



THE BOOK OF

HOSEA

...a verse by verse study

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

Joshua

Judges
Ruth

Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

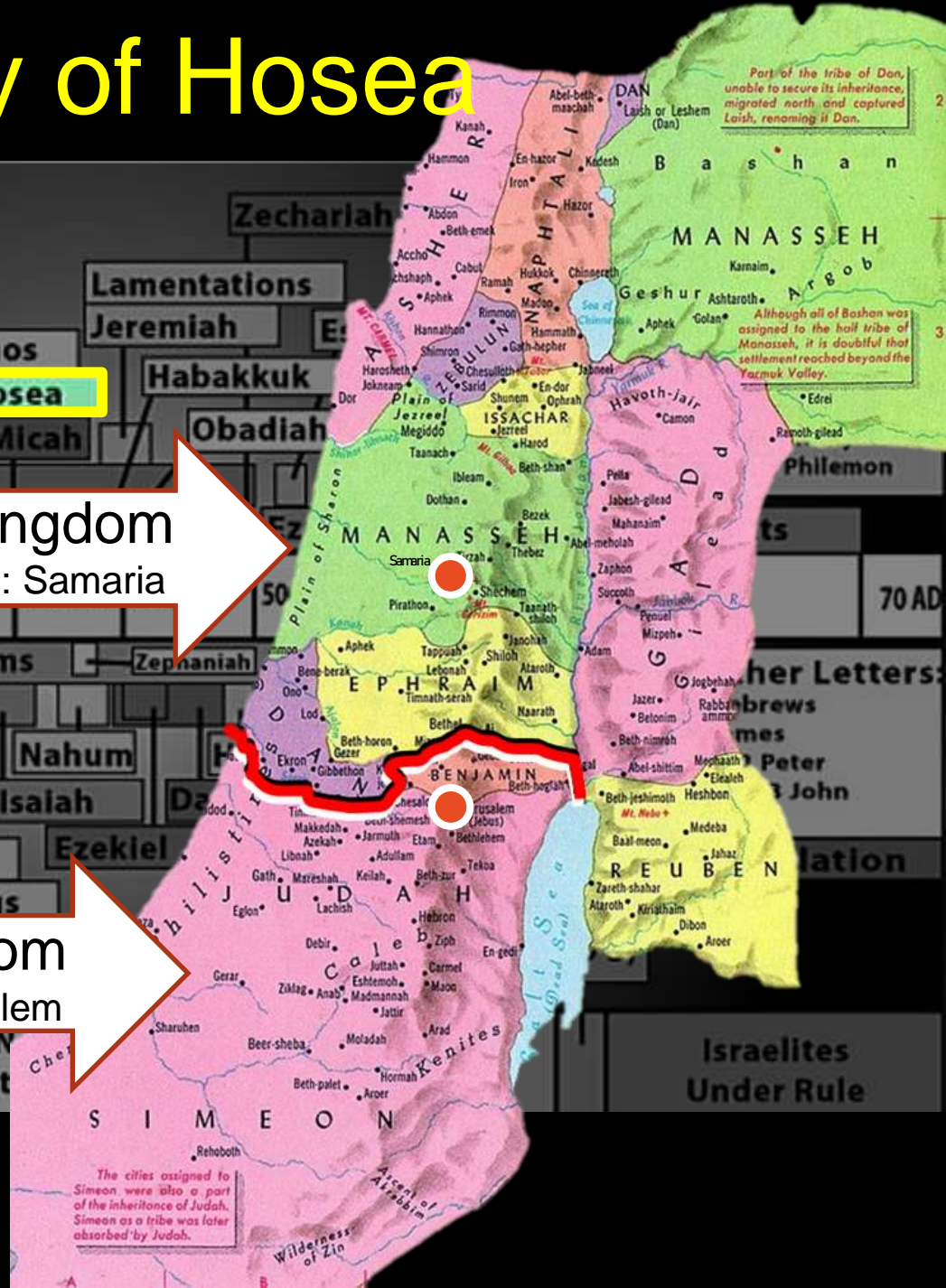
Nahum
Isaiah
Ezekiel

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

Early Days

Nation Of Israel

Israel Split North And South



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

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 5



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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



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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.

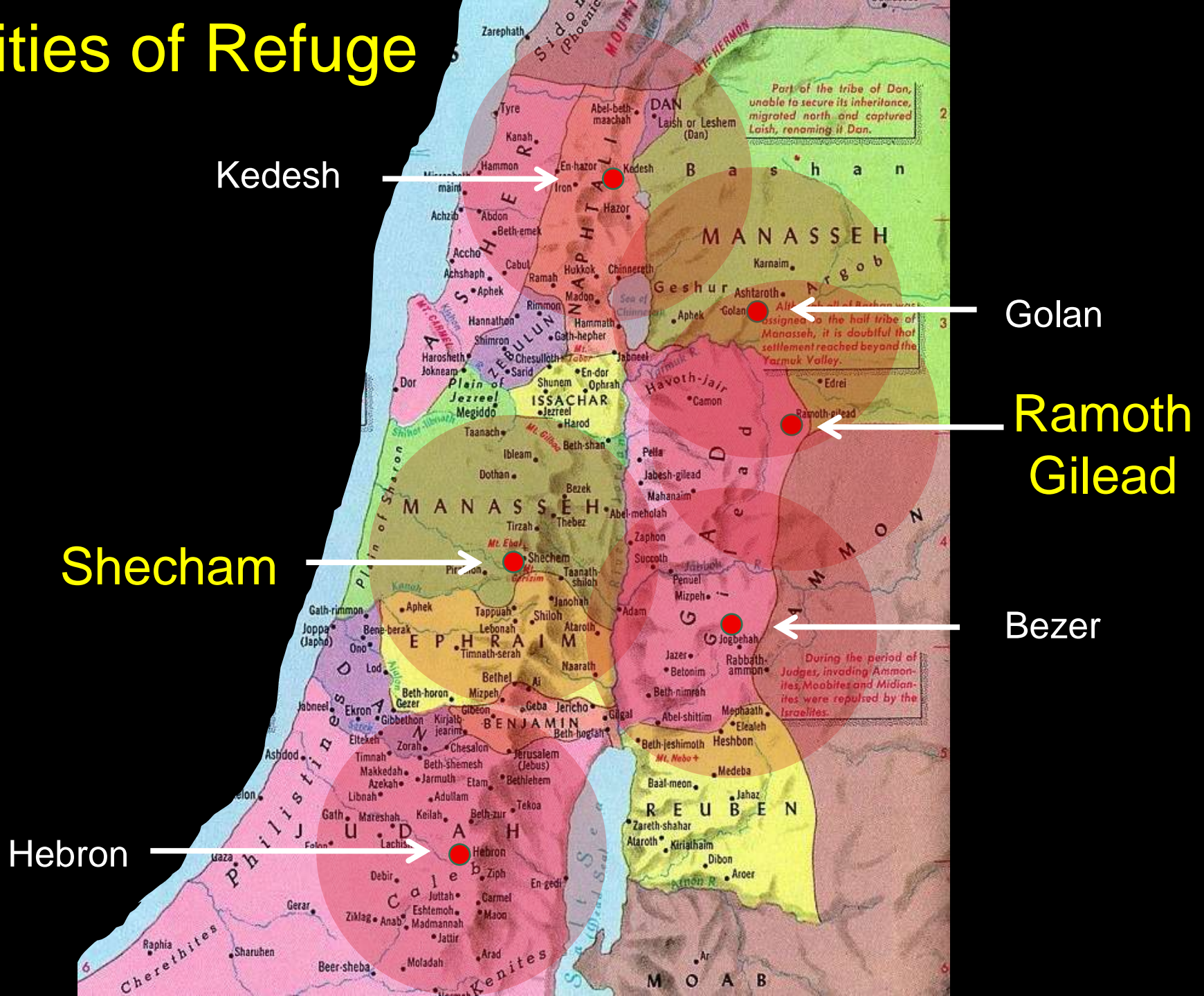
8 **Gilead** is a city of them that work iniquity, and is polluted with blood.

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



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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

Chapter 8



THE BOOK OF

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Idolatry Brings Defeat

Chapter 8

- *“From this statement of the case the prophet turned to the pronouncement of judgment. This he did by adopting the figure of the trumpet lifted to the mouth, on which five blasts were sounded, in each of which some aspect of the sin of the people was set forth as revealing the reason for judgment.*
 - *The first blast declared the coming judgment under the figure of an eagle, the reason being the transgressions and trespass of the people.*
 - *The second blast emphasized Israel's sin of rebellion in that they had set up kings and princes without the authority of Jehovah, and had made idols.*

Chapter 8

- *The third blast dealt with Israel's idolatry. She had set up the calf of Samaria, which Jehovah had cast off and broken in pieces. She had been guilty of sowing the wind, that is, emptiness; and therefore she must reap the whirlwind, that is, the force of emptiness.*
- *The fourth blast announced Israel's alliances. She had gone to Assyria like a wild ass, alone, and her judgment was that her hire among the nations had resulted in diminishing her.*
- *The fifth blast drew attention to the altars of sin which had been raised contrary to light, and by which sacrifice had been violated, and therefore judgment was announced.”. - G Campbell Morgan*

Idolatry – The Downward Spiral

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

Hosea 8:1

- Time is up! - Now is the time to sound the alarm!
- “The prophet beholds the enemy speeding with the swiftness of an eagle, as it darts down upon its prey” - **Barns**

The Set Trumpet To Thy Mouth!

- *“The prophets, as watchmen, were set by God to give notice of His coming judgments Ezekiel 33:3; Amos 3:6. As the sound of a war-trumpet would startle a sleeping people, so would God have the prophet’s warning burst upon their sleep of sin. The ministers of the Church are called to be “watchmen” . “They too are forbidden to keep a cowardly silence, when “the house of the Lord” is imperilled by the breach of the covenant or violation of the law. If fear of the wicked or false respect for the great silences the voice of those whose office it is to “cry aloud,” how shall such cowardice be excused?”. - Barns*

2 Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee.

Hosea 8:2

- Knowing who God is, is not the remedy
- “Even the demons believe, and tremble” – James 2:19
- Can there be anything worse than presumed support in calamity, only to find you were mistaken?
- “Hope deferred makes the heart sick!” – Prov 13:12

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

Hosea 8:3

- Israel had removed their covering, now they were exposed.
- The Psalmist had declared: *“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty”* Psalm 91:1
- Man’s predicament is summed up in this verse
- Adam abandoned the divine covering in favor of fig leaves!

Consequences of Disobedience

²⁵ The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

Deuteronomy 28:25

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

Hosea 8:4

⁵ Thy calf, O Samaria, hath cast thee off; mine anger is kindled against them: how long will it be ere they attain to innocency?

Hosea 8:5

- Jeroboam I, 'who made Israel to sin' set up two calves: one in Dan and one in Bethel
- How can that which is guilty be declared innocent?
- Only if the guilt is removed to another

The Disastrous Result of Unbelief

²⁹ And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field:

³⁰ And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces:

1 Kings 11:29-30

The Disastrous Result of Unbelief

³¹ And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee:

³² (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:)

1 Kings 11:31-32

37 And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and shalt be king over Israel.

38 And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt walk in my ways, and do that is right in my sight, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did; that I will be with thee, and build thee a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel unto thee.

39 And I will for this afflict the seed of David, but not for ever.

The Disastrous Result of Unbelief

26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David:

27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.

1 Kings 12:26-27

The Disastrous Result of Unbelief

28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

29 And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.

1 Kings 12:28-29

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

Hosea 8:6

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

Hosea 8:7

The Law of Reaping & Sowing

- *“They shall reap,” not merely as “they have sown,” but with an awful increase. They sowed folly and vanity, and shall reap, not merely emptiness and disappointment, but sudden, irresistible destruction. “They sowed the wind,” and, as one seed bringeth forth many, so the wind, “penn’d up,” as it were, in this destructive tillage, should “burst forth again, reinforced in strength, in mightier store and with great violence.” Thus they “reaped the whirlwind,” yea, (as the word means) “a mighty whirlwind”. But the whirlwind which they reap doth not belong to “them;” rather they belong to it, blown away by it, like chaff, the sport and mockery of its restless violence”.- Barns*

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

Hosea 8:8

- This verse was spoken in c.730 B.C.
- The literal fulfilment is a matter of historical record that spans 2,700 years

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

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

Hosea 8:9-10

- *“So great shall be the burden of the captivity hereafter, that they shall then sorrow but little for any burdens put upon them now, and which they now feel so heavy. “The king of princes” is the king of Assyria, who said, “Are not my princes altogether kings?” Isaiah 10:8.*

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

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

Hosea 8:11-12

13 They sacrifice flesh for the sacrifices of mine offerings, and eat it; but the Lord accepteth them not; now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins: they shall return to Egypt.

Hosea 8:13

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

Hosea 8:14



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...to be continued