

Hosea

Hosea has been called the “death-bed prophet of Israel” because he was the last to prophesy before the northern kingdom fell to Assyria (about 722 B.C.). His ministry followed a golden age in the northern kingdom, with a peace and prosperity not seen since the days of Solomon. Unfortunately, with this prosperity came moral decay, and Israel forsook God to worship idols. So God instructed Hosea to marry a “wife of whoredom” (1:2), whose unfaithfulness to her husband would serve as an example of Israel’s unfaithfulness to God. Hosea then explained God’s complaint against Israel and warned of the punishment that would come unless the people returned to the Lord and remained faithful to him. The book shows the depth of God’s love for his people, a love that tolerates no rivals.

Hosea (784 bc>722 bc) = Salvation, variant of Yehoshua [the Hebrew name of Christ]
Northern kingdom (Israel) Jeroboam (the king) rebelled [because of burdensome taxes]
(split in the time of Jeremiah) (10 tribes) - 9 dynasties, 931bc > 721bc
Southern kingdom (Judea) - Rehoboam (the king) -lasted 115 years longer
1 dynasty =Judah 931bc > 606bc
Hosea [the last prophet to the N kingdom] contemporary with Isaiah and Amos
Material prosperity was unequaled since King Solomon [Letter to Laodicea Rev 3:14>]

Hosea's message; [to the North kingdom, all people of God, and the latter days]

- 1] God suffers when HIS people are unfaithful to HIM [we can grieve the Creator?!]
- 2] God cannot condone sin [sin has to be paid for (“wages of sin is death”)]
- 3] God will never forsake those who love HIM
- 4] God seeks to win back those who have forsaken HIM

Consider in the light of Deu 28: and Lev 26: Mosaic covenant relationship

Sins; (sounds like current events)

The Character of God

Idolatry

HIS sovereignty chp 1>3

Social injustice

HIS holiness chp 4>7

Violent crimes

HIS justice chp 8>10

Religious hypocrisy

Confirms Reconciliation and restoration

Political rebellion

Foreign alliances

Spiritual ingratitude [Compare these sins to the description of the harlot in Rev 18:]

The Book of Hosea

[Comparing Israel to an adulterous wife]

[Topic Notes – 7 Letters]

Hos 1:1 The word of the LORD that came unto Hosea, the son of Beerī, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, *and* Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

Hos 1:2 The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, *departing* from the LORD.

Hosea's marriage and children are indicative of Israel's relationship to her God.

Hos 1:3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son.

Hos 1:4 And the LORD said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little *while*, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, [the last king of Israel (N kingdom)]

Jezreel - It will be sown [scattered] of God

The blood of Jezreel = 2 kings 10:>

This is a prophecy of the Assyrian conquest of the Northern kingdom. Jehu's was Israel's (Northern kingdom) last dynasty.[11 kings]

Isa 10:5 Woe to Assyria, the rod of my anger; the staff in their hands is my fury!

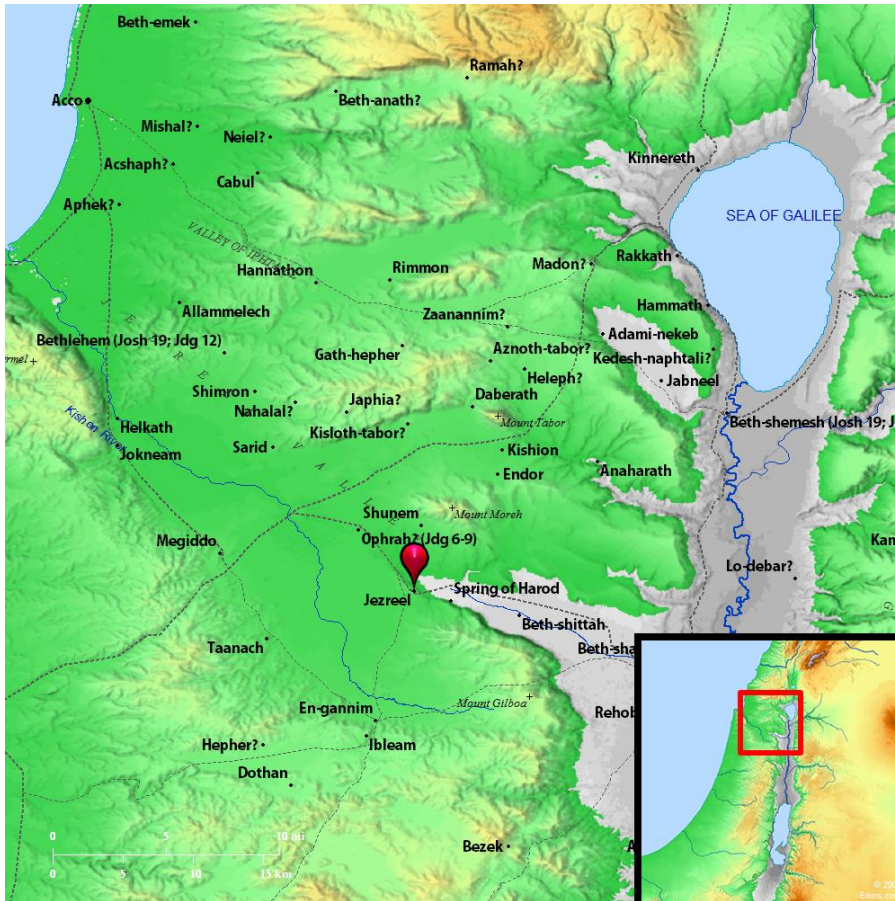
Isa 10:6 Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

Isa 10:10 As my hand has reached to the kingdoms of the idols, whose carved images were greater than those of Jerusalem and Samaria,

Isa 10:11 shall I not do to Jerusalem and her idols as I have done to Samaria and her images?"

Isa 10:12 When the Lord has finished all his work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, he will punish the speech of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the boastful look in his eyes.

Hos 1:5 And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.



This is also known as HarMegiddo [Rev 16:16 And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.]

Hos 1:6 And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And *God* said unto him, Call her name Loruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away.

Amo 7:7 This is what he showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand.

Amo 7:8 And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said, “Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them;

Amo 7:9 the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

Hos 1:7 But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.

After Assyria had taken the Northern kingdom, they moved against the Southern. They took cities to the North of Jerusalem, and then were headed to Jerusalem, and sent an emissary to offer a surrender. The emissary got uppity and challenged God. King Hezekiah spread the letter in front of the altar and said look at this,

and God said...

Isa 37:33 “Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow there or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege mound against it.

Isa 37:34 By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come into this city, declares the LORD.

Isa 37:35 For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David.”

Isa 37:36 And the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies.

Isa 37:37 Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and returned home and lived at Nineveh.

Isa 37:38 And as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer, his sons, struck him down with the sword. And after they escaped into the land of Ararat, Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

Compare this to the Psalms 83 war of the 1st Trumpet Judgement in Rev 8:

Hos 1:8 Now when she had weaned Loruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son.

Hos 1:9 Then said *God*, Call his name Loammi: for ye *are not my people*, and I will not be your *God*.

All of this about "No Mercy, Not My People" is about the covenant relationship between Israel and the Living God.

Lev 26:1 “You shall not make idols for yourselves or erect an image or pillar, and you shall not set up a figured stone in your land to bow down to it, for I am the LORD your God.

Lev 26:2 You shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD. [7th day,[Sabbat] 7th week,[Shemita], 7th Month [New Year] 50th year[Jubilee], plus the 7 Feast Days]

Lev 26:3 “If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, Lev 26:4 then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

Lev 26:5 Your threshing shall last to the time of the grape harvest, and the grape harvest shall last to the time for sowing. And you shall eat your bread to the full and dwell in your land securely.

Lev 26:6 I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid. And I will remove harmful beasts from the land, and the sword shall not go through your land.

Lev 26:7 You shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword.

Lev 26:8 Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall chase ten thousand, and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

Lev 26:9 I will turn to you and make you fruitful and multiply you and will confirm my covenant with you.

Lev 26:10 You shall eat old store long kept, and you shall clear out the old to make way for the new.

Lev 26:11 I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you.

Lev 26:12 And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.

Lev 26:13 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves. And I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

Lev 26:14 “**But** if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments,

Lev 26:15 if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant,

Lev 26:16 then I will do this to you: I will visit you with panic, with wasting disease and fever that consume the eyes and make the heart ache. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

Lev 26:17 I will set my face against you, and you shall be struck down before your enemies. Those who hate you shall rule over you, and you shall flee when none pursues you.

Lev 26:18 And if in spite of this you will not listen to me, then I will discipline you again sevenfold for your sins,

Lev 26:19 and I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze.

Lev 26:20 And your strength shall be spent in vain, for your land shall not yield its increase, and the trees of the land shall not yield their fruit.

Lev 26:21 “Then if you walk contrary to me and will not listen to me, I will continue striking you, sevenfold for your sins.

Dan 9:2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

Jer 25:11 This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

[one year for each Shemita they had ignored]

Lev 26:22 And I will let loose the wild beasts against you, which shall bereave you of your children and destroy your livestock and make you few in number, so that your roads shall be deserted.

Lev 26:23 “And if by this discipline you are not turned to me but walk contrary to me,

Lev 26:24 then I also will walk contrary to you, and I myself will strike you sevenfold for your sins.

Lev 26:25 And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall execute vengeance for the covenant. And if you gather within your cities, I will send pestilence among you, and you

shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.

[Happened to Israel in Book of Judges, Assyrian and Babylonian conquests, Diaspora]

Lev 26:26 When I break your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in a single oven and shall dole out your bread again by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied. [Famine conditions]

Lev 26:27 “But if in spite of this you will not listen to me, but walk contrary to me,

Lev 26:28 then I will walk contrary to you in fury, and I myself will discipline you sevenfold for your sins.

Lev 26:29 You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters.

Lev 26:30 And I will destroy your high places and cut down your incense altars and cast your dead bodies upon the dead bodies of your idols, and my soul will abhor you.

Lev 26:31 And I will lay your cities waste and will make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will not smell your pleasing aromas. [Religious oblations]

Lev 26:32 And I myself will devastate the land, so that your enemies who settle in it shall be appalled at it.

Lev 26:33 And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.

Lev 26:34 “Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths as long as it lies desolate, while you are in your enemies' land; then the land shall rest, and enjoy its Sabbaths.

Lev 26:35 As long as it lies desolate it shall have rest, the rest that it did not have on your Sabbaths when you were dwelling in it.

Lev 26:36 And as for those of you who are left, I will send faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. The sound of a driven leaf shall put them to flight, and they shall flee as one flees from the sword, and they shall fall when none pursues.

Lev 26:37 They shall stumble over one another, as if to escape a sword, though none pursues. And you shall have no power to stand before your enemies.

Lev 26:38 And you shall perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.

Lev 26:39 And those of you who are left shall rot away in your enemies' lands because of their iniquity, and also because of the iniquities of their fathers they shall rot away like them.

Lev 26:40 “**But** if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me,

Lev 26:41 so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity,

Lev 26:42 then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.

2Ch 7:14 if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, [fast] and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Lev 26:43 But the land shall be abandoned by them and enjoy its Sabbaths while it lies

desolate without them, and they shall make amends for their iniquity, because they spurned my rules and their soul abhorred my statutes.

Lev 26:44 Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not spurn them, neither will I abhor them so as to destroy them utterly and break my covenant with them, for I am the LORD their God.

Lev 26:45 But I will for their sake remember the covenant with their forefathers, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the LORD.”

Lev 26:46 These are the statutes and rules and laws that the LORD made between himself and the people of Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai

Hos 1:10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, *that* in the place where it was said unto them, *Ye are* not my people, *there* it shall be said unto them, *Ye are* the sons of the living God.

The Apostle Peter tells us; this is applicable to the Church Age;

1Pe 2:4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,

1Pe 2:5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1Pe 2:6 For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

1Pe 2:7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

1Pe 2:8 and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

1Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1Pe 2:10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Hos 1:11 Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, [Jesus] and they shall come up out of the land: [all the earth]

[The 144,000 returns to the New Jerusalem to be joined by the resurrected]

For great *shall be* the day of Jezreel. [The battle of Armageddon]

[Rev 16:16 And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon]

A prophecy of reconciliation yet to be fulfilled;

Isa 11:11 In that day [latter days, end times] the Lord will extend his hand yet a second

time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. [everywhere]

Jer 3:18 In those days the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers for a heritage.

Zec 10:6 "I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back because I have compassion on them, and they shall be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the LORD their God and I will answer them.

Also: Exe 34:23, Eze 37:16>:24

Hos 5:15 I will go; I will return to My place until they confess their guilt and seek My face. In their affliction they will seek Me diligently.

[This verse speaks of the 2 comings of the Lord. He must have been here once [the life of Jesus] to be able to go [ascension] and then return again.[Revelation 19:]

The second half of the verse tells us the prerequisite condition for His return; Israel must recognize their offence and ask Him to save them. This the whole reason for the events described in the Book of Revelation]

Rev 5:5 And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

Rev 19:11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.

Rev 19:12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.

Rev 19:13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

Rev 19:14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.

Hos 2:1 Say ye unto your brethren, Ammi; and to your sisters, Ruhamah.

[The names are changed; My people, Mercy = In the latter days there is hope for reconciliation]

Hos 2:2 Plead with your mother, plead: for she *is* not my wife, neither *am* I her husband: let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts; [God can, and wants to forgive them, if they will repent and return to HIM]

mother = Israel's religious and government leaders

Isa 50:1 Thus says the LORD: “Where is your mother's certificate of divorce, with which I sent her away? Or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities you were sold, and for your transgressions your mother was sent away.

Eze 16:25 At the head of every street you built your lofty place and made your beauty an abomination, offering yourself to any passerby and multiplying your whoring.

Hos 2:3 Lest I strip her naked, and set her as in the day that she was born, and make her as a wilderness, and set her like a dry land, and slay her with thirst.

Eze 16:> is a parallel to this passage, but talking about the House of Judah

[Hosea was written first, Ezekiel wrote from the Babylonian captivity]

Hos 2:4 And I will not have mercy upon her children; for they *be* the children of whoredoms.

Hos 2:5 For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give *me* my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink.

Another parallel in Revelation; [all 3 are talking about Jerusalem/all of Israel]

Rev 17:1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters,

Rev 17:2 with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.”

Rev 18:1 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory.

Rev 18:2 And he called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.

Rev 18:3 For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.”

Hos 2:6 Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths. [Israel still has God's protection, but for how long?]

Job 1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason?

Job 1:10 Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

Job 1:11 But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.”

Hos 2:7 And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find *them*: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then *was it* better with me than now.

Hos 2:8 For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, *which* they prepared for Baal.

Hos 2:9 Therefore will I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax *given* to cover her nakedness.

Hos 2:10 And now will I discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of mine hand.

Hos 2:11 I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts.

Hos 2:12 And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, whereof she hath said, These *are* my rewards that my lovers have given me: and I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them.

Hos 2:13 And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the LORD.

Hos 2:14 Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.

Hos 2:15 And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

Valley of Achor; [They just ransacked Jericho]

Jos 7:20 And Achan answered Joshua, "Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did:

Jos 7:21 when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

Jos 7:22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was hidden in his tent with the silver underneath.

Jos 7:23 And they took them out of the tent and brought them to Joshua and to all the people of Israel. And they laid them down before the LORD.

Jos 7:24 And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor.

Jos 7:25 And Joshua said, "Why did you bring trouble on us? The LORD brings trouble on you today." And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones.

Jos 7:26 And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his burning anger. Therefore, to this day the name of that place is called the Valley of Achor.

A metaphor for getting rid of sin and repentance, and a hope of relationship renewal.

Hos 2:16 And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, *that* thou shalt call me Ishi; [husband, a term of endearment] and shalt call me no more Baali. [My Master, Lord, a term of servitude]

Hos 2:17 For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be

remembered by their name. [Baalim is reference to foreign gods]

Hos 2:18 And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and *with* the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.

Hos 2:19 And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

Hos 2:20 I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.

Hos 2:21 And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the LORD, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth;

Hos 2:22 And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel.

Hos 2:23 And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to *them which were* not my people, Thou *art* my people; and they shall say, *Thou art* my God.

The Apostle Paul brings this to mind;

Rom 9:24 even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

Rom 9:25 As indeed he says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'"

Rom 9:26 "And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"

Rom 9:27 And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved, [Isa 10:22-23]

Rom 9:28 for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay." [

Also; Isaiah 54:> is about the "barren, desolate, deserted" Gentiles [from the Tower of Babel] being reconciled to the family of God by HIS son Jesus and the Holy Spirit [Isa 54:16]

The book of Revelation is the culmination of the curse and the reconciliation.

Hos 3:1 Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of *her* friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.

Hos 3:2 So I bought her to me for fifteen *pieces* of silver, and *for* an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley:

[Hosea had to buy his wife back(probably from a slave sale) apparently he was not a rich man, because he paid half in silver and half in grain. It's probably was all he had]

shekel = 2/5 oz (x 15) = 6 oz = \$ 109.14

homer = 6 bushels

lethech = 3 bushels =\$42.66

Total = \$151.80 [at today's commodity prices]

Hos 3:3 And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for *another* man: so *will* I also *be* for thee.

Hos 3:4 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and *without* teraphim:

[These are the religious trappings of the Temple priests]

A near prophecy of the Assyrian conquest, it's also true of the Babylonian captivity, and the diaspora.

Hos 3:5 Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.

[The case against the N Kingdom]

Hos 4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because *there is* no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

Hos 4:2 By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. even against relatives

Hos 4:3 Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.

Hos 4:4 Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people *are* as they that strive with the priest. they just shut up and go with the flow –foreshadowing the 7 letters of Revelation

Hos 4:5 Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy thy mother.

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: ...

Pro 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Pro 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Pro 23:12 Apply your heart to instruction and your ear to words of knowledge.

... because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Hos 4:7 As they were increased, so they sinned against me: *therefore* will I change their glory into shame.

Hos 4:8 They eat up the sin of my people, and they set their heart on their iniquity.

Hos 4:9 And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings.

Hos 4:10 For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the LORD.

Hos 4:11 Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.

Hos 4:12 My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused *them* to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God. [stocks and staff refer to divinations from false gods,]

Hos 4:13 They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof *is* good: [where the altars to the gods were. They were commanded to remove them] therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery.

Hos 4:14 I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots: therefore the people *that* doth not understand shall fall. [the fathers are held responsible for the instruction of their children, and the actions of their wives; the wrong behavior will bring its own punishment]

Hos 4:15 Though thou, Israel, play the harlot, *yet* let not Judah offend; and come not ye unto Gilgal, neither go ye up to Bethaven, nor swear, The LORD liveth. [a warning to the S kingdom] [Gilgal and Bethaven are where the golden calves were set up for gvt sanctioned idol worship]

Hos 4:16 For Israel slideth back as a backsliding [refusing to be led] heifer: now the LORD will feed [can mean to shear] them as a lamb in a large place. [pasture]

Hos 4:17 Ephraim *is* joined to idols: let him alone. [beyond help from the Judeans]

Hos 4:18 Their drink is sour: [drink offerings] they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers *with* shame do love, [immorality] Give ye. [an expression of disgust; like-OH come on]

Hos 4:19 The wind [Spirit-God] hath bound her up in her wings, [constrained] and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices. [They continued to sacrifice to God AND to sin against HIM]

[The judgement against the Northern Kingdom]

Hos 5:1 Hear ye this, O priests; and hearken, ye house of Israel; and give ye ear, O house of the king; for judgment *is* toward you, because ye have been a snare on Mizpah, and a net spread upon Tabor. [leadership has corrupted the people from LA to NY]

Hos 5:2 And the revolvers are profound to make slaughter, though I *have been* a rebuker of them all.

Hos 5:3 I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, [turning to false gods] *and* Israel is defiled.

Hos 5:4 They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms *is* in the midst of them, and they have not known the LORD.

Hos 5:5 And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them.

Hos 5:6 They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD; but they shall not find *him*; he hath withdrawn himself from them.

Hos 5:7 They have dealt treacherously against the LORD: for they have begotten strange

children: now shall a month devour them with their portions. [it's coming quickly]

ESV=Hos 5:7 They have been unfaithful to the LORD, having raised unbelieving children. In the coming month they will be devoured, along with their fields.

Hos 5:8 Blow ye the cornet in Gibeah, *and* the trumpet in Ramah: cry aloud *at* Bethaven, after thee, O Benjamin. [Be alerted Judah. Benjamin would be the line between them and Assyria]

Hos 5:9 Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke: among the tribes of Israel have I made known that which shall surely be.

Hos 5:10 The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound: *therefore* I will pour out my wrath upon them like water. [moving property lines was expressly forbidden]

Hos 5:11 Ephraim *is* oppressed *and* broken in judgment, because he willingly walked after the commandment.

Hos 5:12 Therefore *will I be* unto Ephraim as a moth, and to the house of Judah as rottenness.

Hos 5:13 When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah *saw* his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: [foreign alliances] yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound.

Hos 5:14 For I *will be* unto Ephraim as a lion, and as a young lion to the house of Judah: I, *even* I, will tear and go away; I will take away, and none shall rescue *him*.

[God announces HE is no longer with the N Kingdom...until...]

Hos 5:15 I will go *and* return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.

[saying...]

Hos 6:1 Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

Hos 6:2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

[A couple of ways to look at this: It's been close to 2000 years since the ascension... (2Pe 3:8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.) That puts their redemption in the Millennial reign of Christ. (This would be true)]

...or; people were to be declared legally dead after 72 hours.(3 days, think of a wake) That would make this a prophecy that Israel won't be dead, just gone from the land. (There is hope); and this too is true. [The context of vs:1 is that God will hurt but then heal them and vs:3 says; if they repent, God will bless them]

Hos 6:3 Then shall we know, *if* we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared [as sure] as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter *and* former rain unto the earth. [fall and spring rains giving good harvests]

[God expresses grief over the pronouncement of their doom]

Hos 6:4 O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness *is* as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away. [flimsy loyalty to God]

Hos 6:5 Therefore have I hewed *them* by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments *are as* the light *that* goeth forth. [told them over and over]

Hos 6:6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

Hos 6:7 But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me.

Hos 6:8 Gilead *is* a city of them that work iniquity, *and is* polluted with blood.

Hos 6:9 And as troops of robbers wait for a man, *so* the company of priests murder in the way by consent: for they commit lewdness.

Hos 6:10 I have seen an horrible thing in the house of Israel: there *is* the whoredom of Ephraim, Israel is defiled.

Hos 6:11 Also, O Judah, [you too] he hath set an harvest for thee, when I returned the captivity of my people. [a prophecy of the Babylonian captivity, just like Isaiah and Jerimiah are saying]

Hos 7:1 When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood; and the thief cometh in, *and* the troop of robbers spoileth without. [they keep on sinning, thwarting the blessings God would bring]

Hos 7:2 And they consider not in their hearts *that* I remember all their wickedness: now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face.

Hos 7:3 They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies.

Hos 7:4 They *are* all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, *who* ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened. [started the oven and went to sleep]

Hos 7:5 In the day of our king the princes have made *him* sick with bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand with scorners.

Hos 7:6 For they have made ready their heart like an oven, whiles they lie in wait: their baker sleepeth all the night; in the morning it burneth as a flaming fire. [the oven is over heated]

Hos 7:7 They are all hot as an oven, and have devoured their judges; all their kings are fallen: *there is* none among them that calleth unto me. [the fire of their sins will destroy them]

Hos 7:8 Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned.

Hos 7:9 Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth *it* not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not. [the kingdom is weakening, they don't realize it]

Hos 7:10 And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all this.

Hos 7:11 Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart: they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria.

Hos 7:12 When they shall go, I will spread my net upon them; I will bring them down as the fowls of the heaven; I will chastise them, as their congregation hath heard.

Hos 7:13 Woe unto them! for they have fled from me: destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me.

Hos 7:14 And they have not cried unto me with their heart, when they howled [wail] upon their beds: they assemble themselves for corn and wine, *and* they rebel against me.

Hos 7:15 Though I have bound *and* strengthened their arms, yet do they imagine mischief against me.

Hos 7:16 They return, *but* not to the most High: they are like a deceitful bow: their princes shall fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue: this *shall be* their derision in the land of Egypt.

Hos 8:1 Set the trumpet to thy mouth. *He shall come* as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law.

Hos 8:2 Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee. [as we apply this to ourselves; Christ said;]

Mat 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Hos 8:3 Israel hath cast off *the thing that is* good: the enemy shall pursue him.

Hos 8:4 They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew *it* not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off.

Hos 8:5 Thy calf, O Samaria, hath cast *thee* off; mine anger is kindled against them: how long *will it be* ere they attain to innocency? [calf= false gods]

Hos 8:6 For from Israel *was* it also: the workman made it; therefore it *is* not God: but the calf of Samaria shall be broken in pieces.

Hos 8:7 For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up.

Hos 8:8 Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the Gentiles as a vessel wherein *is* no pleasure.

Hos 8:9 For they are gone up to Assyria, a wild ass alone by himself: Ephraim hath hired lovers.

Hos 8:10 Yea, though they have hired among the nations, now will I gather them, and they shall sorrow a little for the burden of the king of princes.

Hos 8:11 Because Ephraim hath made many altars to sin, altars shall be unto him to sin.

Hos 8:12 I have written to him the great things of my law, *but* they were counted as a strange thing.

Hos 8:13 They sacrifice flesh *for* the sacrifices of mine offerings, and eat *it*; *but* the LORD accepteth them not; now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins: they shall return to Egypt. [even if they do sacrifice to God, they must change their heart or go back to bondage]

Hos 8:14 For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof.

[God is jealous of HIS status as Creator,]

Rom 1:19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

Rom 1:20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. [Nature] So they are without excuse.

Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. [attributing creation to random chance]

Rom 1:22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, [science over religion]

Rom 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. [or nothing at all]

Rom 1:24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

Rom 1:25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

[Judah is guilty also, and will face judgement by Babylon]

Hos 9:1 Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as *other* people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor. [a place of worship for the gods]

Hos 9:2 The floor and the winepress shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail in her.

Hos 9:3 They shall not dwell in the LORD'S land; but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean *things* in Assyria. [return to bondage and depravity]

Hos 9:4 They shall not offer wine *offerings* to the LORD, neither shall they be pleasing unto him: their sacrifices *shall be* unto them as the bread of mourners; all that eat thereof shall be polluted: for their bread for their soul shall not come into the house of the LORD.

Hos 9:5 What will ye do in the solemn day, and in the day of the feast of the LORD?

Hos 9:6 For, lo, they are gone because of destruction: Egypt shall gather them up, Memphis shall bury them: the pleasant *places* for their silver, nettles shall possess them: thorns *shall be* in their tabernacles.

Hos 9:7 The days of visitation are come, the days of recompence are come; Israel shall know *it*: the prophet *is* a fool, the spiritual man *is* mad, for the multitude of thine iniquity, and the great hatred.

Hos 9:8 The watchman of Ephraim *was* with my God: *but* the prophet *is* a snare of a fowler in all his ways, *and* hatred in the house of his God.

Hos 9:9 They have deeply corrupted *themselves*, as in the days of Gibeah: *therefore* he will remember their iniquity, he will visit their sins.

Hos 9:10 I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; [Exodus] I saw your fathers as the first ripe in the fig tree at her first time: *but* they went to Baalpeor, and separated themselves unto *that* shame; and *their* abominations were according as they loved.

Num 31:16 Behold, these, on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the LORD.

Num 25:1 While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab.

Num 25:2 These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.

Num 25:3 So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

Hos 9:11 *As for* Ephraim, their glory shall fly away like a bird, from the birth, and from the womb, and from the conception. [Motherhood will be scorned]

Hos 9:12 Though they bring up their children, yet will I bereave them, *that there shall not be a man left*: yea, woe also to them when I depart from them!

Hos 9:13 Ephraim, as I saw Tyrus, *is* planted in a pleasant place: but Ephraim shall bring forth his children to the murderer. [worship of Maloch-then, abortion on demand - now]

Hos 9:14 Give them, O LORD: what wilt thou give? give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.

Hos 9:15 All their wickedness *is* in Gilgal: for there I hated them: for the wickedness of their doings I will drive them out of mine house, I will love them no more: all their princes *are* revolters.

Hos 9:16 Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit: yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay *even* the beloved *fruit* of their womb.

Hos 9:17 My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations.

Hos 10:1 Israel *is* an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images.

Hos 10:2 Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images.

Hos 10:3 For now they shall say, We have no king, because we feared not the LORD; what then should a king do to us?

Hos 10:4 They have spoken words, swearing falsely in making a covenant: thus judgment springeth up as hemlock in the furrows of the field.

Hos 10:5 The inhabitants of Samaria shall fear because of the calves of Bethaven: for the people thereof shall mourn over it, and the priests thereof *that* rejoiced on it, for the glory thereof, because it is departed from it.

Hos 10:6 It shall be also carried unto Assyria *for* a present to king Jareb: Ephraim shall receive

shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his own counsel.

Hos 10:7 *As for* Samaria, her king is cut off as the foam upon the water.

Hos 10:8 The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us. [Rev 6:15>:16]

Hos 10:9 O Israel, thou hast sinned from the days of Gibeah: there they stood: the battle in Gibeah against the children of iniquity did not overtake them.

Hos 10:10 *It is* in my desire that I should chastise them; and the people shall be gathered against them, when they shall bind themselves in their two furrows.

Hos 10:11 And Ephraim *is as* an heifer *that is* taught, *and* loveth to tread out *the corn*; but I passed over upon her fair neck: I will make Ephraim to ride; Judah shall plow, *and* Jacob shall break his clods.

Hos 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for *it is* time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

Hos 10:13 Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men.

Hos 10:14 Therefore shall a tumult arise among thy people, and all thy fortresses shall be spoiled, as Shalman spoiled Betharbel in the day of battle: the mother was dashed in pieces upon *her* children.

Hos 10:15 So shall Bethel do unto you because of your great wickedness: in a morning shall the king of Israel utterly be cut off.

Hos 11:1 When Israel *was* a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

Hos 11:2 *As* they called them, so they went from them: they sacrificed unto Baalim, and burned incense to graven images.

Hos 11:3 I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them.

Hos 11:4 I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them.

Hos 11:5 He shall not return into the land of Egypt, but the Assyrian shall be his king, because they refused to return.

Hos 11:6 And the sword shall abide on his cities, and shall consume his branches, and devour *them*, because of their own counsels.

Hos 11:7 And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the most High, none at all would exalt *him*.

Hos 11:8 How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? *how* shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? *how* shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together. [God is grieved by the conduct and attitudes of HIS people]

Hos 11:9 I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim:

for I *am* God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee: and I will not enter into the city.

Hos 11:10 They shall walk after the LORD: he shall roar like a lion: when he shall roar, then the children shall tremble from the west.

Hos 11:11 They shall tremble as a bird out of Egypt, and as a dove out of the land of Assyria: and I will place them in their houses, saith the LORD.

Hos 11:12 Ephraim compasseth me about with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit: but Judah yet ruleth with God, and is faithful with the saints.

Hos 12:1 Ephraim feedeth on wind, and followeth after the east wind: he daily increaseth lies and desolation; and they do make a covenant with the Assyrians, and oil is carried into Egypt.

Hos 12:2 The LORD hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him. [**Judah is also in trouble**]

Hos 12:3 He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God:

Hos 12:4 Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him *in* Bethel, and there he spake with us; [**Gen 32:24>29**]

Hos 12:5 Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD *is* his memorial.

Hos 12:6 Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.

Hos 12:7 He [**Israel**] *is* a merchant, the balances of deceit *are* in his hand: he loveth to oppress.

Hos 12:8 And Ephraim said, Yet I am become rich, I have found me out substance: *in* all my labours they shall find none iniquity in me that *were* sin.

Rev 3:17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

Hos 12:9 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.

Hos 12:10 I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.

Hos 12:11 *Is there* iniquity *in* Gilead? surely they are vanity: they sacrifice bullocks in Gilgal; yea, their altars *are* as heaps in the furrows of the fields.

Hos 12:12 And Jacob fled into the country of Syria, and Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he kept *sheep*.

Hos 12:13 And by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved.

Hos 12:14 Ephraim provoked *him* to anger most bitterly: therefore shall he leave his blood upon him, and his reproach shall his Lord return unto him.

Hos 13:1 When Ephraim spake trembling, [**humble**] he exalted himself in Israel; but when he offended [**boasted**] in Baal, he died.

Hos 13:2 And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, *and* idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves.

Hos 13:3 Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew that passeth away, as the chaff *that* is driven with the whirlwind out of the floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney.

[God gives hope for redemption and reconciliation]

Hos 13:4 Yet I *am* the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for *there is* no saviour beside me.

Hos 13:5 I did know thee in the wilderness, in the land of great drought.

Hos 13:6 According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten me.

Hos 13:7 Therefore I will be unto them as a lion: as a leopard by the way will I observe *them*:

Hos 13:8 I will meet them as a bear *that is* bereaved *of her whelps*, and will rend the caul of their heart, and there will I devour them like a lion: the wild beast shall tear them.

Hos 13:9 O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me *is* thine help.

Hos 13:10 I will be thy king: where *is any other* that may save thee in all thy cities? and thy judges of whom thou saidst, Give me a king and princes?

Hos 13:11 I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took *him* away in my wrath.

Hos 13:12 The iniquity of Ephraim *is* bound up; his sin *is* hid.

Hos 13:13 The sorrows of a travailing woman shall come upon him: he *is* an unwise son; for he should not stay long in *the place of* the breaking forth of children.

Hos 13:14 I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.

Hos 13:15 Though he be fruitful among *his* brethren, an east wind shall come, the wind of the LORD shall come up from the wilderness, and his spring shall become dry, and his fountain shall be dried up: he shall spoil the treasure of all pleasant vessels.

Hos 13:16 Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up.

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Hos 14:1 O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

Hos 14:2 Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive *us* graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips. [offerings]

Hos 14:3 Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, *Ye are* our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.

Hos 14:4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

Hos 14:5 I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.

Hos 14:6 His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon.

Hos 14:7 They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive *as* the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof *shall be* as the wine of Lebanon.

Hos 14:8 Ephraim *shall say*, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard *him*, and observed him: I *am* like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found.

Hos 14:9 Who *is* wise, and he shall understand these *things?* prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD *are* right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.

Isa 11:12 He will raise a signal [a sign=the rapture] for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Isa 11:13 The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart, and those who harass Judah shall be cut off; [Psa 83 war] Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim.

Jer 31:1 “At that time, [the Second Coming of Christ] declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people.”

Zep 3:14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Zep 3:15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

To me, this is the saddest book of the Bible.

God pleads with HIS “called out” people to return to HIM, knowing that HIS cries fall upon deaf ears and stony hearts. They will have to suffer through estrangement from their loving Father until they realize their mistake. (The parable of the Prodigal Son) And not just once. It occurs again when they reject HIS Son, their Savior, and yet again after HE delivers them from their enemies of the Psalms 83 war in the “End Times”.

I am struck with how closely the attitudes and characteristics of our current times mirror the predicament of the Northern Kingdom of Israel in Hosea's day. The cries of our God ring in our ears and tear at our hearts. "Come back, Come home, I love you, I will take care of you!"

We learn from this narrative that God will not wait forever. There is a line, that once crossed, will induce punishment whether you believe in HIM or not. We also learn that after the punishment [Jesus took our punishment as atonement for sin] there is hope for a renewed relationship, once more. [If we accept, gratefully, that substitutional sacrifice on our behalf]

The Book of Revelation tells us that the next time is the last time, and that it is fast approaching. Those people who love and fear God, now, will be Raptured, the rest will be confronted with a stark choice. Choose God and be killed by Satan, (and resurrected to life with HIM) or choose Satan and be killed by God (and sentenced to damnation with him).

(We are talking about the Mark of the Beast here.)

But choose, you will!