

Hosea

Chapter 1

- ¶1. The word of the LORD that came to Hosea ben Beerī in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam ben Joash, king of Israel.
2. The beginning of Jehovah speaking through Hosea.
And Jehovah said to Hosea, “Go! Take for yourself a wife of prostitution and children of prostitution because this land truly commits prostitution by not following Jehovah.”
3. So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.
4. And Jehovah said to him, “Call his name Jezreel, for in a little *while* I will visit the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and I will bring the kingdom of the house of Israel to an end.
5. And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.”
6. And she conceived again and bore a daughter. And *Jehovah* said to him, “Call her name, No-Mercy, because I will show no more compassion to the house of Israel; indeed, I will carry them away.
7. But I will show compassion to the house of Judah, and I will save them by Jehovah their God. I will not save them by the bow or by the sword, nor through war, nor with horses or horsemen.”
8. After she had weaned No-Mercy, she conceived and bore a son.
9. And *Jehovah* said, “Call his name ‘Not-My-People’ because you are Not-My-People, and I will not be your *God*.”

[Chapter 2, Hebrew Text]

- ¶10/1. Yet, the number of the sons of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered, and it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are

not my people,' it will be said to them, '*You are* the sons of the living God.'

11/2. Then the sons of Judah and the children of Israel will be gathered together, and they will appoint for themselves one leader. And they will go up from the land, for great is the day of Jezreel."

Chapter 2

- 1/3. "Say to your brothers, 'My people!' and to your sisters, 'Mercy!'
- 2/4. Plead! Plead with your mother (because she is not my wife, and I am not her husband), that she put away her prostitution from before her and her adulteries from between her breasts.
- 3/5. Otherwise, I will strip her naked and expose her as in the day of her birth. And I will make her like the wilderness, and lay her waste like a desert, and I will kill her with thirst.
- 4/6. And I will have no compassion for her sons because they are the sons of prostitution.
- 5/7. For their mother goes whoring; she who conceived them behaves shamefully. She says, 'I will go after my lovers, who give me my bread and my water, my wool, and my flax, my oil, and my drink!'
- 6/8. Therefore, behold, I hedge your path with thorns, and I will wall her up with stones, so that she will not find her paths.
- 7/9. And she will pursue her lovers, but she will not catch them, and she will seek them, but she will not find *them*. Then she will say, 'I will go and return to my first husband because *it was* better for me then than now.'
- 8/10. But she did not know that I gave her the grain, and the wine, and the oil, or that I multiplied silver to her, and the gold they used for Baal.
- 9/11. Therefore, I will turn back, and I will take my grain in its time, and my wine in its season, and take back my wool and my flax, *which were* for covering her nakedness.

- 10/12. But now I will expose her private parts to the eyes of her lovers, and no man will deliver her from my hand.
- 11/13. And I will put an end to her every joy, her feast, her new moon and her sabbath, and her every sacred assembly.
- 12/14. And I will lay waste her vine and her fig tree, about which she said, 'They are my wages that my lovers have given to me.' But I will turn them into a thicket, and the beast of the field will consume them.
- 13/15. And I will visit upon her the days of the Baals, when she burned incense to them and adorned herself with her nose-ring and her jewelry, and went after her lovers and forgot me, says Jehovah."
- ¶14/16. Therefore, behold! I will entice her, and bring her to the wilderness, and speak to her heart.
- 15/17. And from there I will give to her her vineyards, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope. And there she will respond as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.
- ¶16/18. And it will come to pass in that day, says Jehovah, you will call me, 'My husband,' and no more call me, 'My Baal'.¹
- 17/19. And I will take away the name of the Baals from her mouth, and they will no longer be remembered by their name.
- 18/20. And in that day, I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the birds of the sky and things that creep on the ground. And I will banish the bow and the sword and war from the land and make them lie down in safety.
- 19/21. And I will betroth you to me forever. Yea, I will betroth you to me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in compassions.
- 20/22. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness, and you will come to know Jehovah.

¹ "Baal" can mean "husband", but also can mean "master" or "lord".

- ¶21/23. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will answer, says Jehovah. I will answer the heavens, and they will answer the earth.
- 22/24. And the earth will answer the grain, and the wine, and the oil, and they will answer Jezreel.
- 23/25. For I will sow her for me in the land. And I will show mercy to No-Mercy, and I will say to Not-My-People, 'You are my people.' And he will say, 'My God!'"

Chapter 3

- ¶1. And the LORD said to me, "Go again! Love a woman loved by a companion, and yet an adulteress, the way Jehovah loves the children of Israel, and yet they look to other gods and are lovers of cakes of raisins.²"
2. So I bought her for me for fifteen pieces of silver and a homer and a half of barley.
3. And I said to her, "You will dwell with me for many days. You will not play the harlot or be with a man. So, also, will I be with you."
4. Because for many days the children of Israel will dwell without a king or a prince, without sacrifice, without a pillar, and without an ephod or teraphim.
5. Afterward, the children of Israel will repent and seek Jehovah their God and David their king. Yea, in the latter days, they will be in awe of the LORD and His goodness.

Chapter 4

- ¶1. Hear the word of Jehovah, children of Israel, for Jehovah has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth or faithfulness or knowledge of God in the land.
2. Threatening with a curse, lying, killing, stealing, and committing adultery are multiplied, and bloodshed upon bloodshed.

² Raisin-cakes were apparently used to stimulate desire (cp. Song of Solomon 2:5a).

3. Therefore, the land will mourn, and everyone living in it will grow feeble, along with the beast of the field and the bird of the air. And even the fish of the sea will be taken away.
4. Yet let no one strive, and let no one reprove another, for my quarrel is with you, O priest.
5. You will stumble by day, and the prophet also will stumble with you by night, and I will destroy your mother.
6. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge! Because you have rejected knowledge, I will reject you from being a priest to me. Inasmuch as you have forgotten the law of your God, I, even I, will forget your children!
7. As much as they increased, so they sinned against me; their honor I will change into shame.
8. They are feeding on the sin of my people, and they lift up their soul to their sin.
9. And it will be, like people, like priest. For I will visit upon him his ways, and I will return his doings to him,
10. and they will eat but not be satisfied; they will go whoring but not increase, for they have stopped heeding Jehovah.
11. Whoredom, wine, and new wine take away the heart.
12. My people seek advice from their tree, and its twig speaks to them. For a spirit of prostitution has led them astray, and from under their God they've gone whoring.
13. They sacrifice on the tops of the mountains, and on the hills they burn incense, under oak, and poplar, and terebinth, because of the pleasant shade. Therefore, your daughters will commit whoredom and your brides will commit adultery.
14. I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom nor your brides when they commit adultery. For the men go away with harlots and sacrifice with prostitutes. The people who do not understand will be cast out.

15. Though you are playing the harlot, Israel, do not let Judah be guilty. And do not come to Gilgal, nor go up to Beth-aven,³ and do not swear, “As Jehovah lives.”
16. For Israel is stubborn, like a stubborn cow. Now Jehovah will feed them like a lamb in a wide open place.
17. Ephraim is joined to idols. Leave him alone.
18. Their wine is sour. They go whoring continually. Her rulers, with shame, love, “Give!”
19. A spirit has wrapped her up in its wings, and they will be ashamed of their sacrifices.

Chapter 5

- ¶1. Hear this, O priests! Pay attention, O house of Israel! And let the house of the king give ear! The judgment is for you! For you have been a snare at Mizpah, and a net spread out on Tabor.
2. And the transgressors make profound slaughter for sacrifice, and I am rejected because of all of them.
3. I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from me. Truly now, Ephraim, you have committed fornication. Israel is defiled.
4. Their deeds will not allow *them* to return to their God, for the spirit of whoredom is within them, and they do not know Jehovah.
5. The pride of Israel testifies on his face, and Israel and Ephraim are tripped up by their iniquity; Judah also stumbles with them.
6. With their flocks and their herds they will go to seek Jehovah, but they will not find *Him*. He has withdrawn from them.
7. They have been unfaithful to Jehovah in that they have given birth to strange children. Now, a new moon will devour them with their portions.

³ Literally, “house of worthlessness”, a name God gives to Bethel at this time in Israel’s history.

- ¶8. Blow a horn in Gibeah, the trumpet in Ramah. Cry out at Beth-aven, "After you, O Benjamin!"
9. Ephraim will be a ruin in the day of punishment; among the tribes of Israel have I declared what is sure.
10. The princes of Judah are like those who remove a landmark. I will pour out my fury upon them like water.
11. Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgment, because he was willing to obey the command.
12. So I will be like a moth to Ephraim, and like rotteness to the house of Judah.
13. When Ephraim saw his disease, and Judah his wound, then Ephraim went to Assyria and sent to King Jareb, but he could not heal *you*, nor cure *your* wound.
14. For I am like a lion to Ephraim, and like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, yes I! I will tear in pieces and depart; I will carry off, and there will be no rescuer.
15. I am going. I am returning to my place until they admit their guilt and seek my face. In their distress, they will seek me earnestly.

Chapter 6

1. Come, and let us return to Jehovah, for He has torn, but He will heal us. He has stricken, but He will bind us up.
2. After two days He will bring us to life again. On the third day He will raise us up, and we will live in His presence.
3. Let us know, let us press on to know Jehovah. His going out is as certain as the light of dawn, and He will come to us like rain, as the spring rain waters the land.
4. O Ephraim, what shall I do with you? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your faithfulness is like the morning mist and like dew, vanishing quickly.
5. Therefore, I have hewed them in pieces through the prophets; I have killed them with the words of my mouth, and your judgments have been like the light coming forth.

6. For I desired mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.
7. But they, like Adam, transgressed the covenant. There they were unfaithful to me.
8. Gilead is a city of evildoers. It is tracked with blood.
9. And as bands of robbers wait for a man, so the priestly band murders on the road to Shechem in that they commit adultery.
10. Within the house of Israel I have seen a horrible thing: the whoredom of Ephraim. Israel is defiled.
11. And when I have returned the captivity of my people, O Judah, there is a harvest set for you.

Chapter 7

- ¶1. When I would have healed Israel, then the sin of Ephraim was exposed, along with the wickedness of Samaria, for they practice deception, and the thief comes in, and the robbers raid outside.
2. But they do not think in their heart *that* I remember all their wickedness. Now, their own doings have hemmed them in. They are before my face.
3. Through their wickedness, they gladden the king, and with their lies, princes.
4. They are all adulterers; *they are* like an oven, heated by a baker, who stops getting up after kneading the dough until it is leavened.
5. By day, they made our king and the rulers sick, inflamed with wine. He reached out his hand to scorners.
6. For they have prepared their hearts, as with the oven, while they lie in wait. Their baker sleeps through the night. In the morning, it is burning like a flame of fire.
7. They are all hot, as with the oven, and they devour their judges. All their kings have fallen. There is no one among them calling on Me.

8. Ephraim has mingled himself with the nations; Ephraim is an unturned cake.
9. Strangers consume his strength, but he does not know it; even *though* gray hair is showing up on him, he doesn't know it.
10. The pride of Israel testifies on his face, but they do not return to Jehovah their God, nor seek Him in all this.
11. And Ephraim is like Jonah⁴, silly, without understanding. They call to Egypt, and they go to Assyria.
12. When they go, I will spread out my net over them. I will bring them down like birds of the sky. I will chasten them as a testimony to their congregation.
- ¶13. Woe to them, for they have fled from me! Destruction for them, for they have rebelled against me – yes, I who would rescue them – and yet they speak lies about me!
14. And they have not cried out to me in their heart when they howled on their beds. They assemble themselves for bread and new wine; they reject me.
15. Though I trained and strengthened their arms, they devise evil against me.
16. They repent, but not to the *Most* High. They are like an untrustworthy bow. Their princes will fall by the sword for the insolence of their tongue. This *will be* to their disgrace in the land of Egypt.

Chapter 8

1. Set a trumpet to your mouth. He will come like an eagle against the house of Jehovah because they have transgressed my covenant and rebelled against my law.
2. Ah, Israel! They will cry out to me, “My God, we know you!”
3. Israel has rejected what is good. An enemy will pursue him.

⁴ Or, “like a dove”.

4. They set up kings but not by me. They make princes that I do not know. *With* their silver and gold, they make themselves idols so that they might be cut off.⁵
5. Your calf, O Samaria, has cast *you* off! My anger burns against them. How long will they not attain to purity?
6. For it came from Israel; an artisan made it. And it is not a god, for truly the calf of Samaria will be splinters.
7. For they are sowing wind, and they will reap a tempest! The standing grain has no heads. It will produce no flour. If by chance it produces, strangers will devour it.
8. Israel is devoured; they are now among the nations as a vessel in which is no delight.
9. They have gone up to Assyria, a wild ass, alone by himself. Ephraim has hired lovers.
10. Even though they have hired *lovers* from the nations, I will now gather them. And they have begun *to become* few because of the burden of the King of rulers.
11. Because Ephraim has made many altars for sin, they have become to him altars for sinning.
12. Though I write the great things of my law⁶ for him, they are regarded as strange.
13. *As for* the sacrifices of my offerings, they make sacrifices of flesh and they eat, *but* Jehovah is not pleased with them. Now he will remember their guilt and visit their sins. They will return to Egypt.
14. Israel has forgotten his Maker and builds temples, and Judah has multiplied fortified cities. So, I will send a fire upon his cities, and it will consume their fortresses.

Chapter 9

⁵ Or, "Their silver and their gold produce idols for them, so that it might be cut off."

⁶ Or, "Though I write for him ten thousand *precepts*".

- ¶1. O Israel, do not rejoice for joy like the nations, for you have gone whoring from your God. At every threshing floor, you love the wages of a harlot.
2. Threshing floor and winepress will not provide for them, and the new wine will fail in her.
3. They will not remain in the land of Jehovah, but Ephraim will return to Egypt, and in Assyria, they will eat unclean *things*.
4. They are not pouring out wine to Jehovah, and they are not pleasing Him. Their sacrifices are like the bread of sinners for them; all who eat it are defiling themselves, because their bread is for themselves. It will not come into the house of Jehovah.
5. What will you do on the appointed meeting day and on the LORD's feast day?
6. For look! They are gone because of destruction. Egypt will gather them and Memphis will bury them. As for their treasures of silver, nettles will inherit them; thorns will *occupy* their tents.
7. The days of vengeance have come; the days of retribution have come. Israel will know. The prophet is a fool; the spiritual man is mad because of the magnitude of your sin and your great hatred.
8. Someone is watching Ephraim with my God. The prophet is a fowler's snare in all his ways. Hatred is in the house of his god.
9. They have profoundly corrupted *themselves* as in the days of Gibeah. He will remember their transgression, and He will punish their sins.
- ¶10. I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness. Like the first figs of a fig tree at the beginning *of the season*, I saw your fathers. As for them, they went to Baal-Peor and separated themselves to that shame, and they became as abominable as what they loved.

11. Ephraim's glory will fly away like a bird, from birth, from the womb, and from conception.
12. Even if they bring up their sons, I will bereave them of men. Woe to them when I depart from them!
13. Ephraim, just as I saw Tyre, is planted in a meadow, but Ephraim will bring his sons out to the executioner.
14. Give them! O Jehovah, what will you give? Give them a miscarrying womb and dried up breasts.
15. Their every evil is in Gilgal because there I hated them for the wickedness of their deeds. I will drive them away from my house. I will no longer love them. All their princes are apostates.
16. Ephraim is struck down. Their root is dried up. They will bear no fruit. Even if they bear children, I will kill the cherished fruit of their womb.
- ¶17. My God will reject them because they did not listen to Him, and they will be wanderers among the nations.

Chapter 10

- ¶1. Israel is an empty vine. He bears fruit to himself. As his fruit increased, he increased *his* altars. The better the land, the better the pillars became.
2. Their heart is divided, and now they will bear their guilt. He will break down their altars. He will destroy their pillars.
3. For they now say, "We have no king. We do not fear Jehovah. And the king, what can he do for us?"
4. They speak words; they swear falsely when making a covenant; therefore, judgment will spring up like a poisonous weed in the furrows of the field.
5. The inhabitants of Samaria are in awe of the calves of Beth-aven. Its priests that rejoiced over it, and its people mourn for it because its glory has been taken from it.

6. It will surely be brought to Assyria as a gift for King Jareb. Ephraim will receive shame, and Israel will be ashamed of his own counsel.
7. Samaria will cease to exist; her king will be like foam on the surface of the water.
8. And the high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, will be destroyed. Thornbush and thistle will climb up on their altars, and they will say to the mountains, 'Cover us!' and to the hills, 'Fall on us!'
- ¶9. O Israel, you have sinned since the days of Gibeah! There they made their stand *so that* the battle against the unrighteousness in Gibeah would not overtake them.
10. It is my intention to chastise them; therefore, nations will be gathered against them because they are yoked to their two transgressions.
11. For Ephraim is a trained cow that loves to crush the grain, but I will put a yoke on her fine neck. I will make Ephraim pull, and Judah will plow. Jacob will break up his clods.
12. Sow righteousness for yourselves; reap lovingkindness. Break up for yourselves fallow ground, for it is time to seek Jehovah until He comes and rains righteousness upon you.
13. You have plowed wickedness. You have reaped unrighteousness. You have eaten the fruit of lies because you trusted in your way, in the multitude of your mighty men.
14. And a tumult will arise among your people, and all your fortresses will be destroyed as Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel in the day of battle; mother was smashed to pieces with *her* children.
15. Thus Bethel has done to you because of your great evil. At dawn, the king of Israel will be utterly cut off.

Chapter 11

1. When Israel was a youth, I loved him, and I called my son out of Egypt.

2. The more I⁷ called them, the more they went away from me⁸.
To Balaam they sacrificed, and to idols they burned incense.
3. Yet, it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, leading them by his arms, and they did not know that I had healed them.
4. I drew them *to me* with cords of a man, with bands of love; but I was to them like those who lift the yoke onto their jaws, even though I bent down to feed him.
5. He will not return to the land of Egypt, but Assyria, he will be his king because they have refused to repent.
6. And the sword will turn against his cities, and destroy his idle talkers, and devour *them* because of their counsels.
7. And my people are addicted to apostasy from me, and though they call to the Most High together, He will not lift them up.
8. How can I give you up, O Ephraim, or hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah, or treat you like Zeboiim? My heart is turned within me. My repentings are kindled together.
9. I will not act on my burning anger. I will not turn back to destroy Ephraim because I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst. I will not come in anger.
10. They will follow Jehovah. He will roar like a lion. When he roars, then the children will come trembling from the west.
11. They will come trembling like a bird out of Egypt, and like a dove from the land of Assyria, and I will cause them to dwell in their homes, says Jehovah.

[Chapter 12, Hebrew text]

- ¶12/1. Ephraim surrounds me with lying, and the house of Israel with treachery; but Judah still rules with God and is established with help from the holy ones.

Chapter 12

⁷ Hebrew: “they”, probably referring to the prophets God sent to Israel.

⁸ Hebrew: “them”, probably referring to the prophets God sent to Israel.

- 1/2. Ephraim grazes on wind and pursues the east wind all day. He multiplies falsehood and violence. They make a covenant with Assyria, and oil is carried to Egypt.
- 2/3. And Jehovah has a dispute with Judah, too, and there will be a visitation upon Jacob according to his ways. According to his deeds, He will recompense him.
- 3/4. In the womb, he grasped his brother by the heel, and by his strength, he contended with God.
- 4/5. He contended with an angel and overcame. He wept and made supplication to him. He found him in Bethel, and there He spoke with us,
- 5/6. even Jehovah, God of hosts! "Jehovah" is His memorial.
- 6/7. And you, by your God, will return. Keep loving-kindness and judgment, and wait on your God continually.
- 7/8. A merchant! Fraudulent scales are in his hand. He loves to oppress.
- 8/9. Yet, Ephraim has said, "I am surely rich. I have found wealth for myself. *In* all my acquisitions, they will not find with me an offense that would be sin."
- 9/10. And I, Jehovah, your God ever since the land of Egypt, will cause you to dwell in tents again, as in the days of the tabernacle.
- 10/11. I spoke through the prophets, and I multiplied visions and used parables by the hand of the prophets.
- 11/12. Since Gilead does iniquity, they are altogether worthless. At Gilgal, they sacrifice bulls. Also, their altars are like heaps of stone in the furrows of the field.
- 12/13. And Jacob fled to the field of Syria, and Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he kept watch.
- 13/14. And by a prophet, Jehovah brought Israel up from Egypt, and by a prophet he was kept.
- 14/15. Ephraim vexed *Him* bitterly. And He will leave his blood-guiltiness upon him, and as for his disgrace, his Lord will recompense his contempt to him.

Chapter 13

1. When Ephraim spoke trembling, he was exalted in Israel, but he offended with Baal and died.
2. And now they increase sin and make for themselves cast images from their silver, idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of craftsmen. To them, they say, "You who sacrifice humans, kiss the calves!"
3. Therefore, they will be like the morning mist and the early dew that goes away, like chaff blown from the threshing-floor by a storm and like smoke out of a chimney.
4. But I have been Jehovah your God ever since the land of Egypt, and you do not know a god besides me, and there is no savior but me.
5. I knew you in the wilderness, in a parched land.
6. And in their grazing they were satisfied. They were satisfied, but their heart was lifted up, and they forgot me.
7. So I will be like a lion to them; like a leopard beside the path will I watch.
8. I will meet them like a bear robbed of her cubs and tear open their chest, and there I will devour them like a lion. A beast of the field will tear them to pieces.
9. It has destroyed you, O Israel, because your help was in me.
10. Where now is your king that will save you in any of your cities? Or your judges, to whom you said, "Give me a king and princes"?
11. I gave you a king in my anger, and I took *him* away in my wrath.
- ¶12. The guilt of Ephraim is bound up; his iniquity is stored up.
13. Labor pains will come upon him; he is an unwise son because he was not steadfast in the time of opportunity.
14. I will ransom them from the power of Sheol; I will redeem them from death. Death! Where are your plagues? Where is your sting, O Sheol? Pity will be hidden from my eyes.

15. Though he is fruitful among his brothers, an east wind from Jehovah will come, arising from the wilderness, and his spring will be ashamed, and his fountain will be dried up. It will rob the storehouse of every desirable vessel.

[Chapter 14, Hebrew text]

16/1. Samaria will be condemned because she rebelled against her God. They will fall by the sword. Their little ones will be dashed in pieces, and his pregnant women will be ripped open.

Chapter 14

¶1/2. Return, O Israel, to Jehovah your God, for you have fallen in your iniquity!

2/3. Take with you words and return to Jehovah. Say to him, "Take away all transgression and take us for good, and we will repay with the fruit of our lips.

3/4. Asshur will not save us. We will not ride on a horse, and we will no longer call the work of our hands our God, for in you the fatherless find compassion."

4/5. I will heal their apostasy. I will love them freely because my anger will have turned away from him.

5/6. I will be like the dew for Israel. He will flourish like the lily and put out his roots like Lebanon.

6/7. His shoots will spread out and his splendor will be like the olive and his scent like Lebanon.

7/8. They will return and dwell in my shadow. They will have life like grain and shoot like the vine, his memorial *will be* like the wine of Lebanon.

¶8/9. O Ephraim, what are the idols to me anymore? I afflicted, and I observed him. I am like a green cypress. Your fruit is obtained from me.

9/10. Who is wise and will understand these things; perceptive, and understands them? For the ways of Jehovah are upright

and the righteous will walk in them, but those who rebel will fall at them.