


# ARAMAIC BIBLE COMPANION

## HOSEA

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### CHAPTER 1

#### INTRODUCTION

***Hosea has been called the "St John of the OT" because of his emphasis on "love". Although it is true that loyalty repentance and service come out of true knowledge the priests led Israel to such shallow religious ceremony that the deeper concepts of faith did not possess the mind or influence the conduct of the bulk of the people. Hosea was a prophet within the northern people of Israel. He was a city man and probably lived in Samaria.***

#### THE TIME OF HOSEA'S MINISTRY IN JUDAH 1

The word of the LORD which came to **HOSEA** son of BEERI in/through the days of UZZIAH JOTHAM AHAZ and HEZEKIAH kings of Judah and in the days of JEREBOAM son of JOASH king of Israel. *The opening line of the prophecy gives us a time-line for HOSEA. He served as set out below*

*Under Uzziah- a good reign of 52 years (787-735)*

*Under JOTHAM-a good reign of 16 years (749-734)*

*Under AHAZ-a bad reign of 16 years (742-726)*

*Under HEZEKIAH-The best reign since David -one of 29 years (726-697)*

*And Under JEREBOAM II of Israel-a bad reign of 41 years (790-749)*

*We can take it that HOSEA had a protracted ministry spanning something of the order of 60 years. He saw the evil reign of JEREBOAM the Second begin take hold and end. He saw the good reign and joyous reforms of Hezekiah take hold in his later days though like Isaiah he began amid a mood of national mourning over the death of the good king Uzziah.*

#### HOSEA TO CHOOSE A WIFE OF HARLOTRY 2-3

And the LORD said to **HOSEA** "you must go-take for you a wife of harlots and children of harlots for the land will commit harlotry after going constantly after the LORD. Then he went and took GOMER ("completion") daughter of DIBLAIM ("two cakes") and she conceived and brought forth a son for him.

#### HOSEA-LOVE FULFILLED-FAMILY GROWS 4-9

##### No.1-JEZREEL

And the LORD said to him "His name shall be JEZREEL for in a little while I will visit the blood of JEZREEL upon the house of JEHU and I will cause to cease or remove [ *tbv* ] the kingdom of the house of Israel. So in that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of JEZREEL. *This ancient prophecy proclaims that the LORD will allow Israel to suffer in the great plain during the latter day-the "self-sufficiency" of the latter days will collapse like the self sufficiency of JEHU'S day-though when the nation humbly cries to God the all sufficiency of the GRACE of the LORD will quickly lift his people*

##### No.2 -LO-RUMAH

And added to that She conceived and delivered a daughter and HE (the LORD) said to him "Call her name LO-RUMAH for I will not or may not still add mercy to the house of Israel when I lift up the burnt offering concerning them *This is a very vital expression which shows that the "burnt offering" will no longer be acceptable for the house of JEHU. The expression has to do with accepting worship from an idolatrous people but it also has to do with their isolation from the provision of Christ through such idolatry-if has bearing on the future ransom and the future judgment. It is a text the effect of which is to show that the obedient Jews who lived by faith were accepted whereas the idolatrous Jews of old time were not covered by the ransom of Messiah to come. Being a future tense it shows that in fact God was still in the business of mercy even though it was not justice.*

But I will continually show MERCY to the house of JUDAH and I will not save them by bow or sword or warfare or horses or charioteers but I will have saved them through the LORD GOD.

### **N0.3-LO AMMI**

And she weaned LO RUMAH and conceived and brought forth another son. And HE (the LORD) said "Call his name LO AMMI for you are **not my people** and I will not be your God. *The future tense tells us that God will not be the God of Judah on account of their unwillingness to submit by faith to obey Him. It also tells us that God "should not" by any stretch of the imagination be their God-but essentially HE IS! This factor brings into play the notion of adoption so cardinal to the gospel. Actually in remaining faithful to Gomer Hosea adopted someone else's child for his own. In Romans 9 Galatians 4 and Ephesians 1 we learn that though undeserving we have been adopted into the family of God. The book of Hosea everywhere gives pause to meditate on God's rich grace.*

### **TWO PROPHECIES-ONE FULFILLED-ONE IMMEDIATELY AHEAD ISRAEL UNITED IN THE LATTER DAY 10-11**

The sons of Israel from count shall be as sand of the sea which will not be measured [*ddm for length of residence or new settlements*] or counted [*rps for numbers*]. In the place where it was said of you "You are not my people it will be said of them "Sons of the Living One" or "Life-giver". And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel will cause them to kibbutz unitedly and set over them one leader from the land for the day of Jezreel will be great.

*Here we have two separate prophecies. The first is for the time of Messiah when Israel will indeed prosper and grow but there will be no such thing as the census as if their LORD did not know his flock. Equally there will be no limitation as currently imposed from without on new houses for new families. That day is soon to come-one would hope within a generation as prophetic matters are now shaping. The second is a prophecy fulfilled since 1948 -within the last two generations-Israel since Ben-Gurion has had a single head and is no more a divided nation.*

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **ISRAEL TO APPRECIATE GOD'S GRACE 1**

Say to your brothers "My people" and to your sisters "It has been COMPASSION" "It has been MERCY"

*The Pual or past continuous tense is emphatic of divine mercy over the hundreds of years and especially in the re-establishment of the nation. The Jews are asked by the prophet to commend the grace of God in bringing them to the day of their latter destiny and His soon arrival as King!*

### **GOMER-SIGN OF GENTILE IN-GRAFTED ONES UNFAITHFUL 2**

Strive with your mother-strive adversely with her for she is not my wife and I am not her husband and let her remove the harlotries [*encryption for "idolatry"*] from her face and the adulteries [*encryption for "apostasy"*] from between her breasts lest I decide she has stripped herself or judge her as naked and put her aside as in the day of her birth *Hosea's marriage to Gomer mirrors God's faithfulness and Israel's wanton relationship of idolatry. Israel expresses little or no appreciation of divine grace. The LORD is displeased. The Saviour in Apocalypse 3.18 refers to a kindred nakedness in the Gentile Laodicean Church just before his Second Coming (John 3.20)*

### **COMPROMISE & lack of appreciation of the source of Salvation blessing 3-5**

I will set her like a desert and cause her to die through thirst. I will not show my MERCY to her sons for they are sons of adultery. *Gomer mirrors Israel in her idolatrous syncretism. The dire state of latter day Gentile faith in its syncretism where "all religions are the same" turns the LORD from those who should be close to His heart. Through a long life Dr. Billy Graham has held fast to "Christ the way the truth and the life" but on U Tube I was saddened to hear him adulterate that principle with the words "Whatever their faith background if they seek god they will be forgiven " to which Robert Schulyer said, "Excellent-I'm glad to hear you say that." I believe that to be a concession to syncretistic religion. On any construction this is daft theology and spiritual drift. Their mother has played the harlot and caused*

disgrace conceiving them for she said "I will go after my lovers who give me my bread and my water my woollen garments and my linen or cotton my oil and my drink. *The last gift drink*" is *יין* which the LXX translates as "wine". *The fact is Gomer can be bought by paramours. She is a model of the concession to materialism and indulgence.*

## **RESTORATION AND SECURITY 6-10**

(1) Therefore behold me fencing in her path with thorns. *The action is that of a Shepherd cutting off the tendency of a sheep to wander into danger.*

(2) And I will wall up her fold and she will not find her beaten path. *The word for "path" in this instance is *בְּתוּלָה* which means "course of life" and also "by-way".* So she will pursue her lovers and not reach them and seek them and not find them and she will say "I will walk and return to my first husband for I was better then than now.

So she has not been aware or shown awareness that I gave her the grain the new wine and newly pressed oil and caused her silver and gold that they offered to BAAL to be great.

(3) For that reason I will return and take my grain when it matures and my new wine at vintage harvest and I will strip away my wool and my linen or cotton that hide her nakedness.

(4) And I will reveal her foolishness or impiety before the eyes of her lovers AND NO MAN SHALL SNATCH [*Hebrew *לֹא יִשְׁלֹחַ**] HER OUT OF MY HAND. *In John 10.28-29 we have exactly this expression applied to the believer. This is the highest form of divine sovereign security.*

(5) And I will cause all the rejoicing of her Passover or feast to cease-her new moon and all her festivals. *The manner in which this could be done would be by captivity which had to wait several hundred years but it transpired in its time as the LORD promised it.*

(6) And I will desolate or destroy her wild vine and her fig trees -these which she says were my gift or reward from my lovers.

(7) And I will visit upon them the days of the Baals to whom she caused incense to be offered. And she adorned herself with nose ring and necklace and went after her lovers and forgot me whispers the LORD.

## **FOURTEEN PROMISES FROM THE FIRST & SECOND ADVENTS 14-23**

(1) For that reason behold me enticing her and I will cause her to come into the desert and I will speak to her heart. *The desert is where the Baptist renewed the nation in repentance.*

(2) And I will give her vineyards back *Widespread vine-growing will abound.*

(3) And I will make the valley of ACHOR a door of hope. *This location where ACHAN buried his BABYLONISH garment is thought to be by Qumran in the wadi valley-10miles south of Jericho. In the days of Hosea the Dead Sea area had no settlements as grew up in the Qumran area concurrent with the life of Christ and John the Baptist. The central pivot of the teaching of Qumran was the coming of the "prince of righteousness"-the exact hope which the prophet foretold.*

There she will sing as in the days of her youth, in the days when she came up out of Egypt. *We know that the Qumran community were strong on liturgical practice and would indeed sing. The community was committed to the renewal of Israel and sought the advent of a purer and holier nation.*

And in that day whispers the LORD you will call me "my husband" and you will not call me "My Baal again". *Where men failed by turning to materialism they will again emphasise spirituality.*

(4) And I will cause (her) to remove the names of the Baals from her lips and they shall not be recalled again by their names. *Ancient polytheism and idolatry will be done away*

(5) And I will cut a covenant with them in that day-with the living creatures of the field, and with the birds of the heavens and the creeping things of the ground. *The land will abound in all creatures. This time may also represent the halcyon years when owls and serpents inhabited sites which had been the ancient cities*

(6) Bow and sword and war I will break off from the land and those who dwell there or lie down will be secure. *This prophecy is not yet fully realised.*

(7) I will continually pay the wedding price for you for an age. *Every new generation of the millennial Israel will be made sons through the redemption of Christ. This is great mercy*

(8) And I will continually redeem you to me through righteousness and by justice or justification and COVENANT LOVE. *The Redemption of those days owes nothing to the beast but all to the blood-to the righteousness of Christ -justification by faith and the love of the cross. Full three times the LORD emphasises that He will continually act redemptively-day after day-ensuring the greatest running revival of all time. Israel will truly be his millennial bride.*

(9) And I will keep paying the bridal price through the truth and you will have personal experience of the LORD. *Christ will be acknowledged from Dan to Beersheba. What a day!*

(10) In that day I will answer-I will **answer** the heaven whispers the still small voice of the LORD and they will respond to the earth. *This refers to the LORD as answering heavens' prayer to return and rule. It refers further to the testimony of the heavens to earth at the rapture and coming again of Christ.*

(11) And the earth will testify to the grain [*ngd*h-the "multiplied corn"-the great increase of bread"-betokening Christ's increase besides the glory of an unparalleled harvesting both physical and spiritual] and the new wine and the oil. *Every element of physical prosperity is there and so is the gospel in its spiritual fullness as in the days of Pentecost and times of the glorious work of the Holy Spirit.*

(12) So these all will testify to the planting of Jezreel. *The testimony of the seed of Christ's death and resurrection and His return with its challenge for the foes of His people is what scripture is leading us to-it is Jesus-Jesus Christ-Jesus Christ as LORD who is the ultimate seat of this testimony of Hosea.*

(13) I will sow her in the land-or through the land and I will continually LOVE her tenderly who was not my loved one. *Besides His covenant love the LORD will show Israel immense compassion & tenderness.*

(14) And I will say to her who was not my people "you are my people" and she will say "My ELOAH" *The coming day brings a fully confessing nation of Israel into the land.*

## CHAPTER 3

### RECONCILIATION 1

So the LORD said to me "Go again **and love** the wife of evil lovers and commits adultery even as the LORD LOVES the sons of Israel while these turn their faces to other gods and love cakes made with clusters of raisins. *This strange act is posited on the second time that God turns to recover Israel.*

### REDEMPTION OF ISRAEL 2

So I bought her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver and **a homer** and **half a COR or HOMER** of grain or barley. *We are told of the curious redemption of his wife for fifteen pieces of silver- half the price paid for our Saviour and when the Barley cost is added just about equivalent to the cost of a slave-of which we have an example in the sale of Joseph to the Ismaelites.[Genesis 37.28]The redemption of Christ had two aspects. A load of Barley which a donkey might carry and the price of a slave is the asking price.*

### THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM 3-4

And I said to her "You will live with me for many or great **days**; you will not or should not be a prostitute; you should not be for any other husband and I will be yours. For the sons of Israel will abide many days without **a king** and without **a prince** and without **sacrifice** or without **pillars** or idols [Hebrew *bxn*] and without either **EPHOD** or **TERAPHIM**. *Hosea prophesies a time without political power or significance and without the trappings of religion. The nation had experience of this sort in captivity and again during the long years since the death of Christ*

### HOSEA COMPARED TO THE CHRIST THEY REJECTED 5

After that the sons of Israel will come back and seek the LORD their God and "THE BELOVED" or David their king. They will come trembling or hastening or carefully [*djp* "with what approaches terror] and to his blessing or happiness or "beautiful one" or "what is good" in the latter days. *The "quest" for the LORD in the latter days has begun. Many MESHIAHIM have found Jesus. But this prophecy foretells of a mighty turning to God with fundamental fear since Messiah and the3 "beloved"*

turn out to be one with wounds in his arms. The experience here stated is also stated in Zechariah 12 10-14. The reference to David may be taken as a reference to the beloved Son of God - since David means "beloved"

## FUTURE PROPHECY

1. ISRAEL WILL LIVE WITH CHRIST FOR MANY DAYS
2. THEY WILL SEEK "THE BELOVED"
3. THEY WILL COME TREMBLING TO THE BEAUTIFUL ONE

## CHAPTER 4

### ISRAEL GUILTY ON SEVERAL COUNTS 1-3

Hear the word of the LORD O Sons of Israel because there is a "contention" or "pleading" belonging to the LORD with the inhabitants of the land because

(1) There is no faithfulness and no COVENANT ZEAL or "sure mercies" and no personal experience of the mighty God in the land.

(2) There is swearing or imprecation and deceit or fraud [cjk] and killing or homicide [jxr] and theft and adultery [pan] and they are doing violent slaughter - they are striking to kill.

On this account the land will walk with head downcast - all that live in it have been made feeble or sick [lma] The beasts of the field, birds of the air and even the fish of the sea are dying of themselves.

### THE BLAME CULTURE SOLVES NOTHING 4-6A

Man is definitely not to bring a contention and man is not to convict or arbitrate and correct and so your people are as those who charge the High Priest. *The nature of Israel's justice had deteriorated until it was as if the nation was subverting right and accusing the holy.* You stagger by day - even the prophets of your people stagger by night and I will keep reducing your mother to silence. *This is a promise that the LORD will subdue the Gomer adventuress and even make her like Hosea for faithfulness.* [hmd] My people are reduced to silence for absence of the experience or knowledge they need.

### REPEATED SIN TO BE HEAPED ON "THE" HIGH PRIEST! 6B

Because you have rejected intimate knowledge (of me) I will reject you from being High Priest to me and because you have disregarded or forgotten the law of your God I also will neglect your sons. As they became numerous or great they sinned against me; they alter their glory or undergo change [rmm] into a naked or sexually explicit (priesthood). They swallow up or are nourished by the sins of my people and establish their souls on their wickedness. And it is "As people so the priest" and I will visit their ways on them and return to HIM (the High Priest) their repeated maltreatment or practices.

They will eat but not be satisfied - they will cause prostitution and not spread abroad because they have forsaken being watchful of the LORD or being (HIS) treasure [rmcl]. Prostitution and wine old and new will capture the heart or take away understanding. My people pray or ask with wooden idol and from its voice he will make it clear for him for a spirit of prostitutions causes them to wander or stagger in drunkenness [h[y]] and they are prostituted from following after their God. Upon the top of the mountains they are sacrificing and upon the hills they burn incense under the oak the white poplar and the terebinth because the shade is better - therefore your daughters will be prostitutes and your daughters -in-law continual adulterers.

I will not visit punishment upon your daughters because they are prostitutes or upon your daughters in law because of continual adultery because these (fathers) are visiting with harlots and sacrifice with sacred (prostitutes) and a people who do not understand will fall. If you O Israel become a prostitute; let not Judah become guilty. Do not go to GILGAL; do not go up to the house of sin [Beth AVEN] and do not swear "As the LORD lives". For as a young bullock is stubborn and perverse Israel is perverse. How long will the LORD pasture him as a lamb in a wide field? Ephraim is united to idols; let him rest.

When their ill savoured drink is consumed they fornicate in prostitution. They love it -they must go on the shame or nakedness of her covered or shady gardens. *The prophet sees the situation in the light of man's first sin. The northern nation in especial is gone a whoring-turned to drunkenness and besotted with sexual sin.* A binding or distressing wind will continually long for or take them in its wings and they will be ashamed of their sacrifices.

## CHAPTER 5

### PRIEST LED CORRUPTION 1-3

Listen to this you priests and cause yourselves to pay attention O house of Israel and hear O house of the king for this judgment is against you for you have been a cause of ruin or trap to MIZPAH (the prophetic watch-tower) and a net-work spread out on TABOR. ("the high place") Those who whip to slaughter are unsearchable or lay deep plans and I am the corrector or **one who punishes them all**. I know Ephraim and Israel is not concealed from me for you Ephraim have caused prostitution and you Israel have contaminated yourself. *A decided move towards the worship of the stars and sexual corruption combined with the new practices drew the prophet's rebuke.*

### PRIDE PROSTITUTION AND SYNCRETISM 4-7

Their habitual repeated evil acts do not give them (interest) to return to God for a spirit of prostitution is in their midst and they do not know the LORD. The pride of Israel testifies in his face. Both Israel and Ephraim stumble and will stumble in their sin. Judah also stumbles or has stumbled with them. When they walk with their flocks and herds to seek the LORD they will not find HIM for HE has disengaged from them. *When at Passover or New Moon the people formally bring offerings they would find God missing from their celebrations. They would find no forgiveness. God had drawn out of covenant-there would be no engagement.* They are faithless to the LORD for their sons were born of harlots -now the new moon (offering) will devour their portion of land or produce. *A basalt stele dating back to the Bronze Age has been found at HAZOR-it depicts two hands raised in prayer to the moon god. Pagan "new moon" celebrations appear to have been substituted for holy convocations and worship of Yahweh.*

### THE LORD PROCLAIMS TRUTH AND WARNING OF WAR 8-9

Blast the trumpet in Gilead. There is blowing of the trumpet in Ramah. They raise the battle cry in Beth AVEN; they are following you Benjamin. Ephraim is for destruction on the day of smiting. Among the tribes of Israel I have caused to be made known **continuing faithfulness**. Judah's leaders are like those who **cause boundaries to be moved**. *This is a heinous sin against Levitical law and it applies in a higher realm where leaders take the people away from God.* We will cause ourselves to follow you Benjamin. Ephraim is for destruction in a day of smiting. Among the tribes of Israel I cause to be proclaimed truth that will out [*Niphal of nna the certain faithful outcome*]

### NATIONAL LEADERS PREFER HUMAN SOLUTIONS 10-12

The princes of Judah are as **those who move boundary stones**. I will pour out my anger [*hrb*] upon them as waters in profusion [*Jpv*]. Ephraim was oppressed (as with violence or extortion or pressure) breaking or violating justice; she began walking or became willing to wander or move away after mandate or command (*of men-Tregelles*). [*The NIV translation of nx as "idols" is without warrant*] *The question is not "following idols" but following "the commandments" in a selfish or self-regarding way. Her obedience is not genuine.* So I am or will be (following the LXX) **as a moth** or "night watcher" [*C*] *incidental use for URSA Major "the Great Bear"*] to Ephraim and as **"rotteness"** (bqr of "rotten wood") to the house of Judah. *Behind the possible variety of application of these two terms the combined similes suit one another and present the LORD as ONE who turns things to the bad as moth and rot. On this account Ephraim became humanistic. {Our LORD makes serious reference to "the commandments of men" in Matthew 15.9 & Mark 7.7. Israel did it again in her theology in the time of Christ and in Colossians 2.8 Paul warns us not to follow the world in preference to going after Christ.*

## THE BABYLONIAN AND ROMAN CAPTIVITIES 13-15

But when Ephraim saw his sickness and Judah his wound being bound up or remedy [rwzm] Ephraim went to ASSHUR and sent to king JAREB but he was not able to heal you or remove your bandages in a proper cure for

- (1) I will be as a roaring lion to Ephraim and a young lion to the house of Judah.
- (2) I will tear them to pieces and leave.
- (3) I will bear them away and none shall deliver or rescue them.
- (4) Then I will go and return to my place of rising or home until the time when they bear their guilt and seek my face.
- (5) Amid adversity that is theirs they will early seek me or seek me in the morning.

### FUTURE PROPHECY

1. I WILL GO AND RETURN TO MY HOME

2. THEY WILL SEEK ME IN THE MORNING AMID ADVERSITY

These prophecies speak of the continuing "session" of Christ and of the forthcoming turning of Israel to the LORD.

## CHAPTER 6

### TURN BACK TO GOD-the third day solution 1-3A

Come let us get us back to the LORD for HE has torn us [prf "to pull to pieces" ] and HE will heal us [apr "stitch together"] HE has smitten us and HE will bind us up [vbj "bind with a bandage"] HE will revive or give us life during part of two days onwards and in the third day HE will raise or resurrect us and we shall live before HIS face or IN HIS PRESENCE. *This verse is referred to in the NT and has the force of **sharing in the divine life** and salvation in a minimalist way over two great eras understood much in the way Peter casts history in 2Peter 3 whilst enjoying the total favour and immediate presence of Christ over a whole third era which we call the Millennium.* So let us become intimate [with HIM] or acknowledge HIM; let us follow him zealously [literally "as those who persecute"] in order to gain personal experience of the LORD.

### THE FIRST AND SECOND COMINGS OF CHRIST ENABLE CHANGE 3B

His appearance is established or fixed as the dawn and HE will come to us as heavy winter showers of rain [mvq] and as the spring rain or latter rain [vqlm] "taking possession of the earth" [Hosea uses hry "to sprinkle" of the coming of Christ ] *Israel has two trances of rainfall. The first in October softens the ground and is associated with sowing the seed. The second in March- April is directed to nourishing the young plants or grasses which are already in the earth. At the return of Christ we can easily anticipate as we see present trends develop that Israel will be settled and growing in the land.*

### JUDGMENT FELL ON CHRIST 4-6

What shall I do with you O Ephraim? What shall I do with you O Judah? For your COVENANT LOVE is as a morning cloud or mist and as the early dew that goes away (speedily). For that reason I "Hewed you"[as wood] by my prophets I slaughtered you [as sheep] by the words of my mouth and **from your judgments light (revelation) or lightning went forth.** For I favour or am inclined to COVENANT MERCY and not sacrifice and the personal experience and knowledge of God rather than whole burnt offering.

*Our LORD pointed the Pharisees to this verse-where revelation began in the judgment of sin. **Matthew 9.13** In particular the judgment of the cross brought light after the long chiding and judgments pronounced by the prophets. The people bore the wrath of God-but there was another solution waiting in the wings-the death of Christ!*

## **AS ADAM HID SO THE JEWS HIDE FROM GOD-AND WITH CHRIST WHO IS HERE PROPHECIED THEY WERE TREACHEROUS 7**

These like Adam have transgressed a covenant. They were covert or faithless and treacherous to me there. *The Jews are being compared with Adam for failing in the matter of the desire to keep the relationship with the LORD foremost. It is "there" at the very point of regular contact with God that most believers fail. "Where art thou, Adam?" might be the LORD'S word to most of us.*

## **THE REFUGE OF GILEAD HAS BECOME A KILLING FIELD-WITH PRIESTS AS FELONS 8-11**

Gilead is a city of workers of iniquity trampled in blood or with blood footprints [*bq[]*] *Because it was an accessible area just across the fords of Jordan and still Israel territory it was used by fugitives and these were not all like David righteous persons but rather men by in large who would have committed felonies.* As troops or bands that continually wait on a man an association or company of priests on the road will continually carry on cutting throats at Shechem for they enact a wicked plan.

## **THE HARVEST OF JUDAH-WHEN CHRIST TURNS THE PEOPLE TO HIM**

In the house of Israel I have seen a horrible thing [*yrwr[v-"a contagion"- "something to make on shudder"]*] There are the prostitutes of Ephraim -Israel defiles or contaminates herself. There is also a harvest set for you O Judah through which I am to back the turnings away of my people.

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **BLATANT SIN DEFIES HEALING 1-2**

I would heal Israel but the iniquity of Ephraim makes a display of itself and (there are) the crimes of Samaria for they prepare and fabricate fraud and the thief enters and a pillaging [*fcp*] band is in the street. But they do not say to their hearts "I remember all their evil deeds". Just now (it) surrounds them -their repeated deeds are before my face.

### **THE ROYAL HOUSE & PRINCES ARE MORALLY & SPIRITUALLY BANKRUPT 3-5**

With their wicked deeds they rejoice the king and the princes by their deceitful flatteries [*cjk*]. They are all adulterers as in a heated oven [*rt*] of kneaded dough (where the) baker sits till it is dazzling red. *The pun on the oven is paralleled with sexual arousal.* On the day of our king the princes boast of or celebrate the venom or strength [*mjy*] of wine -he stretches out his hand (as a sign of fellowship) to mockers or those with obscure sentences [*xwl-suggestive of spiritists*]

### **JUDGES AND KINGS WITHOUT EXCEPTION LOVE IMMORAL 6-7**

For they come near him-their hearts as an oven with plotting (as in ambushing) -all night they slumber baking -in the morning it burns or kindles up as a flaming or glowing fire. All of them are hot as an oven-they swallow up **their judges** or administrators. All their kings fall or have fallen-none among them calls on me.

### **THREE FAMOUS SIMILIES 8-14**

(1)Ephraim will have been mixed among the nations; he is a **bread cake not turned over** - *A state we would call "half-baked" but Hosea means Ephraim has entertained false gods and is half-hearted in commitment.* Strangers eat up his strength and he is not aware. *The second issue is that Ephraim through compromise is becoming a weak people.*

(2)Also **grey hair is sprinkled on him and he is not aware** of it. *The third issue is that time is passing and there is no turning back to God.* The pride of Israel testifies in his face and they do not turn to the LORD their God and in all of this they do not seek HIM



(3)So Israel is become as a **liberated dove without sense or heart**; they call to Egypt; they go to Assyria. In accordance with their going I will spread over them my net. As a bird of the heavens I will cause them to come down. I will cause them to be corrected as I hear of them congregating together. Woe to them because they have wandered away from me; destruction is their lot because they have revolted against me. **I would ransom** or redeem [*hdp*] them but they speak lies or falsehood against me. *The desire of the LORD is in this "future indicative". The LORD despite all their spiritual adultery would have them back and do exactly as Hosea did-paying for the one who is HIS of right. He would own Israel twice over.* But they do not cry out to me from their hearts but they would or will howl or lament upon their beds or couches; for grain or DAGAN and new wine they are carried away but they turn from me.

## **THE EGYPTIAN JEST 15-16**

I instruct or will instruct them I have strengthened their arms and they have devised evil against me. They do not turn to the SUPREME ONE. They are become **as a bow with a fault**-their princes will fall by the sword from their angry or insolent tongues. This will be their jesting or mockery or table jest in the land of Egypt.

## **CHAPTER 8 PUT THE TRUMPET TO YOUR LIPS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*This chapter issues a warning about the conduct of the nation. Hosea served as a prophet during the last 5 years of Jereboam II. Prosperity accompanied his long reign of 35 years. Luxury and wealth increased and morality and spirituality declined in proportion. Immorality such as Hosea describes took hold in company with drunkenness. At the time of Hosea Tiglath Pileser consolidated Assyria and in 734BC he attacked Syria & Palestine. In 732BC he overwhelmed Damascus. Under Shalmaneser Samaria came under siege and capitulated in face of Sargon his successor*

### **THE EAGLE IS ON THE TEMPLE 1-6**

*The "eagle" may represent Nebuchadnezzar or even Rome. It was a bird of prey and its prey under Nebuchadnezzar was the vessels of the temple and under Titus the most valuable candelabra was taken to Rome-cf. Titus arch amid the ruins of old Rome.*

The Shophar to your palate (1) as **the eagle** is upon the house of the LORD because they have passed over my covenant and they have rebelled against my law. Israel is crying out **or will cry out** to me "My God we acknowledge or we know you intimately".(2) But Israel has cast off as ill-savoured **the good one**-an enemy will persecute him. (3)These cause kings to rule and not from me; they cause princes to rule and do not acquaint me. (4) They make themselves idols as silver and gold with the result that they are destroyed or cut off. (5) Loathe or reject your calf (idol) O Samaria; my anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of purity? For they are of Israel and this calf -a workman made it: it is not God. For the calf of Samaria will become fragments.

### **SOWING THE WIND REAPING THE WHIRLWIND 7-9**

*The nation has sowed for a bad harvest. They are considered spiritually unfruitful. They have spent their substance on buying into alliances for consolidation and sought the support of other nations who simply strip them of assets.*

(6)For they sow the wind [*hwr*] and they will harvest the whirlwind [*htpws*]. The shoot will have nothing or no heaps to collect from it. It will not make grain. Peradventure it were able strangers would swallow it. Israel has swallowed herself up-(7) she is among the nations as a vessel of no pleasure or delight. For they have gone up to Assyria-a wild ass solitary by itself. (8)Ephraim has hired herself lovers.

### **DIVINE GRACE HAS NOT FORSAKEN ISRAEL 10-13A**

Though they have sold themselves among the nations **I will quibbutz them** and they will waste away soon from the burden of a king of princes. *This prophecy of the divine gathering may speak of the gathering from Assyria after captivity or it may extend to the time of Christ's own gathering of the*

church from the Jews prior to the fall of Jerusalem under Titus. (9) Ephraim also caused great altars for sin offering to be made-these became her altars for sin. I will write for her numerous things of my law but they counted or reckoned them as something strange or loathsome. They continue to sacrifice offerings to be set before me and they eat the meat.

## **CONCENTRATION ON MATERIAL WEALTH AND MILITARY STRENGTH 13 B-14**

*The "silly dove" mentality means that Israel deferred from their link with Assyria and turned to Egypt for protection. Egypt had been bolstered by union with Ethiopia whose monarchs put up resistance to Assyrian advances. Hosea (750-745BC) flourished in 743 BC. In the later days of Jeremiah 638 BC-a century afterward Israel did swap allegiance.*

The LORD does not delight in them. **Now HE** will remember their iniquity and visit their sins on them. (10) **They will turn to Egypt.** So Israel has forgotten his maker and built palaces and Judah had made great cities of fortification but I will send fire into their cities as it will eat up their castles.

## **CHAPTER 9**

### **FICKLE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP 1-3**

**Do not be radiant O Israel; do not exult in dance** as the peoples for you have played the harlot from your God. You love the gifts on all the threshing floors of grain. Threshing floor and winepress will not pasture or shepherd them and new wine will deceive them. *Whilst there appears to have been widespread immorality the manner of Gomer is represented in the national reliance on one or other of the powerful nations to the south and north of her borders rather than on the LORD.* They will not dwell in a settled manner in the LORD'S land, for Ephraim will turn to Egypt and diet on the unclean in Assyria. *Hosea prophecies that Israel will be carried captive to Assyria.*

### **WHEN SACRIFICE IS A MOCKERY 4**

They will not pour out oblation of wine to the LORD and their sacrifices will not please HIM [*br*] *literally "be barter" to HIM*] As the bread of sorrow or idols that they have they eat it and will be unclean for it is their bread for themselves and it will not come or should not come to the house of God.

What will you do at your festival times and on the day of the LORD'S feast or Passover? For behold they come from disaster and Egypt will garner or qibbutz them and MOP or Memphis will bury them. *The city of Memphis was the burial place of Osiris. The name has associations with "good" and "burial place" for burial was the lot of "the good". The "gate of the blessed" could not confer happiness for the believer in the sovereign Yahweh.* Their desirable valuables of silver will be a heap and the thorn bush will possess their tents.

### **PROPHECY DESPISED 7-8**

The days of visitation of judgment have arrived; the days of recompense have come. Israel will know this well-or let Israel be well aware of this. The prophet is a fool; the man of the Spirit mad because of the greatness of your iniquity and the sheer enormity of your persecution. *These contemptuous terms were applied to spiritual leaders-because of their ecstatic behaviour in some instances (1 Samuel 21.15-16) but all unjustly. Hosea raises the finger of accusation at Israel for persecuting her prophets.* The prophet with my God is a watchman (on the watchtower). The snare traps him along each of his pathways arising from hatred or persecution in the house of his God.

### **SODOM GIBEAH & EPHRAIM - PLUMB THE DEPTHS Romans 1 26-27**

They have caused themselves to be deeply involved -they must ruin or corrupt them as in the days of Gibeah. *The story of that homosexual corruption occupies the final three chapters of Judges. Sixty five thousand and 30 soldiers of Israel died as the nations strove to exorcise the spirit of harsh male prostitution and bring the tribe of Benjamin back to righteous family living.* HE will remember their iniquity and visit judgment for their sin.

## **THE CONTRAST OF PENTECOST AND PEOR 10-12**

When I found Israel it was as finding grapes in the desert; when I saw your fathers it was as the first ripe Pentecost or first fruit figs. So when they came to Baal Peor and separated or devoted them to "shame" or "shameful confusion" they also became corrupt as that they loved. Ephraim-their glory will fly away like a bird.-flying from birth, from the conceiving womb and from pregnancy or being with child. But if they become great with sons I will also cause them to be bereaved of man or humanity for "Woe to them" as well through my departure from them. *The punishment of Benjamin on account of the sin of Gibeah was the loss of wives and family. The punishment of Israel was population decline on account of sexual sin and confusion.*

## **ENVIRONMENT DOES NOT PRODUCE MORALITY- ONLY OBEDIENCE 13-16**

Ephraim is as I have seen concerning Tyre which is planted in an adorable habitation but Ephraim is to produce his sons for the slayer. "Give them O LORD"-What will the gift be? Give them wombs that abort and breasts dry as raisins. All their calamitous evil in Gilgal-because of those they are hated. Because of the evil of their repeated deeds I will expel them from my house. I will not continue to LOVE them because all their princes are **stubborn**. Ephraim is struck (by disease); their root dried up; they do not produce fruit. Even when they bear children I will cause the precious delights of the womb to die.

## **THE WANDERING JEW 17**

My God will reject them because they did not obey him and they will be wanderers among the Gentile nations. *The concluding prophecy of this chapter spells out the 2000 years of the "wandering Jew" who ranged over the eastern and western world in search of a livelihood and security. Even in this 21st century Christians thankfully are rescuing lonely aged Jews living in abject poverty from the remotest parts of the Soviet Union. This prophecy made 700 years before Christ was fulfilled over the course of 2000 years in the modern Common Era. Such unhappy state emerged from the same unwillingness to relate to the Messiah as Hosea cited in 9.16 our LORD Jesus the Messiah in Matthew 19.8 & Mark 10.5 spoke with candour of the same sad reality in reaction to his loving ministry. The apostle Paul in commenting on the Gentiles and Romans characterises their reaction to the love of God equally as "hardness"(Romans 2.5)*

## **CHAPTER 10**

### **PROSPERITY LEADS TO NEW FAITH IDEAS DIVIDED HEARTS GUILT 1-2**

Israel is a spreading vine (or) a vine pouring out her life that will continue to produce fruit for himself. According to the greatness of his fruit is the greatness of his altars. According to the improvement of his land he improved or bettered his standing pillars or monuments. Theirs is smooth flattery or division in portions of heart or slippery smoothness of heart [qlj] **Now** they will become guilty [mva] or suffer punishment; HE will throw down [pr/] their altars; HE will destroy their pillars.

### **CONSCIOUS GODLESSNESS LEADS TO CYNICISM-FALSE PROMISES LAWSUITS 3-4**

For **now** they will say "We have no king because we did not regard or live in the light of the LORD. [har] but what could the king do for us?" They promise promises-false noisy oaths; cut covenants and lawsuits are produced as poppies or darnel upon a fresh furrowed or ploughed field. *The history of Israel's kings was not unlike the procedure of a game of skittles. Jereboam's son Zechariah reigned just 6 months. He was assassinated by the adventurer SHALLUM. A month later he was killed by MENAHEM -a general of Israel's troops. He put himself under tribute to Assyria to consolidate his rule. After 5 years his son PEKAHIAH was overthrown by his general PEKAH. He was of the Egyptian faction and he joined the Syrian REZIN against AHAZ of Judah. Ahaz called in TIGLATH PILESER who ransacked Galilee. Shortly PEKAH was killed by HOSHEA after a three year reign. This HOSHEA reigned for a period of nine years (731-722)*

## LIVELY IMAGERY OF EXILE 5-8

Those who live in Samaria sojourn or congregate to the calf idol of Beth AVEN for its people lament with downcast head upon it and likewise its black clad ascetic priests[*rmk*] who rejoiced over its glory for it is taken captive from them in nakedness. *Jereboam II had set up a bull or Baal at Dan and at Bethel and many others were set up on various promontories.* It will also be caused to run or be carried to Assyria as a present for the "great" King ("*The warlike*" "*contending one*" or "*Great*"-*Tiglath Pileser-whom Menahem sought to buy off with gifts-2Kings 15.19*) Ephraim will take hold of shame as a man takes a wife and Israel will be ashamed of her wooden idols. ("O") Samaria-her king floats away on his own like a branch from a tree on the face of the waters. The high places of iniquity will fall into ruin. O the sin of Israel! *As in other contexts Hosea seems to speak in sound bites. I have introduced a vocative where the sense tapers away-it may well be that Hosea is to be taken as far more animated and exclamatory than translators credit who criticise his incomplete style!* Thorns and brambles [*rrd*] will grow up over her altars ...

**...and they will say to the mountains "cover us" and to the high hills "fall upon us".** *Suddenly the 8th century BC prophet ignites his writing with a judgment phrase that John the divine by the Spirit fits to the last days when the earth shakes most terribly (Revelation 6. 12-16)*

## PUNISHMENT MIRRORS SIN 9-10

From the days of Gibeah you sinned, O Israel there they remained or stood. Did not war overtake or befall [*gvm*] the sons of iniquity in Gibeah? At my desire I will put them in bonds and peoples will gather against them in captivity through their double sin *God's punishment is perpetually reflective of our sin. In this instance double sin brings double retribution. They go captive and are then harassed in captivity. War is one of Gods four great measures against a sinning nation. The others are famine pestilence and death by misadventure or beasts. Israel is told to expect war.*

## THE LORD WILL ONE DAY USE ISRAEL IN HIS GREAT HARVEST 11

Ephraim is a heifer trained or accustomed (to "light threshing work"-DUMMELOW) that I love to (use to) thresh and I will pass a bar [*rb*] "*shoot a bolt*" over her fair neck and drive Ephraim like a charioteer; Judah will plough; Jacob will harrow. *The agricultural images plot the future discipline of the nation. Ephraim will thresh corn at speed. God will hasten HIS people's usefulness in later days. Judah will open up the land for seed and Jacob will harrow or further refine the ground or cover the seed. The first ministry is one of preparing corn for eating or sowing. The second is preparing the hard ground and that belongs to Judah and to the Lion of Judah. The "Prince with God" finally sows the new seed. This appears in the light of the sequel be a picture of the use God would make of Israel in far distant days.*

## HOSEA DEMANDS THE NATION PREPARE FOR CHRIST'S COMING-FOR THE EARLY RAINS 12

**You must sow** for yourselves for a harvest of righteousness. **You must harvest** the fruit of love's faithfulness. **You must break up for yourselves the ground** (See Jeremiah 4.3)that is broken up already for it is time to **seek the LORD** until HE come and sprinkle the early rain of righteousness for you or that "belongs to you". *The prophet urges that there is time for repentance.*

## WAR AND RUIN AHEAD 13-15

But you have ploughed wickedness or noisy terror and reaped wickedness. You have eaten the fruit of deception lies fraud or leanness [*cjk*] because **you have trusted in your way-in your strength as a warrior.** The tumult of battle will rise against your people and all your fortresses will be ruined as the ruin of Beth ARBEL by SHALMAN (*SHALMANESER IV*) in the day of battle-mother was dashed to pieces (with arrows) upon her sons. It will be done to you O Bethel like this from the face of the calamity of your calamities. **At dawn** the king of Israel will be utterly silenced or cut off. *The king was HOSHEA who conspired against PEKAH and conspired against Assyrian by making a pact with SEVE or SO of Egypt ceasing to pay tribute to Assyria.*

## CHAPTER 11

### GOD'S CALL ECHOED BY THE PROPHETS' CALL

When Israel was a youth I LOVED HIM and **from Egypt I called my son!** *This of course is a line that is applicable both to the Exodus under Moses and the life of Christ in the alternative praeterist usage "out of Egypt I call in respect of my (own) Son"(Matthew 2.15)*

They (the prophets) called to them in the same manner -they went from their faces to sacrifice to the Baals and to offer incense to graven images. *The sensitivity of the prophets is acknowledged here-as men like Samuel and Elijah Jeremiah and Amos focus the love of God in their message to the people. Preachers alike must be sensitive to the "call" of God in the tenor of their message.*

And I was walking step by step for Ephraim to take [mj q] them by the arms and they were not aware that I was consoling them [apr] *The idea of "healing" applies to "restoring" and "remedying" as in the case of a child stumbling. It is suited to restoring to peace or "forgiving". So very often we are unappreciative of the intimate care and consolation of the LORD!*

### HOSEA PROPHECIES CHRIST'S LOVE 4

**I drew them with influences -by ropes of a man [l bj].** *The expression is luminous and Christocentric. It speaks of ropes that a man uses. In the first instance this applies to the tender affections and influence of Moses reflecting God's care of the people. Its prophetic significance stretches far ahead to the New Testament. The cross of Christ was hauled upright with ropes. Likewise HABAL speaks of the "snares of death and Hades." By His death most of all Christ draws us to HIM. I drew them with the interwoven (three-fold) CORDS OF LOVE. I was there for them causing the yoke or repeated servitude to be raised from them and I was bent [hfn] down causing them to eat. We have two pictures in this further statement. The LORD was bringing HIS people freedom and in great humility HE was daily feeding them when they traversed the desert.*

### NEGLECT OF GOD LEADS TO LOSS OF LIBERTY 5

Will they not return to Egypt and Assyria -will he not be king over them because they refuse to repent? *We have a further example of the terse style of Hosea. He is economical of word and on that account appears to confuse his plurals and singulars-his second and third person clauses. Actually he is not confused but for those who desire smooth Hebrew his writing needs filling out in translation.*

### WARFARE PROCEEDS -PRAYER INEFFECTUAL 6-7

So a sword will wound or "wear (them) down" in their cities and destroy their bars. *Hosea's economy of word does not add "of their gates" but that is his intent. And swallow up their plans or consultations. My people are "bent on" or "addicted to" [al t] turning from me and he will call on the Most High **unitedly** or as one man HE will not raise them up or lift them.*

### THE DIVINE COVENANT COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL 8-9

How can I give you up O Ephraim-deliver you over O Israel? [Literally "disarm you of shield"]. How can I give you up as ADMAH? How can I put you in the position of ZEBOIM? *These beautiful cities of the plain were destroyed in the overthrow of Sodom. My heart turns changes or perverts itself within me My "panting" or "laments" or "grief and pity" burn or blaze together. I will not bring into effect the wrath; I will not turn to ruin Ephraim for I am God and not a man -the Holy One among you and I will not come in terror.*

### MODERN ALIYAH PROPHECIED 10-11

They will go after the LORD. He will roar as a lion for when he roars sons will come trembling or hastening from the sea or west. *This prophecy has in part been fulfilled by the ample exodus from western lands as Spain and Germany and Britain in favour of Aliyah to Israel. It may be that in the very last days further fear will grip the diaspora and an even greater wave of immigration to Israel will occur. They will come trembling as a sparrow from Egypt and as a dove from the land of ASSHUR and*

I will cause them to dwell in their homes whispers the LORD. *The 8th and 7th century return of those who ran away to the south and north is predicted.*

## CHAPTER 12

### JUDAH AKIN TO JACOB-A WANDERING ARAMEAN- IN A BAD SENSE 11.12

Ephraim has encompassed or approached me with flattery or deceit and denial [vjk]-and the house of Israel (has surrounded me) with slackness or "letting down the hands"[hmr] and Judah is again (or) a testimony erring or wandering or a "nomad" with God and with the Holy Faithful One. *Hosea uses a few short words-he loves clipping words to abbreviated forms. The Hebrew dr is used for dmr and Judah is charged with "nomadic" religion. You would not know where to find her.*

### EPHRAIM IS A TWO-TIMER 1-2

Ephraim pastures on wind and follows the East (wind) all day long. A lie and destruction (he) multiplies. He cuts a treaty bargain with Assyria and will have carried oil to Egypt like a river. [lby] There is strife that the LORD has with Judah and a visitation on Jacob according to his ways-he will requite him according to his repeated deeds.

### JACOB'S STRUGGLE UNDERSTOOD BY HOSEA 3-5

In the womb he (Jacob) held back or gained dominion of his brother and wrestled the mighty God with his power or nothingness [mā means both the "power of the firstborn" and "nothing" and in this there is a startling truth. Jacob wrestled with firstborn Esau as if he was the true firstborn and he wrestled with God's firstborn as if he had rights to the status of God's firstborn. With the clarity of NT doctrine we can see that the desire for the "standing of Christ" as a "son of God" was not to be denied Jacob any more than any faith claimant today]

He "succeeded" or "was straight" with the angel and endured or overcame or "will have been enabled" [Hophal future causative tense lky]-he wept and WILL HAVE SOUGHT HIS GRACE or entreated for HIS mercy at Bethel and he will or should find him and there he will or should continue to talk with him or make promise with him. *Hosea uses the future tense of the Hebrew in these two settings to advise Judah to do what his forefather did. (1) Seek and find the LORD at Bethel or HIS house and (2) keep always in touch with HIM by prayer.*

So they must remember the LORD God of hosts is LORD and you should (future tense) return with your God and keep COVENANT LOVE and justice and always continually to await (Piel or repetitive tense) for your God of strength.

### ESAU'S CONNECTION WITH HAM 7-10

The merchant son of Ham with his hand weighs fraudulent or slack and deceitful he loves to extort unjust gain [qv/] So Ephraim says "I am definitely wealthy. I have found wealth for myself. *It has to be noted that the Hebrew for "wealth"[hā] also means "nothing" "vanity" "idols" and "calamity" With all my labour or earnings they will not find in me iniquity guilt or perversity that is sin.*

I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt-again I will bring you back to your tents as in the days of appointed feast. I continually [Piel continuous of rbd] spoke to the prophets and caused them to have multitude of visions and by the hand of the prophets I gave patterns or similitudes.

### PROPHECY OF GILEAD'S JUDGMENT 11

Is Gilead iniquitous? Are they definitely evil and vain or mischievous and designing [Lee's rendering of aiv] Do they sacrifice oxen in Gilgal? Also their altars will be as heavy stones on the furrows of a field

### THE PATRIARCH FLEES TO LABAN'S BONDAGE BUT HIS SONS ARE FREED FROM PHARAOH 12-14

Jacob was fleeing the field of Aram and Israel served for a wife and kept his wife safe. *I believe this translation is better than that which speaks of "keeping sheep" for the text is not reminiscent of his days in Aram but rather indicative of his flight from Aram when like Hosea he had secured his wife as indeed*

*Hosea did and this itself is an emblem and sign that the LORD would hold Israel in the latter day. And by a prophet the LORD brought up Israel from Egypt and by a prophet HE himself cared for her. Again Hosea speaks of Israel as the LORD'S bride to whom he was faithful over 400 years.*

*Ephraim caused irritation or provoked anger bitterly or to exasperation and blood-guilt will fly swiftly upon him and his LORD will return his reproach upon him or his abandonment upon him. This is sore punishment indeed-just as Ephraim forsook the LORD the LORD would forsake him. For long years in Babylon and then again for the years*

## CHAPTER 13

### INTRODUCTION

*This chapter holds two principles which surface in Hosea long before they became generally acceptable even in the church. Hosea believed in being "born" to a walk with God and he believed in immortality. This chapter must rank among the most important of the OT through these prophetic revelations.*

### EPHRAIM LOST HIS GRAVITAS 1-

*When Ephraim continued to speak (there was) "trembling" [Hosea's curt style puts it "As Ephraim kept warning-trembling!"] He was exalted in Israel but he was becoming guilty of and being punished for being into Baal and he died. The favoured princely line of Egyptian Jews is a marker for man in modern times. Many who have a thorough Christian background succumb to the worship of Jehovah and Baal and Onesiris and become spiritually dead.*

### THE CULT OF BAAL SWALLOWS THEIR WEALTH 2-3

*Now they Joseph to sin-they "add" to sin and make for themselves a "shrine" or covering of silver engraved idols -all the work of sculptors. These are called "Those who offer human sacrifice-they are kissing the calf". This banal ritual means they are joining the cult of Baal. Therefore they will be as the cloud of the morning and as the dew scattering it goes away; as chaff scattered or agitated from the threshing floor and as smoke pouring from a window.*

### THE LORD REDEEMED ISRAEL & HAS FIRST CLAIM TO ALLEGIANCE 4-8

*But I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt. Besides me you shall not be familiar with any; and no Saviour besides (me) I knew you intimately in the desert-the land of burning thirst. So as I nourished them they were continually satisfied [The Hebrew has the Piel tense for a "day by day" food supply ranging over 40 years] and satisfied they became proud and on that account forgot me. So I will come on them as a lion and as a leopard on the Assyrian path. I will fall upon them as a bereaved bear and I will rend their enclosure and I will devour them there as a lioness. A beast of the field will tear them in pieces*

### ISRAEL'S MISPLACED TRUST 9-11

*You are destroyed O Israel because you are against me your helper. Where is your king? Come on now! But he will cause you to be saved! And your counsellors in all your cities of whom you said "Give me a king and princes." I gave you a king in my anger and in passing the bounds of rage I took him away.*

### EPHRAIM'S HIDDEN SIN AND NIL UNDERSTANDING OF NEW BIRTH 12-13

*The iniquity of Ephraim is bundled into a bag for storage and his sin is hid like treasure. The metaphor of hidden wealth is applied to sin in respect of its record and due punishment. Sin does not go away-it is stored up against the Day of Judgment. Pains of a woman in labour have come to him but he is a son with no practical wisdom. When it is time to be born he will not place himself in the birth position. Hosea was the father of several children. He was well aware that "new life" depended on birth. This principle Christ expounded-but it is latent in Hosea just as it is patent in the gospel of John*

## THE LORD PROMISES RESURRECTION 14-15

I will deliver them [hdp] from the power of Sheol. I will be their kinsman redeemer from death.

**Where O death are your reasons-your oracles-your lawsuit-your commands? [rbd]**

**Where O Sheol is your cutting off or contagion? [bfq]**

*In his classic statement in 1Corinthians 15.55 Paul pulls this ancient wisdom and principle out of scripture. He makes the word "oracle" do service as "victory". The LXX has "penalty". The word rbd in Hebrew is used of the "oracle of God"-in the sense of that which may be consulted to give a response for success-a divine word which will safeguard life-and deliver victory in war. He does not take the LXX δικη (right). The second term is rendered "contagion" in Hebrew and Paul writes "Sting" accepting the LXX κεντρον rendering which means "scorpion sting". Paul does not believe in the right of death to overcome any more nor does he believe in the deadly or mortal blow to man that it holds-he is convinced of the reality of immortality.*

Compassion will be hid from my eyes. When he is fruitful among his brothers **the east wind of the LORD** will come from the desert his rise or blossom of fruit will fail or disappoint and his well will dry up from his spring. **He will plunder his treasury** of all the precious vessels. *This prophecy foretold the carrying away of the temple vessels.*

## CHAPTER 14

### SAMARIA SUFFERS FOR REBELLION

*Samaria shall be sacrificed because she rebelled against God. Their infants shall fall by the sword; their women with child shall be cleaved open. These verses belong to Chapter 13 in the English bible.*

### ISRAEL ENCOURAGED TO REPENT 1-3

O Israel Return to the LORD your God because you have tottered reeled and sunk through your moral filth or iniquity. **Take words** [rbd-Hosea believes in having "promises" and in chapter 13 he speaks of the lack of "authoritative words rbd that death can use] **or promises with you** and return to the LORD and say to Him, *It is in divine promise that the nation's hope lies just as that of Gomer lies in the faithfulness of Hosea. The entirety of Hosea's life with Gomer was the promise and good faith behind his covenant love.*

(1)"Lift from us the burden of every sin

(2) And take us happily [or "take the Good One-as in Psalm 85 meaning the substitute lamb]

(3) And we will restore or finish the work or recompense with the calves of our lips.

(4) Asshur cannot provide us a **Yeshua salvation**.

(5) We will not ride upon horses (i.e. go to Egypt)

(6) Or say to the work of our hands, 'These are gods'

(7) For in You there is **MERCY** for the fatherless"

### THE LORD PROMISES PROSPERITY TO ISRAEL IN THE LATTER DAY 4-7

I will heal their going back; **I will LOVE them urgently and spontaneously** for my anger is turned from them. I will be as the dew to Israel. *Ironsides has an apposite reference to the fleece of Gideon. Once the nations around had dew upon them and divine blessing-but in the latter days Israel shall have the "dew" of God's blessing upon them.* **He** shall grow up with great increase **like the Aram or white lily**-pure and spreading everywhere and lengthen his roots like (the cedar) of Lebanon. Those who remain in **his** shadow shall return-they shall live and thrive as grain and grow or multiply like a vine and **his** scent shall be as Lebanon.

### NEW EXPERIENCE OF MESSIAH 8-9

Ephraim-"What have I to do any longer with idols? I have heard and I have watched [Hebrew רָוַ] or looked at Him (**Yahweh-Yeshua**) -I am as a green olive tree. Your fruit is found in me. Who is wise and understands these things **by mediation**- Who considers himself or makes himself prudent and knows them by personal experience? For the ways of the LORD are straight and righteous ones walk in them and transgressors will totter.



## **HAPPY ENDING**

*Thus the prophet cultures penitence in the heart of God's people. He foresees their gladness to return to the LORD with HIS promises and in true repentance. He is emphatic about YESHUA and about the divine COVENANT and about the MERCY of the LORD.*

*Hosea implores them to appeal through the "good one" and to disavow other means of salvation. The picture of latter day Israel pure as the Aram Lily and powerful as the spreading Cedar is vintage Hosea-who is ever in his element crafting vivid images and epithets with which to commend his message to the nation.*

**FINIS**

**Bob Coffey L'shuvkha Marya**  
To the glory of the Lord  
Aramaic Bible Companion