



THE BOOK OF

HOSEA

...a verse by verse study

Hosea

- Hosea's call & The rejection of Israel 1:1–9
- The restoration of Israel promised 1:10–2:1
- God's warning against Israel's unfaithfulness and judgment prophesied 2:2–13
- A future of blessing foretold for Israel 2:14–23
- The redemption of Hosea's wife a type of Israel's ultimate return to God Ch 3
- God's controversy with his people Ch 4–10
- In wrath, God remembers mercy Ch 11–13
- Israel urged to repent & enjoy blessing Ch 14

Chapter 11



THE BOOK OF

HOSEA

God's Continuing Love for Israel

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

Hosea 11:1

- God had said to Pharaoh *“Israel is My son, even My firstborn; let My son go, that he may serve Me”*
Exodus 4:22-23.
- When Israel were just a fledgling nation God (for the sake of His promises to the patriarch’s) loved Israel, saw their affliction & sent Moses to ‘draw them out’
- Yet Matthew applies this verse to Jesus Matt 2:15

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

Hosea 11:2

- *The prophet changes his tone, no longer speaking of that one first call of God to Israel as a whole, whereby He brought out Israel as one man, His one son; which one call he obeyed. Here he speaks of God's manifold calls to the people, throughout their whole history, which they as often disobeyed, and not disobeyed only, but went contrariwise.* Albert Barns

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

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.

Hosea 11:3-4

- Like so many, Israel failed to see that it was God leading, providing, blessing, caring and sustaining them!
- Not until God removes that covering do they see

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

Hosea 11:5

- Is this a contradiction?
 - “they shall return to Egypt” 8:13 / 9:3

Basic Rule of Biblical Interpretation:

A lack of understanding on your part does not constitute an error in the Bible - which has repeatedly been shown to be inerrant!

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

Hosea 11:5

- Is this a contradiction?
 - “they shall return to Egypt” 8:13 / 9:3
- The Nation of Israel never returned to the LAND of Egypt
 - But Egypt represents slavery and bondage
- God was here saying that Israel will return to the slavery and bondage they had previously known, but this time it will be in Assyria.

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

Hosea 11:5

- However certain individuals did go back to Egypt seeking to escape but ended up dying there.
 - Compare with the Flood of Noah and ‘local’ floods since
- Note the prophetic allusion to Antichrist
 - ‘The Assyrian’
- *“I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not:*
- *if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive”*
 - John 5:43

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

Hosea 11:6

- *It was the false teaching forming the principal guidance of the people that actually resulted in their overthrow. The false teaching was the philosophy which they had adopted instead of following the commandments of the Lord. - Coffman*
- *Branches - that is, the towns and villages adjoining to the cities; which were to them as branches are to a tree, sprung from them, and were supported by them; and, being near them, prospered or suffered as they did - Gill*

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

Hosea 11:7

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.

Hosea 11:8

- ...or 'My strong compassions are kindled'. i. e., with the heat and glow of love; as the disciples say, "Did not our hearts burn within us?" Luke 24:32, and as it is said of Joseph "his bowels did yearn Genesis 43:30 (literally, were hot) toward his brother;" and of the true mother before Solomon, "her bowels yearned 1 Kings 3:26 (English margin, were hot) upon her son." - Barns

21 And the LORD shall separate him unto evil out of all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this book of the law:

22 So that the generation to come of your children that shall rise up after you, and the stranger that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses which the LORD hath laid upon it;

Deuteronomy 29:21-22

23 And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath:

24 Even all nations shall say, Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this land? what meaneth the heat of this great anger?

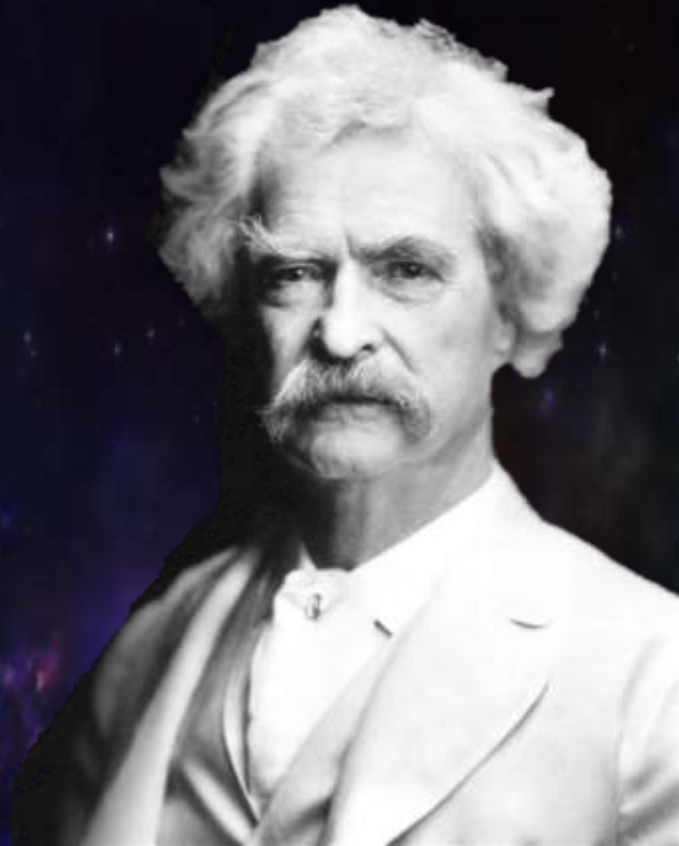
Deuteronomy 29:23-24

THE PROPHECY *of the* STRANGER

- When did this happen?
- In the 19th century...
- In fact, in the year 1867
- A stranger, from America, boarded a steamship for a voyage that would take him around the world, ending up in the Land of Israel, specifically, the City of Jerusalem.
- The individual in question just happened to be a journalist, and he kept a notebook of his journey.

THE PROPHECY *of the* STRANGER

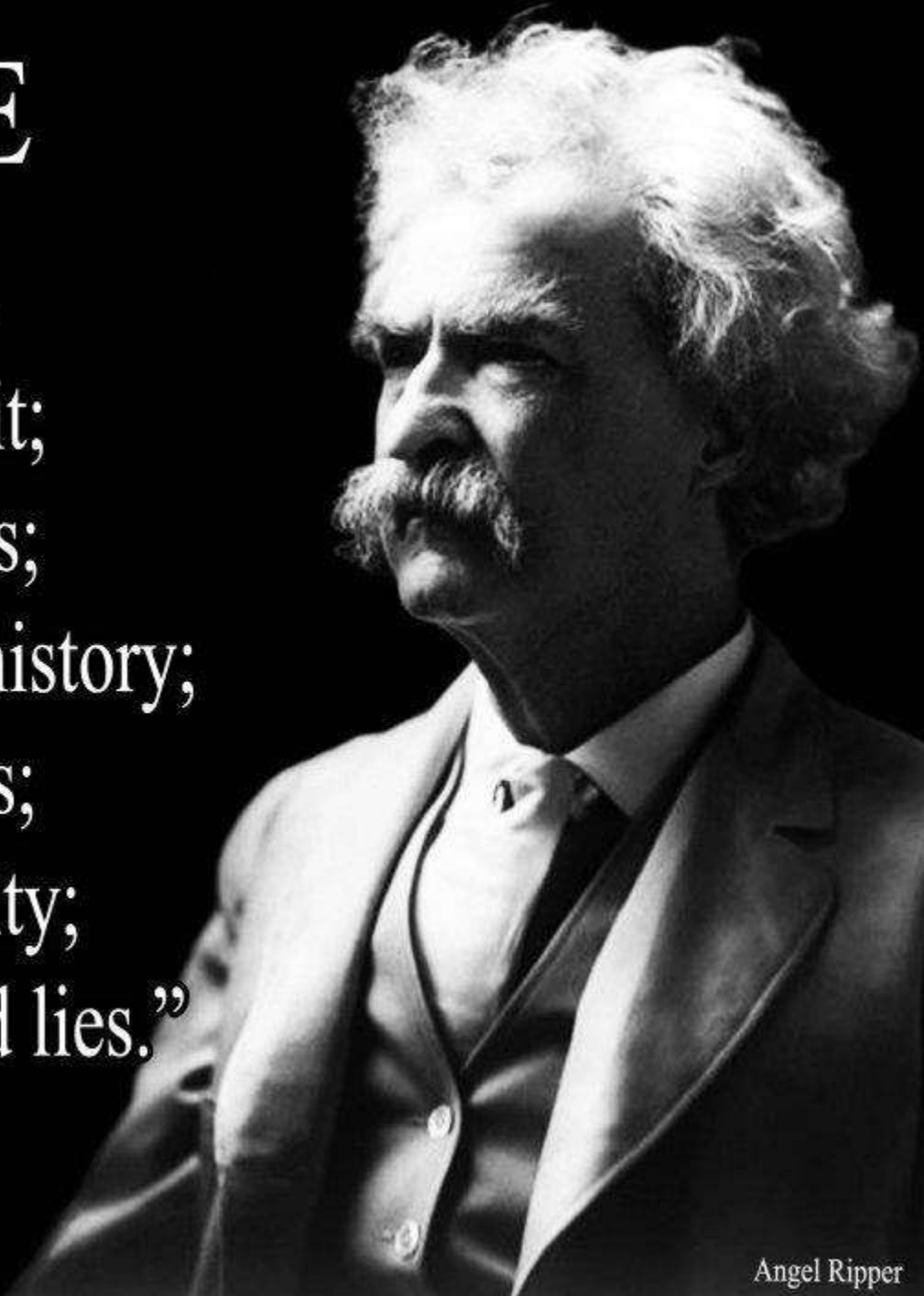
- The stranger was none other than Mark Twain!
 - Known as the father of American literature.
 - Author of Huckleberry Finn / Tom Sawyer



THE BIBLE

“It is full of interest.
It has noble poetry in it;
and some clever fables;
and some blood-drenched history;
and some good morals;
and a wealth of obscenity;
and upwards of a thousand lies.”

- Mark Twain



THE PROPHECY of the STRANGER

- Upon arriving in the Land he wrote:

“Rags, wretchedness, poverty and dirt... Lepers, cripples, the blind... To see the number of maimed, malformed and diseased humanity that throng the holy places...”

THE PROPHECY of the STRANGER

- According to Moses the stranger would say:
The whole land is brimstone, salt...
- So Twain would bear witness:

“...all desolate and unpeopled...

...miles of desolate country

*...the far reaching desolation ...the
waste of a limitless desolation...”*

THE PROPHECY of the STRANGER

- According to the prophecy the stranger would say: *"All the land is ... a burning waste"*
- Or, as another translation puts it, *"your land has become a scorching desert"*.
- So Twain would write:
 - *"It is a scorching , arid, repulsive, solitude.*
 - *Such roasting heat, such oppressive solitude, and such dismal desolation cannot surely exist elsewhere on earth...*
 - *Nowhere in all the waste around was there a foot of shade, and we were scorching to death*

THE PROPHECY of the STRANGER

- The prophecy in Deuteronomy says that the land will become devoid of anyone to sow it,
- Twain wrote:

"All it's land is unsown...One may ride 10 miles, hereabouts, and not see ten human beings"

"...these unpeopled deserts, these rusty mounds of barrenness, that never, never, never do shake the glare from their harsh outlines..."

"There is not a solitary village throughout its whole extent

- not for thirty miles in either direction"

THE PROPHECY of the STRANGER

- Moses also prophesied that the Land would not bring forth produce "nor does it bear..."
- In the Hebrew the word *Tzamach* is used, which specifically refers to 'sprouting',
- Twain bears witness to the Land's inability to sprout vegetables, writing:

"The valleys are unsightly deserts fringed with a feeble vegetation... a desert, paved with loose stones, void of vegetation, glaring in the fierce sun... this blistering, naked, treeless Land"

THE PROPHECY of the STRANGER

- The prophecy states that the stranger who comes will specifically speak of grass, or rather the absence of it: "no grass grows in it"
– or as one translation: "not even a blade of grass"
- Twain, in his notebook almost quotes scripture word for word! :

"No sprig of grass is visible"

THE PROPHECY *of the* STRANGER

- As already mentioned, Mark Twain was a skeptic, and it is certain he had no intention of fulfilling a 3500 year old prophecy,
- Yet in addition to the things already noted, scripture foretells that in the day of the Stranger it will be said:

27 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against this land, to bring upon it all the curses that are written in this book:

Deuteronomy 29:27

THE PROPHECY of the STRANGER

- Incredibly, Mark Twain wrote:

"Palestine sits in sackcloth and ashes. Over it broods the spell of a curse! ...Palestine is desolate and unlovely. And why should it be otherwise? Can the curse of the Deity beautify a land?"

- Mark Twain's words appeared in articles across America and beyond and would become a witness to his generation, thus fulfilling the prophecy!

THE Greatest MYSTERY ?

- And the timing was right on cue!
- It was when the Land was at it's most desolate, these events would be the prophetic key to set the stage for the redemption of the land and the return of its exiles - the Children of Israel!
- But there was another prophecy that was to be fulfilled before they could return.
- Just before Israel's return from Captivity in Babylon, Zechariah recorded a vision of a man with a measuring line

THE **Greatest** MYSTERY

For the full 6-part study go to:

<https://www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk/sermon-series/the-greatest-mystery/>

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.

Hosea 11:9

- In God's mercy He did not 'execute the fierceness of His anger'
- Though the Land was ravished, the people were spared through captivity – that they might repent!
- THIS IS THE GOSPEL!
- The Earth was ravished, but humanity was given over to the captor – death, that we might repent!

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.

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.

Hosea 11:10-11

- Jump forward 2700 years!
- After Israel repent, they shall walk after the LORD!
- The Lion of the Tribe of Judah will roar against their enemies

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.

Hosea 11:12

- David said: “Blessed is the many to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity” Psalm 32:2
- Here Judah (though guilty of following after her ‘treacherous sister’ Israel) are spoken of as being with God and faithful!
- There were 6 righteous kings in Judah – the 7th is still to come!

Chapter 12



THE BOOK OF

HOSEA

God's Charge Against Ephraim

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.

Hosea 12:1

- *“In leaving God and following idols, Ephraim “fed on” what is unsatisfying, and chased after what is destructive. If a hungry man were to “feed on wind,” it would be light food. If a man could overtake the East wind, it were his destruction. : Israel “fed on wind,” when he sought by gifts to win one who could aid him no more than the wind; “he chased the East wind,” when, in place of the gain which he sought, he received from the patron whom he had adopted, no slight loss.” - Barns*

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.

Hosea 12:2

- God had shown mercy to Judah, and even delivered them from Assyria...
- However, they embraced idolatry so God would not withhold His judgment

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

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;

⁵ Even the Lord God of hosts; the Lord is his memorial.

Hosea 12:3-5

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

Hosea 12:6

- To whom much is given, much is required!

7 He is a merchant, the balances of deceit are in his hand: he loveth to oppress.

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.

Hosea 12:7-8

- v7 = the nature of commerce!
- v8 = the deceit of commerce!

⁹ And I that am the Lord thy God from the land of Egypt will yet make thee to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast.

Hosea 12:9

- On the Feast of Tabernacles, the Nation were to dwell in tents for 7 days to commemorate the wilderness wanderings
- Now God says that because they have disregarded His feasts, they will be forced to 'dwell in tents' wandering the earth.

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

Hosea 12:10

- This is a very significant statement!
- God here tells us He uses models and types
- The Book of Hosea is a great example!
 - Adam and Eve (Christ and His bride)
 - Joseph – 100 ways a type of Christ
 - Abraham and Isaac – The Father offering His own Son
 - Jonah – 3 days / 3 nights, dead-raised, gentiles saved
 - The book of Ruth

THIS second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in *both* which ⁶I stir up your pure minds by way^d of remembrance;
2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, ⁷and of the commandment of us the apostles⁴ of the Lord and Saviour:

15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of *Balaam the son of Bo-*

CHAPTER III.

3 Knowing this first, ⁹that there

6 Whereby the waters being overflowed with
7 But the heavens which are now, are kept in store against the day of perdition of ungodly men.
8 But, beloved, this one thing, that the Lord as a thousand years is long to you, as one day, is not slackness; but us-ward, we do not perish, but repentance.
10 But come as a thief, the which is away with elements of heat, that are there.
11 See shall be persons converted.
12 Every day that their lives were spared, gave them the opportunity of diligently seeking to make their calling and election sure. Professed Christians had space afforded them to seek a real and more influential experience of the work of divine grace; and the goodness of God was exhibited and intended to lead them to repentance. All therefore, who read this epistle, ought to account the long-suffering of the Lord to be salvation, as they owed it to that alone that they were not then in the place of despair and final misery, instead of the land of hope, of prayer, and forgiveness, or in the way of peace and

The Book of Ruth

When *Elimelech* married *Naomi*, they brought forth *Mahlon* and *Chilion* and were forced to leave *Bethlehem-Judah*. *Elimelech* died and *Naomi* became *Mara*. Later, both *Ruth* and *Orpah* (gentiles) had the chance to return to the God of Israel. *Orpah* turned back and sought false gods. *Ruth* returned to the God of Israel. *Ruth* found grace in the eyes of her kinsman redeemer who then purchased her and she was joined to *Boaz*. (What the *near kinsman* could not do her *Boaz* did). *Ruth* married her *Boaz* and brought forth *Obed*.

The Book of Ruth

<u>Names</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Elimelech	= God is my king
Naomi	= Pleasure
Bethlehem-Judah	= The house of bread and praise
Mara	= Bitterness
Mahlon	= Sickness
Chilion	= Pining
Ruth	= Beauty
Orpah	= Double minded
Boaz	= Strength
Near kinsman	= The Law
Obed	= Worship

The Book of Ruth

When *God is my king* married *pleasure*, they brought forth *sickness* and *pinning* and were forced to leave *the house of bread & praise*. *God is my king* died and *pleasure* became *bitterness*. Later, both *beauty* and *double-minded* (gentiles) had the chance to return to the God of Israel. *Double-minded* turned back and sought false gods. *Beauty* returned to the God of Israel. *Beauty* found grace in the eyes of her kinsman redeemer who then purchased her and she was joined to *strength*. (What the *Law* could not do her *strength* did). *Beauty* married her *strength* and brought forth *worship*.

Joshua

- Joshua dispossessing the usurpers from the Land
- 10 nations, 3 fall leaving 7
- Joshua sends in two 'spies'
- Commander of the Army of the Lord fights the battle
- 7 trumpets blown
- 'Adoni-Zedek' sets himself up as king of Jerusalem
- At the battle of Beth Horon 'signs in the Sun, Moon & Stars'
- The people hide themselves in caves to flee from God's wrath
- The book ends with a covenant with God who'd delivered them

Revelation

- Yeshua dispossessing the usurpers from the Land
- 10 nations, 3 fall leaving 7
- Jesus sends in two witnesses
- Jesus fights the battle
- 7 trumpets blown
- Anti-Christ sets himself up as 'king' of Jerusalem
- Rev 6:12 'signs in the Sun, Moon & Stars'
- The people hide themselves in caves to flee from God's wrath
- The book ends with a covenant with God who'd delivered them

Israel

Espousal Jer 2:1-2
38 years Deut 2:14

Victory through time of war
cf: Promised Land

Complacency brings defeat Prov 29:18
Time of the Judges / Embracing the world

Rejection of Theocracy 1 Sam 8:7
Beginning of the Monarchy - Saul

Division of Kingdom
Solomon's Apostasy

Israel (Idolatry) Judah (Not perfect)
Good works (Jer 3:11) worse than Israel (Jer 3:10)

Judgment foretold Jer 25:9
Faithful taken to Babylon Jer 29:4-10

Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed
Jer 52:12-13 Jerusalem burned with fire

Faithful return to inherit the land.
Temple built that Messiah will teach from (Hag2:9)

Church

Espousal Rev 2:4
38 years / Ephesus AD32-70

Victory through suffering
cf: Smyrna

Complacency brings defeat
cf: Pergamos/Constantine-Married to the world

Rejection of Theocracy Rev 2:6
Beginning of the Papacy / cf:Thyatira

Division of Church
Catholic Apostasy / cf:Sardis

Catholic (Idolatry) Protestant (Not perfect) (Rev 3:2)
Good works (Rev 2:19) Nothing good said

Judgment foretold 2 Pet2:1-2
Faithful Raptured / cf:Philadelphia Rev 3:10

Apostates / False Prophets Destroyed
cf:Laodicea "Lord, Lord...I never knew you" Matt 7:22-23
'burned with fire' Matt 13:30 / Rev 17 & 18
Faithful return to inherit the land.

Temple built that Messiah will teach from (Is2:2-3)

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.

Hosea 12:11

- Gilgal and Gilead are equally iniquitous, and equally idolatrous.
- Gilead, which was beyond Jordan, had already been brought under subjection by Tiglath-Pileser.
- Gilgal, which was on this side Jordan, shall share the same fate; because it is now as idolatrous as the other.

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

13 And by a prophet the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved.

Hosea 12:12-13

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.

Hosea 12:14



THE BOOK OF

HOSEA

...to be continued



calvary
chapel
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www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk