



THE MINOR

PROPHETS

...a verse by verse study

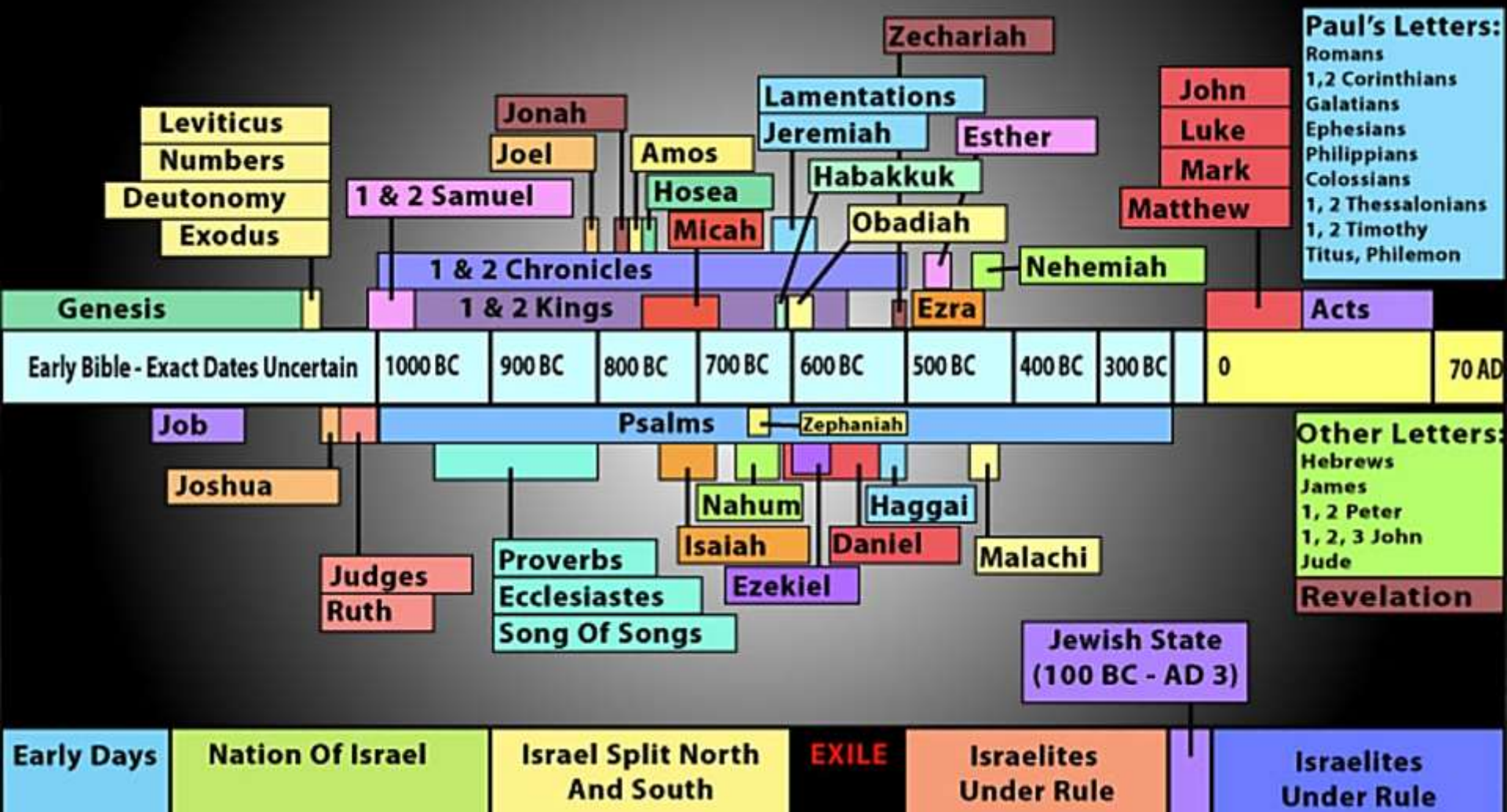


THE BOOK OF

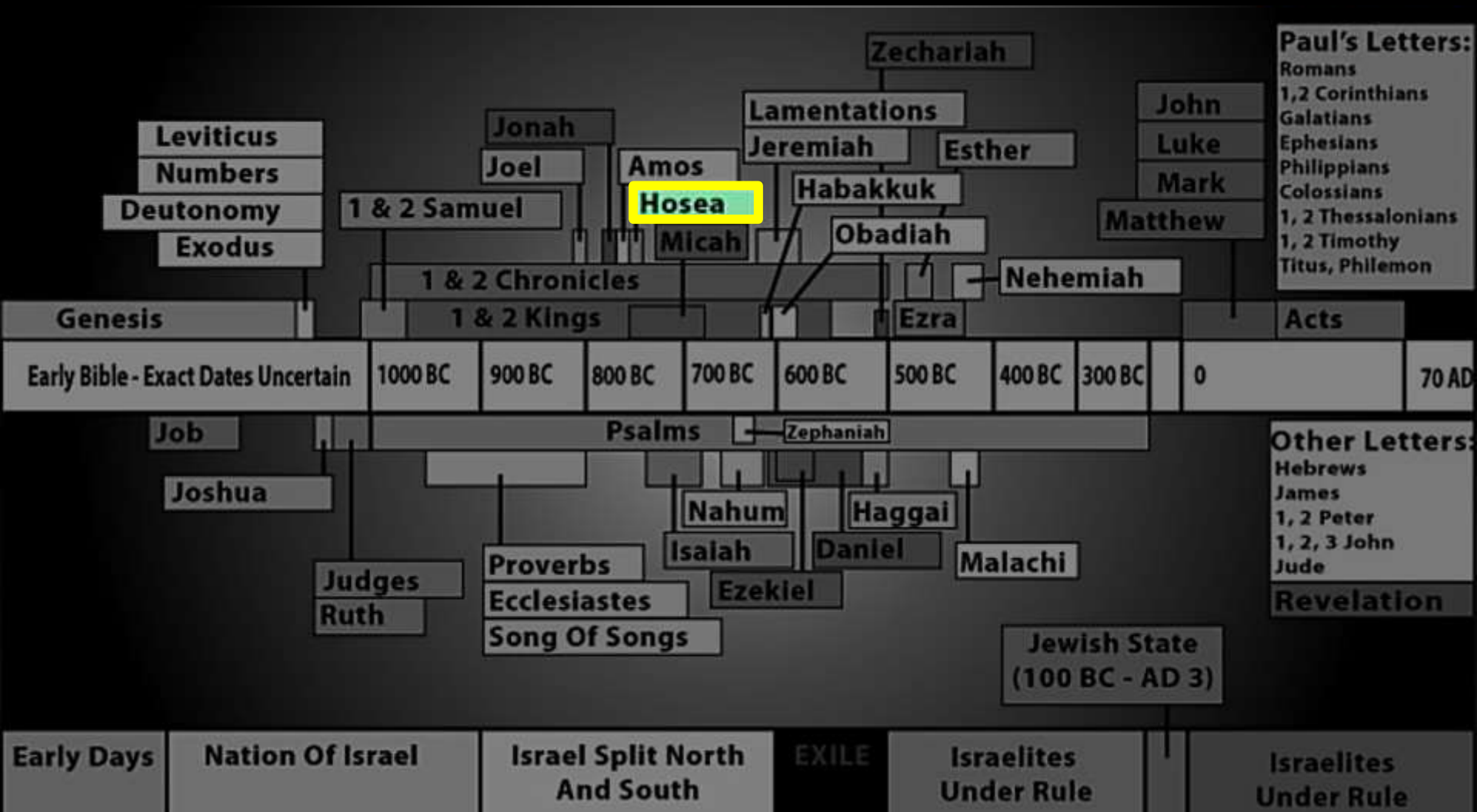
HOSEA

...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

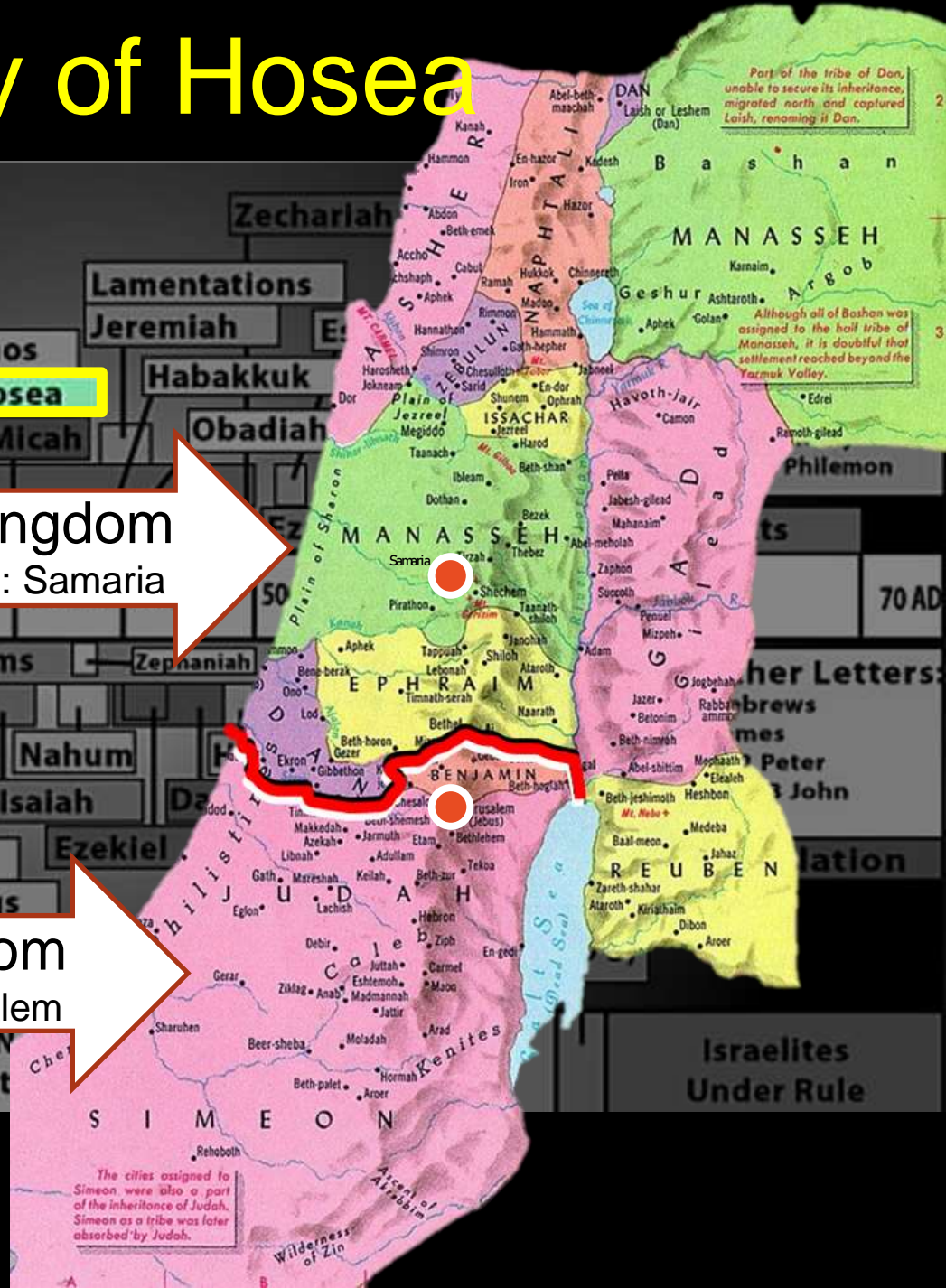
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

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



THE BOOK OF

HOSEA

God's Charge Against Israel

The Sins of the People v1-5

¹ 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

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

² 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

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

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

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

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

¹⁵ Though thou, Israel, play the harlot, yet let not Judah offend; and come not ye unto Gilgal, neither go ye up to Bethaven, nor swear, The Lord liveth.

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’

Chapter 5

THE BOOK OF

HOSEA

Impending Judgment

Evil Abounding v1-7

¹ Hear ye this, O priests; and hearken, ye house of Israel; and give ye ear, O house of the king; for judgment is toward you, because ye have been a snare on Mizpah, and a net spread upon Tabor.

Hosea 5:1

- Hosea now addresses the evil behavior of the priests, the people, and the Royal Family
 - Mizpah was in the SW section of the kingdom; Tabor was in the NE
 - From North to South, East to West...

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

³ **I know** Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled.

Hosea 5:2-3

- God is omniscient. He (alone) knows what we are really like.
 - It is the fear of His knowledge - and our accountability to Him - that drives the ungodly to reject Him.

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

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

Hosea 5:4-5

- Their doings will not suffer them to turn unto their God.
- *“It was impossible that they should turn inwardly, while they did not turn outwardly” – A B*

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

Hosea 5:4-6

- Can there be a more frightening scripture?
- In the depth of despair, calling out and no one hears!

7 They have dealt treacherously against the Lord: for they have begotten strange children: now shall a month devour them with their portions.

Hosea 5:7

- *“The word is used of treachery of friend toward his friend, of the husband to his wife, or the wife husband. “Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel, saith the Lord” Jeremiah 3:20. God, even in His upbraiding, speaks very tenderly to them, as having been in the closest, dearest relation to Himself”. - Barns*

Coming Judgment v8-15

And God's intention to await their repentance

⁸ Blow ye the cornet in Gibeah, and the trumpet in Ramah: cry aloud at Bethaven, after thee, O Benjamin.

Hosea 5:8

- “Coronet”= shofar, ram’s horn, and the “trumpet” were standard warning systems to alert the people to gather behind the city walls and prepare for battle.

Impending Invasion

- The Syro-Ephramite War (735-733 B.C.) would take place in just a few years
- The alliance of Rezin of Syria and Pekah of Israel captured certain Benjamite border towns, such as Gibeah, Ramah, and Bethel – or Bethaven; cf. 4:15, 2 Kgs 16:5; Isa 7:1-9.
- This prompted King Ahaz of Judah to seek the aid of Assyria,
- Assyria then used Ahaz's request to sweep down upon Syria (734 B.C.) and Israel (722 B.C.).

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

Hosea 5:9

10 The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound: therefore I will pour out my wrath upon them like water.

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

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

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

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

Hosea 5:13-14

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

Hosea 5:15

- Though given in the context of the coming Assyrian invasion, the prophetic overtones of this verse are clear!
- When did God 'leave His place'?
- The Incarnation!
- It will be at the hand of 'The Assyrian' **Is 10:24, 14:25** that Israel will in great affliction
- That will cause Israel to seek God 'earnestly'

Chapter 6



THE BOOK OF

HOSEA

A Call to Repentance

Future National Repentance v1-3

- 1 Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.
- 2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

Hosea 6:1-2

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing,
that one day is with the Lord as a thousand
years, and a thousand years as one day

2 Peter 3:8

- Some have tried to use this verse to suggest the days of Creation were 'long periods of time'
- Exodus 20:11 destroys that notion!

4 *For a thousand years in thy sight are but as
yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.*

Psalms 90:4

15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy...

Isaiah 57:15

“All time is as nothing before him, because in the presence as in the nature of God all is eternity; therefore nothing is long, nothing short, before him; no lapse of ages impairs his purposes.”

- Adam Clarke

Hosea's Prophecy

- Israel have been smitten and bound for c.2000yrs
- Israel will 'live in His sight' during the Millennium
 - A period of 1000 years
- Hosea likens this 1000 years to a 'day'
- So....
- If the 3rd day = 1000 yrs...
- The first 'two days' must also each = 1000yrs
- If the last 2000 years are analogous to a day...
- And the Millennium is likewise...
- It fits perfectly with the Creation model.
- 6 days work followed by 1 days rest!

³ Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

Hosea 6:3

The Sinfulness of the Nation v4-11

⁴ O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.

⁵ Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth.

Hosea 6:4-5

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

Hosea 6:6

- *“here He anticipates their excuses with the same answer wherewith He met those of Saul, when he would compensate for disobedience by burnt-offerings. The answer is, that all which they did to win His favor, or turn aside His wrath, was of no avail, while they willfully withheld what He required of them. Their mercy and goodness were but a brief, passing, show; in vain He had tried to awaken them by His prophets; therefore judgment was coming upon them, for, to turn it aside, they had offered Him what He desired not, sacrifices without love, and had not offered Him, what He did desire” - Barns*

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

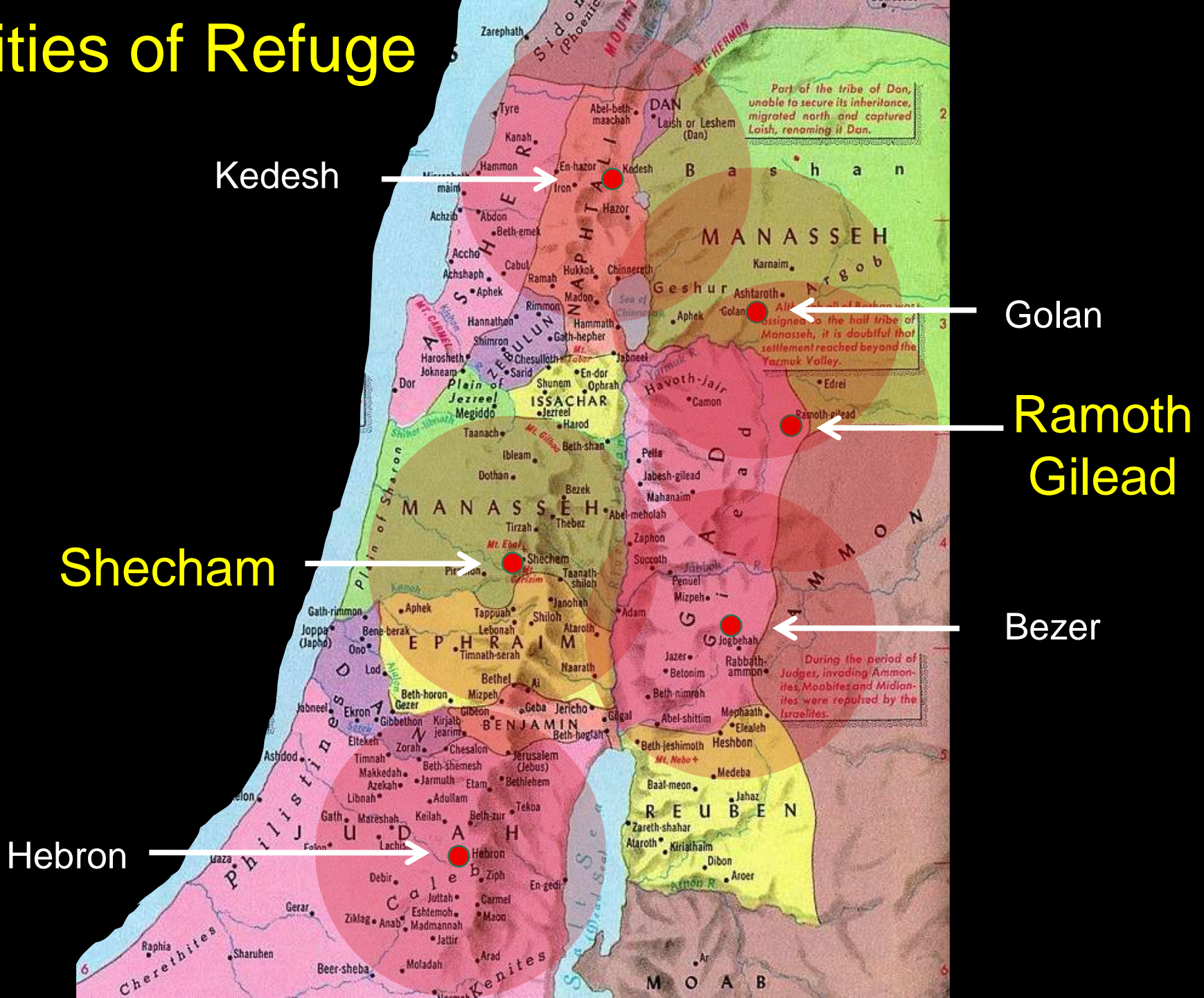
8 **Gilead** is a city of them that work iniquity, and is polluted with blood.

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

Hosea 6:7-9

- Gilead / Shechem – Cities of Refuge

Cities of Refuge



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

¹¹ Also, O Judah, he hath set an harvest for thee, when I returned the captivity of my people.

Hosea 6:10-11

Chapter 7



THE BOOK OF

HOSEA

Israel's Corruption

Israel's Wickedness Unveiled

¹ When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood; and the thief cometh in, and the troop of robbers spoileth without.

Hosea 7:1

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

Hosea 7:2

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

4 They are all adulterers, as an oven heated by the
baker, who ceaseth from raising after he hath
kneaded the dough, until it be leavened.

5 In the day of our king the princes have made him
sick with bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand
with scorers.

Hosea 7:3-5

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

⁷ They are all hot as an oven, and have devoured their judges; all their kings are fallen: there is none among them that calleth unto me.

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

A Cake Not Turned!

- *“It is their unconsciousness of their true condition which this section emphasizes. Like a cake placed upon the coals and forgotten by the house-wife, till, left unturned, it is all burned on one side; so they were quite indifferent to their actual state before God. The mass taking no heed to the prophet’s warnings, went carelessly on in their own way, taking it for granted that all was as it should be, when, in reality, everything was all wrong”. - Ironside*

⁹ Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not.

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

Hosea 7:9-10

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

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

Hosea 7:11-12

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

¹⁴ And they have not cried unto me with their
heart, when they howled upon their beds: they
assemble themselves for corn and wine, and they
rebel against me

Hosea 7:13-14

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

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

Hosea 7:15-16



THE BOOK OF

HOSEA

...to be continued