



THE MINOR

# PROPHETS

*...a verse by verse study*

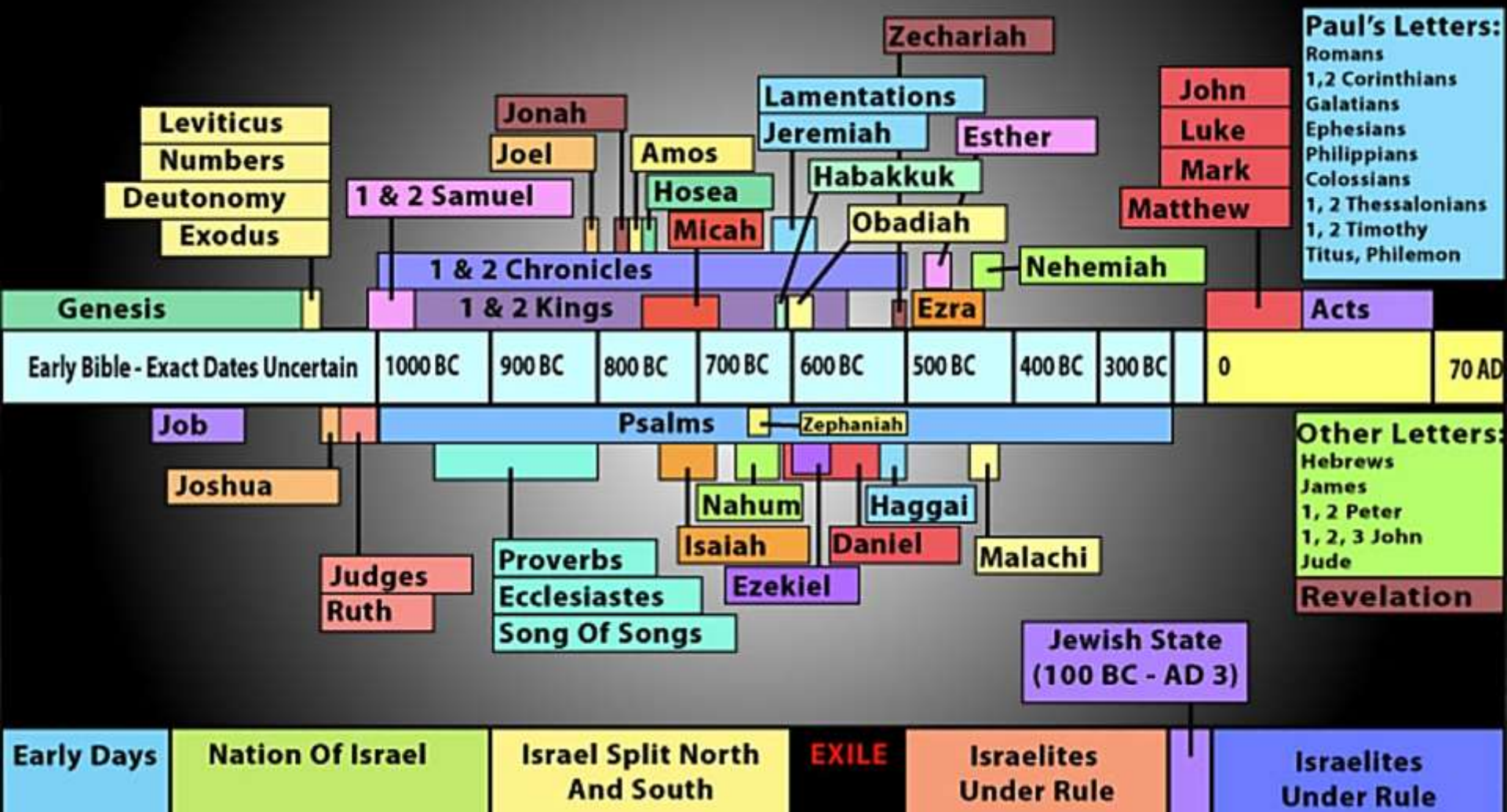


THE BOOK OF

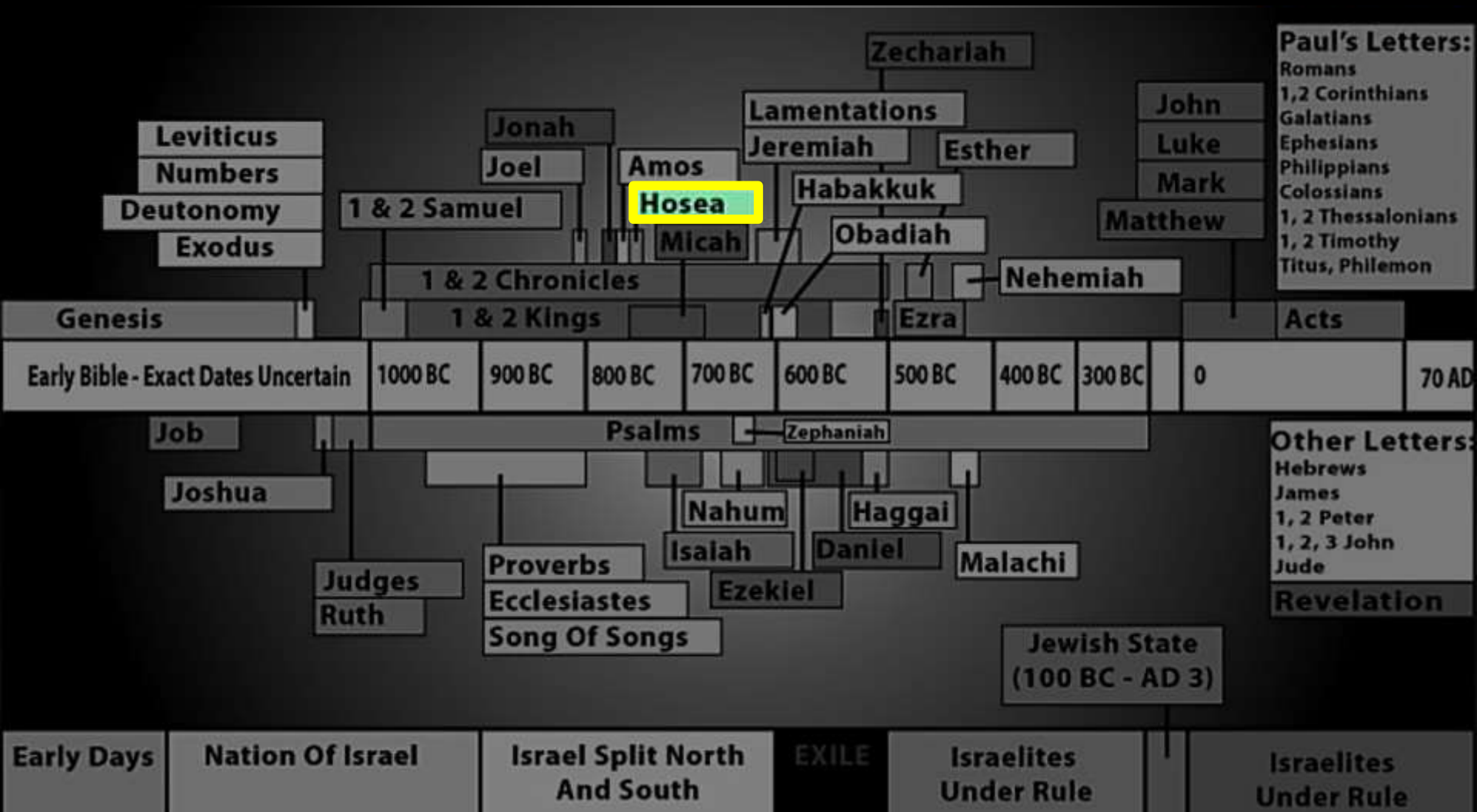
# HOSEA

*...a verse by verse study*

# Chronology of the Books



# Ministry of Hosea



793-722 B.C. (Prophet to the Northern Kingdom)



# Ministry of Hosea

Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy  
Exodus

Jonah  
Joel  
1 & 2 Samuel

Hosea

Lamentations  
Jeremiah  
Habakkuk  
Obadiah

The Northern Kingdom  
a.k.a. Israel Capital: Samaria

Genesis  
Early Bible - Exact Dates Uncertain

Job

Joshua

Psalms

Nahum

Isaiah

Judges  
Ruth

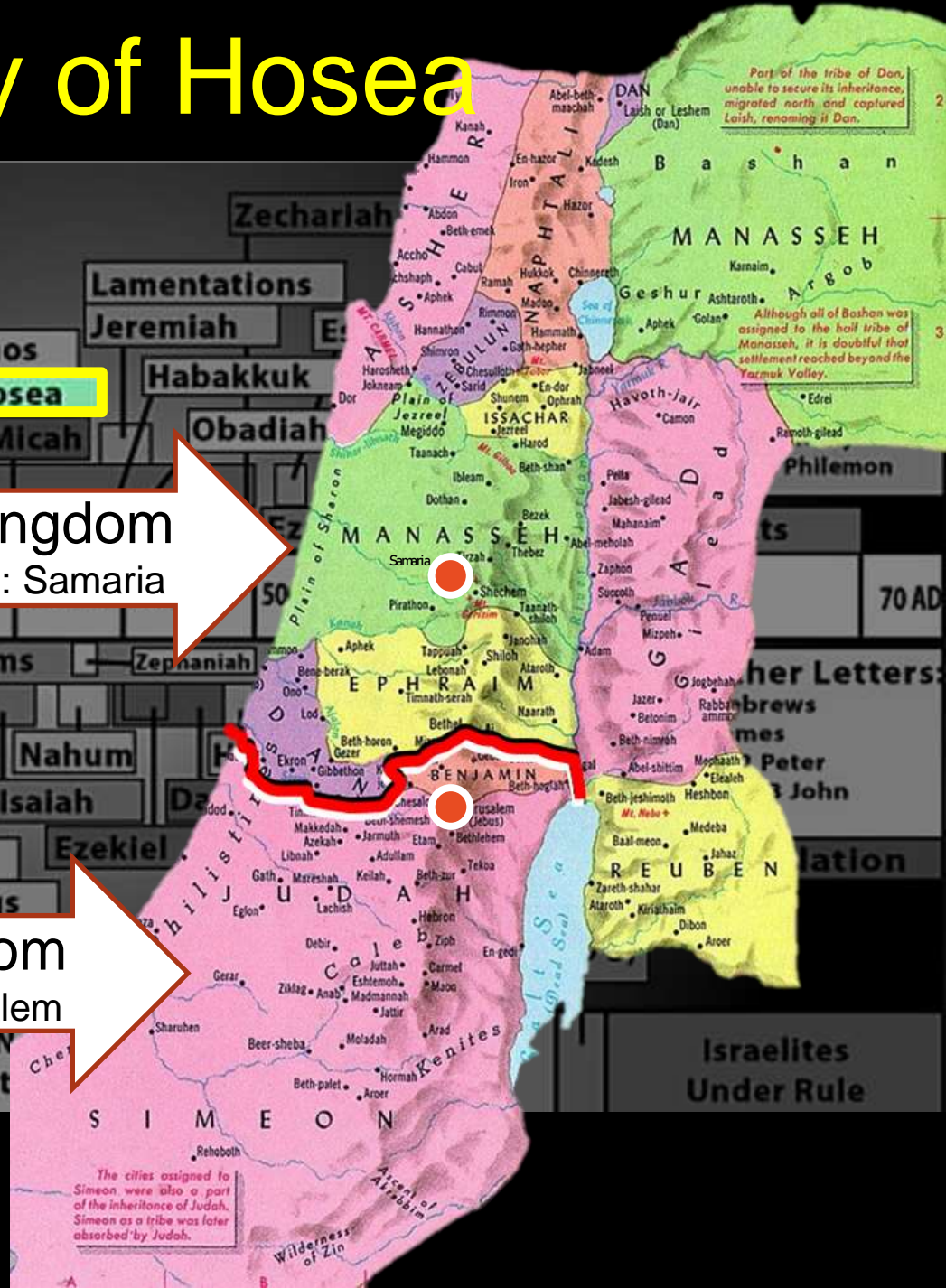
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Songs

The Southern Kingdom  
a.k.a. Judah Capital: Jerusalem

Early Days

Nation Of Israel

Israel Split North And South



# Hosea

- *“We have in the Book of Hosea one of the most arresting revelations of the real nature of sin, and one of the clearest interpretations of the strength of the Divine love. No one can read the story of Hosea without realizing the agony of his heart. Then, lift the human to the level of the Infinite, and know this, that sin wounds the heart of God.”*

G. Campbell Morgan

# 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 4-10

- Hosea's personal life will now fade into the background
- The rest of the book is prophetic.
- Out of the heartbreak in his own home, he now speaks to the nation.
- God is going to spell out the specific charges:
  - Lawlessness;
  - Immorality;
  - Ignorance of God's Word;
  - Idolatry. (Covetousness is idolatry, Col 3:5)



# God's controversy with his people

- A. The Sins of the People (4:1-5)
- B. The Sins of the Priests (4:6-11)
- C. The Idolatry of the People (4:12-14)
- D. A Special Appeal to Judah (4:15-19)
- E. The Evil Behaviour of the Priests, the People, and the Royal Family (5:1-7)
- F. The Promised Judgments of Israel and Judah and God's Intention to Await Their Repentance (5:8-15)
- G. An Appeal to Israel to Repent (6:1-3)
- H. The Sinfulness of Both Israel and Judah (6:4-11)

# God's controversy with his people

- I. The Wickedness of Israel Unveiled (Chap.7)
- J. A Warning to Prepare for Foreign Invasion Because of Idolatry and Foreign Alliances (Chap.8)
- K. The Captivity of Israel Predicted as a Result of Its Iniquity (9:1-10:15)

# Chapter 4



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God's Charge Against Israel



# The Sins of the People v1-5

<sup>1</sup> Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel:  
for the Lord hath a controversy with the  
*inhabitants of the land...*

Hosea 4:1

- God had given the land to the children of Israel, on account of the wickedness of these whom He drove out before them. He gave it to them “that they might observe His statutes and keep His laws” (*Psalms 105*). He had promised that His “Eyes should always be upon it from the beginning of the year unto the end of the year” *Deuteronomy 11:12*. This land, the scene of those former judgments, given to them on those conditions (see *Deuteronomy 4:1*, *Deuteronomy 4:40*; *Deuteronomy 6:21-25*, etc.), the land which God had given to them as their God, they had filled with iniquity. — Albert Barnes

# The Sins of the People v1-5

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

Hosea 4:1-2

- 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;
- 29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,
- 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,
- 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful

**Romans 1:28-31**



<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people are as they that strive with the priest.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy thy mother.

# The Sins of the Priests v6-11

6 My people are destroyed for lack 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.

Hosea 4:6

- Whose fault was it that the people were not taught?
- Who did God hold accountable in Genesis 3:9?
- Light refused resulted in darkness - Ironside

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

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

**Hosea 4:7-8**

- One of the great tragedies in the long war against God has been the defection of so many religious leaders from the true Word of God, leading their people into compromise and apostasy. This, sadly, is as true in modern Christendom as in ancient Israel. - **Henry Morris**



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

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.

11 Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.

**Hosea 4:9-11**

- There is irony here: Worship of Baal was supposed to ensure fertility of the soil and the fertility of the womb. (Cf. Deut 31:17). Forsaking the Lord will result in insatiable hunger and fruitless wombs. - CM

# The Idolatry of the People v12-14

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.

Hosea 4:12

- The One true God had been replaced by 'non-gods'
- The works of men's hands
- People worshipped their own endeavors

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: therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery.

**Hosea 4:13**

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.

**Hosea 4:14**



# An Appeal to Judah v15-19

<sup>15</sup> 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.

**Hosea 4:15**

# An Appeal to Judah v15-19

- Bethaven was a small town near Bethel and is often used synonymously *Amos 4:4; 5:5*
  - Hosea seems to be using the label contemptuously, renaming Bethel, “The House of God,” as Bethaven, “The House of Vanity.”
- Gilgal and Bethel (Bethaven) were seedbeds of idolatry.
- Gilgal, formerly Elisha’s school *2 Kings 2:1; 4:38* is now a site of idols *Hos 9:15; 12:11* & synonymous with the rejection of YHWH, *1 Sam 7, 10, 11*

16 For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer  
now the Lord will feed them as a lamb in a large  
place.

17 Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.

Hosea 4:16-17

- Ephraim used 37x in Hosea as a synecdoche for the Northern Kingdom
- “Joined” רבֿי chabar, yoked to, cleaving to, merged with
- “Let him alone” יִנָּח yannah, set aside, let rest

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind,

**Romans 1:28**

- *“Remember that when you act in accordance with the mind of God as made known to you through His Word, your path shines brighter and brighter unto the perfect day. On the other hand, revealed truth willfully ignored, or still worse, refused, has a hardening effect upon the conscience” - Ironside*



- *“Joined to idols: let him alone!” Nothing can be more solemn than this. It is as though God had exhausted every possible means for their recovery, save one, and that one the giving them up to learn, by bitter experience, what they would not take to heart in any other way. In the New Testament it answers to being “delivered unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”*  
(See 1 Corinthians 5)
- *“Observe: it is only after the failure of all other means to recover the wanderer that God so deals with souls”.*

- Ironside

18 Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers with shame do love, Give ye.

19 The wind hath bound her up in her wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.

Hosea 4:18-19

- “Give ye” bhY yahab, ‘go on’ ‘get on with it’
  - ‘have it your way’



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# HOSEA

*...to be continued*



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chapel  
portsmouth

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