



HOSEA 8

1 "Put the trumpet to your lips! An eagle is over the house of the LORD, because the people have broken my covenant and rebelled against my law. 2. Israel cries out to me, 'Our God, we acknowledge you!' 3 But Israel has rejected what is good; an enemy will pursue him. 4 They set up kings without my consent; they choose princes without my approval.

With their silver and gold they make idols for themselves to their own destruction. 5 Samaria, throw out your calf-idol!

My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of purity?

6 They are from Israel! This calf — a metalworker has made it; it is not God.

It will be broken in pieces, that calf of Samaria.

7 They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind.

The stalk has no head; it will produce no flour.

Were it to yield grain, foreigners would swallow it up.
Israel is swallowed up; now she is among the nations like something no one wants.⁹ For they have gone up to Assyria like a wild donkey wandering alone. Ephraim has sold herself to losers.¹⁰ Although they have sold themselves among the nations, I will now gather them together. They will begin to waste away under the oppression of the mighty king.¹¹ Though Ephraim built many altars for sin offerings, these have become altars for sinning.¹² I wrote for them the many things of my law, but they regarded them as something foreign. Though they offer sacrifices as gifts to me, and though they eat the meat, the LORD is not pleased with them.

Now he will remember their wickedness and punish their sins.¹³ Though they offer sacrifices as gifts to me, they will return to Egypt-

14 Israel has forgotten their maker and built palaces;
Judah has fortified many towns. But I will send
fire on their cities that will consume their fortresses."



ch.9

'Do not rejoice, O Israel! Do not exult as other nations do; for you have played the whore, departing from your God. You have loved a prostitute's pay on all threshing-floors. ² Threshing-floor and wine vat shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail them.

³ They shall not remain in the land of the Lord; but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and in Assyria they shall eat unclean food. ⁴ They shall not pour drink-offerings of wine to the Lord, and their sacrifices shall not please him. Such sacrifices shall be like mourners' bread; all who eat of it shall be defiled; for their bread shall be for their hunger only; it shall not come to the house of the Lord.

⁵ What will you do on the day of appointed festival, and on the day of the festival of the Lord? For even if they escape destruction, Egypt shall gather them, Memphis shall bury them. Nettles shall

possess their precious things of silver; thorns shall be in their tents.⁷ The days of punishment have come, the days of recompense have come; Israel cries, 'The prophet is a fool, the man of the spirit is mad!' Because of your great iniquity,⁸ your hostility is great.⁹ The prophet is a sentinel for my God over Ephraim, yet a Fowler's snare is on all his ways, and hostility in the house of his God.

⁹ They have deeply corrupted themselves as in the days of Gibeah; he will remember their iniquity, he will

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punish their sins. Like grapes in the wilderness I found Israel. Like the first fruit on the fig tree in its season, I saw your ancestors. But they came to Baal-peor, and consecrated themselves to a thing of shame and became detestable like the thing they loved.¹¹ Ephraim's glory shall fly away like a bird - no birth, no pregnancy, no conception.¹² Even if they bring up children, I will bereave them until no one is left.

Woe to them indeed when I depart from

them.¹³ Once I saw Ephraim as a young

Handwritten Bible

palm planted in a lovely meadow, but now Ephraim must lead out his children for slaughter.¹⁴ Give them, O Lord - What will you give? Give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.¹⁵ Every wil of theirs began at Gilead; there I came to hate them. Because of the wickedness of their deeds I will drive them out of my house. I will love them no more; all their officials are rebels.¹⁶ EPHRAIM is stricken, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit. Even though they give birth, I will kill the cherished offspring of their womb; 17. Because they have not listened to him, my God will reject them; They shall become wanderers among the nations.

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Israel's Sin and Captivity

¹ Israel is a luxuriant vine that yields its fruit. The more his fruit increased the more altars he built; as his country improved, he improved his pillars.

² Their heart is false; now they must bear their guilt. The Lord will break down their altars, and destroy their pillars.

³ For now they will say: "We have no king, for we do not fear the Lord, and a king - what could he do for us?"

⁴ They utter mere words; with empty oaths they make covenants; so litigation springs up like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field.

⁵ The inhabitants of Samaria tremble for the calf of Beth-aven. Its people shall mourn for it, and its idolatrous priests shall wail over it, over its glory that has departed from it.

⁶ The thing itself shall be carried to

Assyria as tribute to the great king.
Ephraim shall be put to shame,
and Israel shall be ashamed of his
idol.

⁷ Samaria's king shall perish like a chip on the face
of the waters. ⁸ The high places of Aven,
the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed.
Thorn and thistle shall grow up on
their altars. They shall say to the
mountains, Cover us, and to the hills,
Fall on us.

⁹ Since the days of Gibeath you have sinned,
O Israel; there they have continued. Shall not war
overtake them in Gibeath? ¹⁰ I will come
against the wayward people to
punish them; and nations shall be
gathered against them when they
are punished for their double iniquity.

"Ephraim was a trained heifer that loved to
thresh, and I spared her fair neck; but I will

make Ephraim break the ground; Judah must plow;
Jacob must harrow for himself.¹² Sow for
yourselves righteousness; reap
steadfast love; break up your fallow
ground; for it is time to seek the
Lord, that he may come and rain
righteousness upon you.

¹³ You have plowed wickedness, you have reaped
injustice, you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because
you have trusted in your power and in the
multitude of your warriors,¹⁴ therefore the
tumult of war shall rise against
your people, and all your fortresses
shall be destroyed, as Shalman
destroyed Beth-arbel on the day
of battle when mothers were
dashed in pieces with their children.

¹⁵ Thus it shall be done to you, O Bethel,
because of your great wickedness. At dawn the King
of Israel shall be utterly cut off.

Chapter II

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

The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols.

Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms: but they did not know that I healed them.

I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love.

I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them.

They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their King, because they have refused to return to me.

The sword rages in their cities, it consumes their

oracle-priests, and devours because of their schemes
My people are bent on turning away from me.
To the Most High they call, but he does not raise
them up at all.

- ⁸ How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, O Israel?
How can I ~~hand~~^{not help} you over, O Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart recoils within me;
my compassion grows warm and tender.
- ⁹ I will not execute my fierce anger;
I will not again destroy Ephraim;
for I am God and no mortal,
the Holy One in your midst,
and I will not come in wrath.
- ¹⁰ They shall go after the Lord, who roars
like a lion; when he roars, his children
shall come trembling from the west.

11 They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria; and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.

12 Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit; but Judah still walks with God, and is faithful to the Holy One.



- 1 Ephraim feeds on the wind;
he pursues the east wind all day
and multiplies lies and violence.
He makes a treaty with Assyria
and sends olive oil to Egypt.
- 2 The Lord has a charge to bring against Judah;
He will punish Jacob according to his ways
and repay him according to his deeds.
3. In the womb he grasped his brother's heel;
as a man he struggled with God.
4. He struggled with the angel and overcame him;
he wept and begged for his favour.
He found him at Bethel
and talked with him there--
5. the Lord God Almighty, the Lord is
his name of renown!
6. But you must return to your God;
maintain love and justice, and
wait for your God always.
7. The merchant uses dishonest scales;

he loves to debase.

8. Ephraim boasts,

"I am very rich; I have become wealthy.

With all my wealth they will not find in me
any iniquity or sin."

9. "I am the Lord your God,

who brought you out of Egypt;

I will make you live in tents again,

as in the days of your appointed feasts.

10. I spoke to the prophets,

gave them many vision

and told parables through them."

11. Is Gilead wicked?

Its people are worthless!

Do they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal?

Their altars will be like piles of stones
on a plowed field.

12. Jacob fled to the country of Aram;

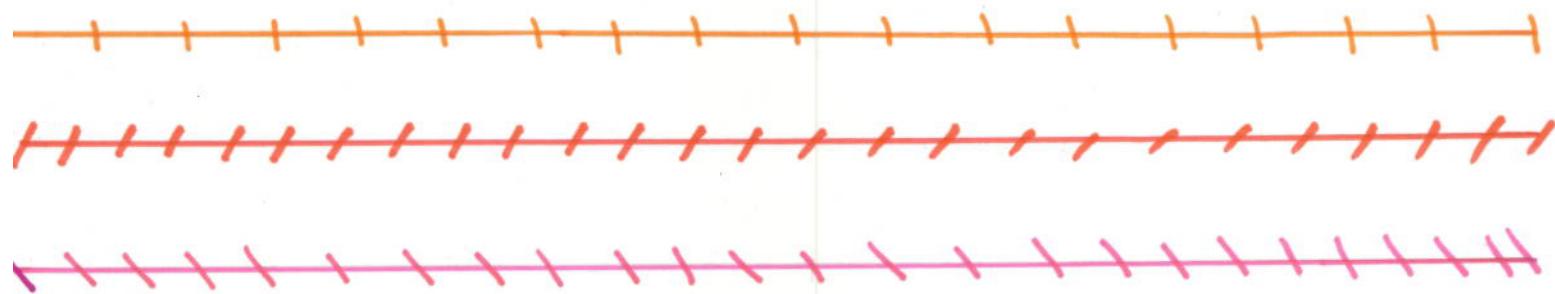
Israel served to get a wife,

and to pay for her he tended sheep.

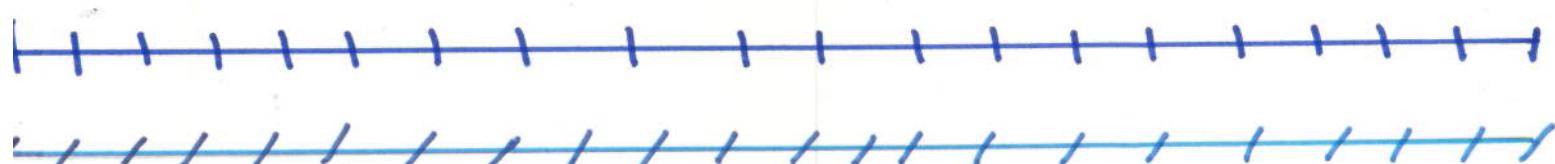
13. He had used a prophet to bring Israel up from Egypt,
by a prophet he cast for him.

14. But Ephraim has bitterly provoked him to anger;
his hand will leave upon him the guilt of his bloodshed
and will repay him for his contempt.

Hosea



chapter



13

The Lord's Anger Against Israel

^{13¹} When Ephraim spoke, men trembled;
he was exalted in Israel.

But he became guilty of Baal worship and died.

^{2.} Now they sin more and more;
they make idols for themselves from their silver,
cleverly fashioned images,
all of them the work of craftsmen.

It is said of these people,

"They offer human sacrifice
and kiss the calf - idols."

³ Therefore they will be like the morning mist,
like the early dew that disappears,
like chaff swishing from a threshing floor,
like smoke escaping through a window.

⁴ But I am the Lord your God,

who brought you out of Egypt.

You shall acknowledge no God but me,
no Savior except me.

13:5 I cared for you in the desert,
in the land of burning heat.

13:6 When I fed them, they were satisfied;
when they were satisfied, they became proud;
then they forgot me

13:7 So I will come up on them like a lion,
like a leopard I will lurk by the path.

13:8 Like a bear robbed of her cubs,
I will attack them and rip them open.
Like a lion I will devour them;
a wild animal will tear them apart.

13:9 "You are destroyed, O Israel
because you are against me & against your helper.

13:10 Where is your king & that he may save you?
Where are your rulers in all your towns &
of whom you said,

"Give me a king and princes?"

13:11 So in my anger I gave you a king &
and in my wrath I took him away.

13:12 The guilt of Ephraim is stored up,
his sins are kept on record.

13 Pains as of a woman in childbirth come to him,
but he is a child without wisdom;
when the time arrives,
he does not come to the opening of the womb.

14 "I will ransom them from the power of the grave;
I will redeem them from death.

Where, O death, are your plagues?

Where, O grave, is your destruction?

"I will have no compassion,

15 even though he thrives among his brothers.
An east wind from the Lord will come,
blowing in from the desert;
his spring will fail
and his well dry up.

His storehouse will be plundered
of all its treasures.

16 The people of Samaria must bear their guilt,

because they have rebelled against their God.

They will fall by the sword;

their little ones will be dashed to the ground,

their pregnant women ripped open."

1 Return, Israel, to the Lord your God. Your sins have been your downfall! ² Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to him: 'Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips. ³ Assyria cannot save us; we will not mount war-horses. We will never again say "Our gods" to what our own hands have made, for in you the fatherless find compassion.'

⁴ I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them.

⁵ I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily. Like a cedar of Lebanon he will send down his roots; ⁶ his young shoots will grow.

His splendour will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon. ⁷ People will dwell again in his shade; they will flourish like the corn, they will blossom like the vine - Israel's fame will be like the wine of Lebanon.

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Ephraim, what more have I to do with idols?
I will answer him and care for him. I am like
a flourishing juniper; your fruitfulness comes
from me.

^a Who is wise? let them realize these things.
Who is discerning? let them understand. The
ways of the LORD are right; the righteous walk
in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.