread over Tabor.
2 The rebels have sunk deep into slaughter, but I will discipline them all.
3 I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from me.
Now you have prostituted yourself, Ephraim;
Israel is defiled.
4 Their deeds do not allow them to return to their God, for a spirit of promiscuity is within them, and they do not know the LORD.
5 Israel’s pride testifies against him.
Israel and Ephraim will stumble in their iniquity, and Judah has also stumbled with them.
6 With their flocks and herds they will go to seek the LORD, but they will not find him.
He has withdrawn from them.
7 They have dealt faithlessly with the LORD, for they have borne alien children.
Now the new moon will devour them along with their portions.

8 Blow the horn in Gibeah and the trumpet in Ramah.
Sound the alarm in Beth-aven: ‘Behind you, Benjamin!’

9 Ephraim will become a desolation on the day
of rebuke.
Among the tribes of Israel I have made
known what is certain.
10 The princes of Judah have become like those
who move boundary markers.
I will pour out my wrath upon them like
water.
11 Ephraim is oppressed, crushed by judgment,
because he was determined to follow a
command.
12 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, Ephraim went to Assyria and sent
to King Jareb.
But he cannot heal you or cure your wound.
14 For I am like a lion to Ephraim and like a
young lion to the house of Judah.
I, I will tear and go away.
I will carry off, and no one will rescue.
15 I will go back to my place until they bear their
guilt and seek my face.
In their distress they will seek me earnestly.”

6

1 “Come, let us return to the LORD.
For he has torn us, but he will heal us;
he has struck us, but he will bind us up.
2 After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up, that we
may live before him.
3 Let us know;
let us press on to know the LORD.

His coming forth is as certain as the dawn.
He will come to us like the rain, like the
spring rain that waters the earth."
4 "What shall I do with you, Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, Judah?
Your steadfast love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that vanishes early.
5 Therefore I have cut them down through the
prophets;
I have killed them with the words of my
mouth.
Judgments against you go forth like light.
6 For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and knowledge
of God more than burnt offerings.
7 But like Adam they transgressed the covenant;
there they dealt faithlessly with me.
8 Gilead is a city of evildoers, marked with
bloody footprints.
9 As bands of robbers lie in wait for a man, so a
band of priests murders on the road to
Shechem.
Surely they have committed outrage.
10 In the house of Israel I have seen a horrible
thing: Ephraim's prostitution is there;
Israel is defiled.
11 For you also, Judah, a harvest has been
appointed, when I restore the fortunes of
my people."

7

1 "When I would heal Israel, Ephraim's iniquity
and Samaria's evil deeds are exposed.

For they practice deceit: a thief breaks in,
and a band of robbers raids outside.
2 They do not consider in their hearts that I
remember all their wickedness.
Now their deeds surround them;
they are before my face.
3 With their wickedness they make the king glad,
and with their lies the princes.
4 They are all adulterers, like an oven heated by
a baker, who stops stirring the fire from
the kneading of the dough until it has
risen.
5 On the day of our king, the princes became sick
with the heat of wine.
He stretched out his hand with scoffers.
6 They have made their heart ready like an oven
while they lie in wait.
Their baker sleeps all night;
in the morning it burns like a blazing fire.
7 They are all hot as an oven, and they devour
their judges.
All their kings have fallen;
not one of them calls on me.
8 Ephraim mixes himself among the peoples;
Ephraim is a cake that has not been turned.
9 Foreigners have devoured his strength, but he
does not know it.
Gray hairs are sprinkled upon him, but he
does not know it.
10 Israel's pride testifies against him, yet they
have not returned to the LORD their God
or sought him in all this.
11 Ephraim has become like a gullible dove,
without understanding.

They call to Egypt;
they go to Assyria.
12 As they go, I will spread my net over them and
bring them down like the birds of the
heavens.
I will discipline them according to what
their congregation has heard.

13 Woe to them, for they have strayed from me!
Destruction upon them, for they have
rebelled against me!
I would redeem them, but they have spoken
lies against me.
14 They have not cried to me from their hearts,
but they wail on their beds.
They gather for grain and new wine, and
turn away from me.
15 I trained and strengthened their arms, but
they plot evil against me.
16 They turn, but not upward.
They are like a faulty bow.
Their princes will fall by the sword because
of the insolence of their tongues.
For this they will be mocked in the land of
Egypt."

8

1 "Put the horn to your lips!
Like an eagle against the house of the LORD!
For they have transgressed my covenant
and rebelled against my law.
2 Israel cries to me, 'My God, we know you!'
3 Israel has rejected what is good;

an enemy will pursue him.

4 They have appointed kings, but not from me;
they have made princes, but without my knowledge.
With their silver and gold they have made idols for themselves, for their own destruction.

5 He has rejected your calf, Samaria!
My anger burns against them.
How long will they be incapable of innocence?

6 For this too comes from Israel: a craftsman made it, and it is not God.
The calf of Samaria will be shattered to pieces.

7 For they sow the wind and will reap the whirlwind.
He has no standing grain;
the shoot will produce no flour.
Even if it does, foreigners will swallow it up.

8 Israel has been swallowed up.
Now they are among the nations like a vessel no one wants.

9 For they have gone up to Assyria, like a wild donkey alone by itself.
Ephraim has hired lovers.

10 Though they hire among the nations, now I will gather them, and they will begin to dwindle under the burden of the king of princes.

11 For Ephraim has multiplied altars for sinning;
they have become altars for sinning to him.

12 I write for him the many teachings of my law,
but they are regarded as something
foreign.
13 As for the sacrifices they present to me, they
slaughter meat and eat it, but 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 fortified cities.
But I will send fire upon his cities, and it
will devour her palaces."

9

1 Do not rejoice, Israel, with exultation like the
peoples, for you have prostituted yourself,
turning away from your God.
You have loved a prostitute's wages on
every grain threshing floor.
2 Threshing floor and winepress will not feed
them, and the new wine will fail her.
3 They will not remain in the LORD's land.
Ephraim will return to Egypt, and in Assyria
they will eat unclean food.
4 They will not pour out wine offerings to the
LORD, nor will their sacrifices please him.
They will be like mourners' bread to them;
all who eat it will be defiled.
Their bread will be only for their own
appetite;
it will not come into the house of the LORD.

5 What will you do on the day of the appointed
feast, on the day of the LORD's festival?
6 For they have gone away from devastation.
Egypt will gather them;
Memphis will bury them.
Nettles will take possession of their precious
things of silver, and thorns will grow in
their tents.
7 The days of punishment have come;
the days of retribution have come.
Israel will know it.
"The prophet is a fool;
the man of the spirit is mad!"—because your
iniquity is great, and hostility abounds.
8 The prophet is Ephraim's watchman with my
God.
Yet a fowler's snare lies on all his paths, and
hostility in the house of his God.
9 They have sunk deep into corruption, as in the
days of Gibeah.
He will remember their iniquity and punish
their sins.

10 "Like grapes in the wilderness I found Israel;
like the first ripe fruit on a fig tree in its first
season I saw your fathers.
But they went to Baal-peor and consecrated
themselves to shame.
They became detestable like the thing they
loved.
11 As for Ephraim, their glory will fly away like a
bird—no birth, no pregnancy, no
conception.

12 Even if they rear their children, I will bereave
them until no one remains.
Woe to them also when I depart from them!
13 Ephraim, as I have seen him, is like Tyre,
planted in a meadow.
But Ephraim must bring out his children to
the slayer."
14 Give them, O LORD—what will you give?
Give them a miscarrying womb and dry
breasts.
15 "All their wickedness is in Gilgal;
there I hated them.
Because of the evil of their deeds, I will
drive them out of my house.
I will love them no more;
all their princes are rebels.
16 Ephraim is stricken;
their root is dried up.
They will bear no fruit.
Even if they give birth, I will put to death
the beloved offspring of their womb."

17 My God will reject them because they have
not listened to him, and they will be
wanderers among the nations.

10

1 Israel was a luxuriant vine that bore fruit for
himself.
The more his fruit increased, the more he
multiplied altars;
the more his land prospered, the more
splendid they made their sacred pillars.
2 Their heart is false;

now they must bear their guilt.
He will break down their altars and destroy
their sacred pillars.
3 Now they will say, “We have no king because
we have not feared the LORD.
And a king—what could he do for us?”
4 They speak words, swear falsely, and make
covenants.
Judgment springs up like poisonous weeds
in the furrows of the field.
5 The inhabitants of Samaria tremble for the
heifer calves of Beth-aven.
Its people mourn for it, as do its idolatrous
priests who rejoiced over it, because its
glory has departed from it.
6 It too will be carried to Assyria as tribute to
King Jareb.
Ephraim will receive shame, and Israel will
be ashamed of his counsel.
7 Samaria’s king will be swept away like a
splinter on the surface of the water.
8 The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, will
be destroyed.
Thorns and thistles will grow upon their
altars.
They will say to the mountains, “Cover us!”
and to the hills, “Fall on us!”

9 “Since the days of Gibeah you have sinned,
Israel.
There they have remained.
Will not war against the children of iniquity
overtake them in Gibeah?
10 When I desire, I will discipline them.

Peoples will gather against them when they
are bound for their two iniquities.
11 Ephraim is a trained heifer that loves to
thresh.
I spared her fair neck;
now I will harness Ephraim.
Judah will plow, and Jacob will harrow for
him.
12 Sow for yourselves in righteousness;
reap in accordance with steadfast love.
Break up your fallow ground, for it is time
to seek the LORD, until he comes and
rains righteousness upon you.
13 You have plowed wickedness and reaped
injustice;
you have eaten the fruit of lies, because you
trusted in your way, in the multitude of
your warriors.
14 So the tumult of war will rise among your
people, and all your fortresses will be
devastated, as Shalman devastated
Beth-arbel on the day of battle, when a
mother was dashed in pieces upon her
children.
15 Thus Bethel will do to you because of your
great wickedness.
At dawn the king of Israel will be utterly cut
off."

11

1 "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out
of Egypt I called my son.
2 The more they called them, the more they went
away from them.

They sacrificed to the Baals and burned
incense to carved images.
3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking
them by their arms, but they did not know
that I healed them.
4 With human cords I drew them, with bands of
love.
I was to them like those who lift the yoke off
their jaws, and I gently fed him.
5 He will not return to the land of Egypt, but
Assyria will be his king, because they
refused to return.
6 The sword will whirl through his cities,
consume his bars, and devour because of
their plans.
7 My people are bent on turning away from me.
Though they call them to the Most High, no
one exalts him.
8 How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I surrender you, Israel?
How can I make you like Admah or treat
you like Zeboiim?
My heart turns within me;
all my compassion is stirred.
9 I will not carry out my fierce anger;
I will not again destroy Ephraim.
For I am God and not a man, the Holy One
in your midst, and I will not enter the city.
10 They will follow 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 a bird from
Egypt, like a dove from the land of
Assyria.
I will settle them in their homes, declares
the LORD.

12 Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, and the
house of Israel with deceit.
Judah is still unruly toward God, toward the
faithful Holy One."

12

1 Ephraim feeds on wind and pursues the east
wind.
All day he multiplies lies and violence.
They make a covenant with Assyria, and oil
is carried to Egypt.
2 The LORD has a charge against Judah.
He will punish Jacob according to his ways
and repay him according to his deeds.
3 In the womb he grasped his brother by the
heel, and in his strength he wrestled with
God.
4 He wrestled with the angel and prevailed;
he wept and pleaded with him.
He found him at Bethel, and there he spoke
with us—
5 the LORD, the God of hosts;
the LORD is his memorial name.
6 So you, return to your God.
Keep steadfast love and justice, and wait
continually for your God.
7 A merchant holds dishonest scales in his hand;
he loves to oppress.

8 Ephraim says, “Surely I have grown rich;
I have acquired wealth for myself.
In all my labors they will find no guilt in me
that is sin.”
9 “But I am the LORD your God from the land of
Egypt.
I will again make you dwell in tents, as in
the days of the appointed feast.
10 I spoke to the prophets and multiplied visions.
Through the prophets I used comparisons.”
11 If there is iniquity in Gilead, they are surely
worthless.
In Gilgal they sacrifice bulls;
their altars are like heaps of stones in the
furrows of the field.
12 Jacob fled to the country of Aram.
Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he
tended flocks.
13 Through a prophet the LORD brought Israel
up from Egypt, and through a prophet he
was guarded.
14 Ephraim has bitterly provoked anger.
His Lord will leave his bloodguilt upon him
and repay him for his reproach.

13

1 When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling;
he was exalted in Israel.
But he became guilty through Baal and died.
2 Now they sin more and more.
They make cast images for themselves from
their silver, idols shaped by their own
skill, all of them the work of craftsmen.

Of these they say, “Let those who offer
sacrifices kiss the calves.”
3 So they will be like a morning cloud, like dew
that vanishes early, like chaff whirled
from a threshing floor, and like smoke
escaping through a lattice.
4 “But I am the LORD your God from the land of
Egypt.
You shall know no god but me, and there is
no savior besides me.
5 It was I who knew you in the wilderness, in the
land of burning drought.
6 When they fed, they were satisfied;
they were satisfied, and their heart grew
proud.
That is why they forgot me.
7 So I have become like a lion to them;
like a leopard I will watch by the road.
8 I will meet them like a bear robbed of her cubs
and tear open their chests.
There I will devour them like a lion;
a wild beast will tear them apart.
9 Your destruction, Israel, is that you are against
me, against your helper.
10 Where now is your king, that he may save you
in all your cities?
Where are your judges, of whom you said,
‘Give me a king and princes’?
11 I give you a king in my anger and take him
away in my wrath.

12 Ephraim’s iniquity is bound up;
his sin is stored away.

13 The pains of childbirth come upon him, but he
is an unwise son.
When the time comes, he does not present
himself at the opening of the womb.
14 Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol?
Shall I redeem them from death?
Where are your plagues, Death?
Where is your destruction, Sheol?
Compassion is hidden from my eyes.
15 Though he flourishes among his brothers, an
east wind will come, the wind of the LORD
rising from the wilderness.
His spring will dry up, and his fountain will
run dry.
He will plunder the treasury of every
precious object.
16 Samaria will bear her guilt, because she has
rebelled against her God.
They will fall by the sword;
their infants will be dashed to pieces, and
their pregnant women ripped open."

14

1 Return, Israel, to the LORD your God, for you
have stumbled because of your iniquity.
2 Take words with you and return to the LORD.
Say to him, "Take away all iniquity and
accept what is good, and we will offer our
lips in place of bulls.
3 Assyria will not save us;
we will not ride on horses.

We will no longer say, ‘Our God,’ to the work
of our hands, for in you the orphan finds
mercy.”
4 “I will heal their faithlessness;
I will love them freely, for my anger has
turned away from him.
5 I will be like dew to Israel.
He will blossom like a lily and strike roots
like Lebanon.
6 His shoots will spread;
his splendor will be like an olive tree, and
his fragrance like Lebanon.
7 Those who dwell in his shade will return.
They will grow grain again and blossom like
a vine;
his renown will be like the wine of Lebanon.

8 Ephraim, what have I to do anymore with
idols?
I answer him and watch over him.
I am like a flourishing cypress;
your fruit comes from me.”
9 Who is wise?
Let him understand these things.
Who is discerning?
Let him know them.
For the ways of the LORD are straight;
the righteous walk in them, but rebels
stumble in them.

BibliaTodo New Translation

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Language: English

Holy Bible, BibliaTodo New Translation (BTNT). Published by BibliaTodo Bible Society, an imprint of BibliaTodo LLC.
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2026-11-06

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 6 Nov 2026 from source files dated 6 Nov 2026
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