

The Book of Hosea

Introduction 1:1

This is the story of a **prophet** and a **prostitute**. God told the prophet Hosea to marry a prostitute named Gomer. Why would God tell His **faithful prophet** to marry an **unfaithful prostitute**? God wanted Hosea to know on a personal level how it felt to love a bride who is unfaithful. Chapters **1-10** tells us how God deals with His unfaithful bride (Israel). In chapters **11-14**, God uses the illustration of how a Loving Parent (God) deals with His disobedient child (Israel) in different stages of maturity as a **minor** in chapter **11**, as an **adolescent** chapter **12-13**, and as an **adult** chapter **14**.

Hosea's ministry was from 785 B.C. to 725 B.C. His ministry was mainly to the Northern Kingdom of **Israel** (a.k.a. **Ephriam**) although at times the Southern Kingdom of Judah is also mentioned. **Hosea** was a contemporary with the prophets **Isaiah**, **Joel**, **Amos**, and **Micah**. The time of his ministry can be found in **2 Kings** chapters **14** through **20**.

The book of Hosea was written somewhere between 750 B.C. to 725 B.C. Israel had split into the Northern Kingdom (**Israel**) and the Southern Kingdom (**Judah**). At the time Hosea began to prophesy, Israel was the most powerful nation in the Eastern Mediterranean. During this time of prosperity, the Northern kingdom of Israel began to embrace the idolatry of the pagan nations around them and began to worship their pagan idols. Israel began to believe that these pagan gods were providing their daily needs rather than the true God of Israel.

God used Hosea's prophecies as a final warning to Israel before it fell to the Assyrians in **722 B.C.** Ever since Israel became a nation, God had blessed Israel with His love, grace and mercy, but Israel, like an unappreciative child, disrespected God with their idolatry and worship of false gods. During this time, Israel was wealthy and experienced unprecedented prosperity, but within a short period of time it would cease to exist. As much as God's people dishonored and angered Him, God demonstrated His **love** for His people with **severe chastisement** and **unconditional love**.

Key verses in Hosea: Israel's rebellion **1:2**, Israel's restoration **2:23**.
Israel's failure of repentance **6:6**, and Israel's future repentance **14:2-4**.

Note: if you think God telling Hosea to marry a prostitute was strange, look at how He used other prophets as an illustration of His judgment. In **Isaiah chapter 20** God told Isaiah to walk around **barefoot & naked for 3 years** as an illustration and a sign of judgement against **Ethiopia, Egypt, and Israel**.

In **Ezekiel 4:1-8** Ezekiel was told to build a clay tablet to represent Jerusalem and was also told to **lay on his side, a day for each year** for Israel's rebellion and disobedience (**390 days for Israel & 40 days for Judah= 430 days**) to illustrate the future attack from the Babylonians.

In **Ezekiel 4:9-16** God told Ezekiel to **ration his food & cook it over cow dung** to illustrate how Israel would have to ration and cook their food when they will be taken captive by the Babylonians.

In **Ezekiel 24:15-24** Ezekiel was also **forbidden to cry over the death of his wife** to illustrate how God would have **no mercy** when Babylon took away the Israel's freedom.

In **Jeremiah 16:1-4** and **16:10-13** God did not allow Jeremiah to marry and have children to show how Israel would lose their families. However; in **Jeremiah 16:14-15** as in Hosea, God promised to restore Israel in the future.

Chapter 1

I. The Rebuke of The Lord 1:1-9.

A. The Sin of Departure & Harlotry 1:2.

1. 1:1-2a Physical Adultery by Gomer (Hosea's Bride)

Hosea 1:1-2a The word of the Lord that came to Hosea the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel. ^{2a} When the Lord began to speak by Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea: "Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry and children of harlotry,

- "Harlotry"- refers to various sexual sins such as adultery, fornication, and prostitution, (K.J.V.) "whoredoms" refers to an unfaithful wife and bastard children. The word "harlotry" is seen **11** times in Hosea. It's a key word in the book.

- God not only wants to use Hosea's marriage to Gomer as an illustration of His marriage to Israel, but he also wants to use Hosea's children as an illustration of the children of Israel.
2. **1:2b** Spiritual Adultery by Israel (God's Bride).

Hosea 1:2b for the land has committed great harlotry
By departing from the Lord."

- As Gomer was unfaithful to Hosea with her intimate relationships with other men (adultery), Israel was unfaithful to God with their intimate relationships with other gods (idolatry). Note: God called this "**great harlotry**."

B. The Sons & Daughter of Hosea 1:3-9.

1. **1:3-5** Hosea's 1st son

Hosea 1:3-5 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. ⁴ Then the Lord said to him: "Call his name Jezreel, for in a little *while* I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu, and bring an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. ⁵ It shall come to pass in that day That I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel."

- "**Jezreel**" has a double meaning. The main meaning is "**God sows/plants**." The 2nd meaning is "**scattered**." God will judge The Northern Kingdom of Israel for their idolatry. God will uproot them from the land, then **sow** and **scatter** them under the rule of the Assyrians (**Hosea 9:17**).
 - The Assyrian Strategy when conquering another nation was to **scatter** them by **planting** them into other countries. The strategy was to **weaken Israel** by getting them to **intermarry foreign people**, **lose their identity**, and **lose their political influence**.
2. Jezreel was a city in the plain, or valley, of Esdraelon and a place synonymous with death.

- God used King Jehu of Israel to judge King Ahab, his family, and all Baal worshipers in Jezreel (**2 Kings 10:1-10, 10:18-26**).
- God also judged Jehu's family because of his overzealous bloodshed in Jezreel and because Jehu did not fully turn Israel from idol worship (**2 Kings 10:31**).

3. **1:6-7** Hosea's daughter: "**Lo-Ruhamah**" means "**no mercy**."

Hosea 1:6-7 And she conceived again and bore a daughter. Then God said to him: "Call her name **Lo-Ruhamah**, for I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel, but I will utterly take them away. ⁷ Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, will save them by the Lord their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword or battle, by horses or horsemen."

- God warned Israel with His prophets (**2 Kings 17:13**) and gave the reason for their severe chastisement (**2 Kings 17:15-18**).
- Assyria would overthrow Israel in **722 B.C.** and also would try to overthrow Judah, but God would miraculously save Judah from Assyria and delay their judgment until 586 B.C. because they were more righteousness than Israel. (**2 Kings 19:32-35**).

4. **1:8-9** Hosea's 2nd son: "**Lo-Ammi**" means "**not My people**."

Hosea 1:8-9 Now when she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. ⁹ Then God said: "Call his name **LoAmmi**, for you are not My people, and I will not be your God."

- There is a separation between God and Israel because of Israel's idolatry. God considers His covenant with Israel like a marriage covenant between a husband and a wife (**Isaiah 54:5** and **62:5**, and **Jeremiah 3:14**).
- This is also true of God's New Testament church (**Matthew 9:14-15**, **Ephesians 5:23-27, 31-32**, **Revelation 19:7**).

- Every marriage has difficulties & challenges. God wants to work through the difficulties & challenges to keep his wife. This is true for the bride of God the Father (Israel) in the Old Testament and the bride of Christ (The Church) in the New Testament.

II. The Restoration by The Lord 1:10-11.

A. The Good News for God's People 1:10.

1. **1:10a** People of God.

Hosea 1:10a Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered.

- God spoke of the future restoration of Israel.
- God has to restore Israel because of His promise to Abraham. (Genesis 15:5).

2. **1:10b** Promise of God.

Hosea 1:10b and it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' there it shall be said to them, 'you are sons of the living God.'

- His people reclaimed in **1:10a** (as the sand of the sea).
- His people restored (as the sons of their Savior).

B. The Gathering Notice for God's People 1:11-2:1.

1. **1:11a** God Reunites His people (Jeremiah 3:18).

- Israel & Judah.

Hosea 1:11a Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel Shall be gathered together,

2. **1:11b** God Rewards His people.

Hosea 1:11b and appoint for themselves one head; and they shall come up out of the land, for great *will be* the day of Jezreel!

- Jezreel's reputation will be changed from **bloodshed** to **blessing**.

3. **2:1** God Renames His people.

Hosea 2:1 Say to your brethren, "My people," and to your sisters, "Mercy is shown."

- "Lo-Ammi" (not My people 1:6) to **Ammi** (My People).
- "Lo-Ruhamah" (no mercy 1:9) to **Ruhamah** (mercy).
- God will also give us a new name (**Revelation 2:17 & 3:12**).

III. **The Consequences of Israel's Sin 2:2-3:5.**

A. **2:2-3 The Charges & Consequences.**

1. **2:2** The Sin.

Hosea 2:2 Bring charges against your mother, bring charges; For she *is not* My wife, nor *am* I her Husband! Let her put away her harlotries from her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts;

- Prostitution against God.

2. **2:3** The Slaying.

Hosea 2:3 Lest I strip her naked and expose her, as in the day she was born, and make her like a wilderness, and set her like a dry land, and slay her with thirst.

- Punishment of God.
- Note: For Christians there are sins that lead to death. See: **1 Corinthians 11:29-30, Acts 5:3-5, 1 John 5:16.**

B. 2:4-13 The Children & Chastening.

1. **2:4-13** The Chastisement of The Lord.

- **2:4-5** Children of lewdness (by other men).

Hosea 2:4-5 “I will not have mercy on her children, for they are the children of harlotry. ⁵ For their mother has played the harlot; she who conceived them has behaved shamefully. For she said, ‘I will go after my lovers, who give *me* my bread and my water, my wool and my linen, my oil and my drink.’

- **2:6-8** Chasing of lovers.

Hosea 2:6-8 Therefore, behold, I will hedge up your way with thorns, and wall her in, so that she cannot find her paths. ⁷ She will chase her lovers, but not overtake them; yes, she will seek them, but not find *them*. Then she will say, ‘I will go and return to my first husband, for then *it was* better for me than now.’ ⁸ For she did not know that I gave her grain, new wine, and oil, And multiplied her silver and gold—
Which they prepared for Baal.

- **2:9-13** Chastisement of The Lord.

Hosea 2:9-13 Therefore I will return and take away My grain in its time and My new wine in its season, and will take back My wool and My linen, *given* to cover her nakedness. ¹⁰ Now I will uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and no one shall deliver her from My hand. ¹¹ I will also cause all her mirth to cease, Her feast days, Her New Moons, Her Sabbaths—all her appointed feasts. ¹² “And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, of which she has said, ‘These *are* my wages that my lovers have given me. So, I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them. ¹³ I will punish her for the days of the Baals to which she burned incense. She decked

herself with her earrings and jewelry, and went after her lovers; but Me she forgot,” says the Lord.

2. 2:14-17 The Comfort of The Lord.

- 2:14 The Vineyards of Allurement.

Hosea 2:14 Therefore, behold, I will allure her, will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her.

- 2:15 The Valley of Achor.

Hosea 2:15 I will give her vineyards from there, and the Valley of Achor as a door of hope; She shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, as in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.

- Note: **Valley of Achor** means “valley of trouble” got its name from “**Achan**” (Joshua 7:24-26). Achor’s reputation will be changed from trouble to hope.
- 2:16-17 “**Master**” is the Hebrew word **בַּעַל** (“*Baali*”) and refers to the false God of Baal.

Hosea 2:16-17 And it shall be, in that day, says the Lord, “*That you will call Me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer call Me ‘My Master,’*”¹⁷ For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals and they shall be remembered by their name no more.”

C. 2:18-3:5 The Covenant & Commitment.

Note: God tells Hosea to take back his wife in spite of her unfaithfulness.

Adultery is grounds for divorce but doesn’t have to end in divorce. There are some marriages that survive adultery. Hosea shows us how God demonstrates His love in the worst possible circumstance. He shows us how to love a bride who has been unfaithful (See Jeremiah 3:1).

God’s love for Israel is more powerful than Israel’s sin against God.

God's passion for Israel **burns more** than **His wrath** against Israel.

God loves His people **unconditionally** (Jeremiah 31:3).

God loves His people even when **His people have lost their love for Him**.

Why? Because this is God's choice.

(Compare Jeremiah 3:1 and Deuteronomy 24:1-4 to Jeremiah 3:8-14).

Application:

How do we commit adultery against God? (1 John 2:15-17).

Can our lost love for God be found? (Revelation 2:4-5).

Come Thou Fount: "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love. Take my heart Lord, take and seal it. Seal it for thy courts above."

Back to Hosea 2:18-3:5

1. God's Covenant & Commitment of Safety.

- **2:18a** Wildlife will be no more.

Hosea 2:18a In that day I will make a **covenant** for them with the beasts of the field, with the birds of the air, and *with the creeping things of the ground*. See (Isaiah 65:25)

- **2:18b** War will be no more.

Hosea 2:18b Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, To make them lie down safely. See (Isaiah 2:4)

2. God's Covenant & Commitment to His Spouse.

- **2:19** God's betrothal to Israel in The Millennial Kingdom

Hosea 2:19 "I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and **mercy**; See (Isaiah 54:5).

- **2:20-23** God's blessing for Israel in The Millennial Kingdom

Hosea 2:20-23 I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord. ²¹ “It shall come to pass in that day that I will answer,” says the Lord; “I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth.” ²² The earth shall answer with grain, with new wine, and with oil; they shall answer Jezreel. ²³ Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, and I will have mercy on *her who had not obtained mercy*; then I will say to *those who were not My people*, ‘You are My people!’ and they shall say, ‘You are my God!’

(God’s Earth and People **Romans 8:19-21** and **1 Peter 2:9-10**).

- **3:1** The problem (God’s people given over to paganism).

Hosea 3:1 Then the Lord said to me, “Go again, love a woman *who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery*, just like the love of the Lord for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love *the raisin cakes of the pagans.*”

- **3:2-3** The purchase (God’s people bought from the slave market of paganism).

Hosea 3:2-3 So I bought her for myself for fifteen *shekels* of silver, and one and one-half homers of barley. ³ And I said to her, “You shall stay with me many days; you shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man—so, too, *will I be toward you.*”

- The same is true with us (**1 Corinthians 7:22-23**).
- **3:4** The punishment (No guidance from God).

Hosea 3:4 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim.

- **3:5** The promise (The Millennial Kingdom of God).

Hosea 3:5 Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days.

Chapter 4

IV. God's Charge Against Israel 4:1-19

A. 4:1-2 The Charge of The Lord.

1. 4:1 The Sins of Omission.

Hosea 4:1 Hear the word of the Lord, you children of Israel, for the Lord brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: “There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land.”

- Truth- divine instruction from God. Reality from God's viewpoint.
- Mercy- compassionate treatment of those in distress.
- Knowledge of God- a proper understanding of who God is.

2. 4:2 The Sins of Commission.

Hosea 4:2 By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed upon bloodshed.

- Swearing- to *take oath* before God (Israel broke their oaths)
- Lying- to deliberately deceive.
- Killing- Hebrew רָצַח (rasah): the unlawful taking of a life (**murder**)
- Stealing- to take the property of another wrongfully as a habitual or regular practice.
- Adultery- sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than that person's current spouse.

B. 4:3-6 The Condition of The Land.

1. 4:3 Fully Impoverished.

Hosea 4:3 Therefore, the land will mourn; and everyone who dwells there will waste away with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air; even the fish of the sea will be taken away.

- Economic calamity.
- This would also happen to Judah 136 years later (**Haggai 1:6**).

2. **4:4-6** Fully Ignorant.

Hosea 4:4-6 Now let no man contend, or rebuke another; for your people are like those who contend with the priest.

⁵ Therefore you shall stumble in the day; the prophet also shall stumble with you in the night; and I will destroy your mother.

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

- **4:6** “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” this is not referring to secular education or the accumulation of information (**Romans 1:21-22**), but its referring to the knowledge of God.
 - **Proverbs 1:7** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.
3. **Numbers 14:18** speaks of children being affected by God’s Generational curse.
- **The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.’**

C. **4:7-10** The Change in The Land.

1. **4:7-8** Full of Iniquity.

Hosea 4:7-8 The more they increased, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame. ⁸ They eat up the sin of My people; they set their heart on their iniquity.

- Prosperity led to their idolatry and judgment.

2. **4:9-10** Fully Insubordinate.

Hosea 4:9-10 And it shall be: like people, like priest. So, I will punish them for their ways, and reward them for their deeds.¹⁰ For they shall eat, but not have enough; they shall commit harlotry, but not increase; because they have ceased obeying the Lord.

- Their insubordination led to their lascivious lifestyle

D. 4:11-19 The Cause of their Lasciviousness.

1. **4:11-13** Fully Idolatrous.

Hosea 4:11-13 Harlotry, wine, and new wine enslave the heart.¹² My people ask counsel from their wooden *idols*, and their staff informs them. For the spirit harlotry has caused *them* to stray, and they have played the harlot against their God.¹³ They offer sacrifices on the mountaintops, and burn incense on the hills, under oaks, poplars, and terebinths, because their shade *is* good. Therefore, your daughters commit harlotry, and your brides commit adultery.

- **4:11** Wine turned their hearts from God.
- **4:12** Wood turned them to idol worship (staff was a diviner's rod).
- **4:13** Waywardness turned them to the mountains (pagans worshiped in the high places). This became a pattern for Israel (**2 Kings 21:1-3**).

2. **4:14-19** Fully Immoral.

- **4:14** Men were responsible for sin in the land (**Leviticus 18:27**).

Hosea 4:14 I will not punish your daughters when they commit harlotry, nor your brides when they commit adultery; for the men themselves go apart with harlots, and offer sacrifices with a ritual harlot. Therefore, people who do not understand will be trampled.

- **4:15** Judah, Gilgal, and Beth Aven were warned not to be influenced by Israel's sin. Israel was told to stay away from them.

Hosea 4:15 Though you, Israel, play the harlot, let not Judah offend. Do not come up to Gilgal, nor go up to Beth Aven, Nor swear an oath, saying, 'As the Lord lives'

- **4:16** Because of Israel's stubbornness, God will leave them like lambs in an open field without a shepherd, vulnerable to attack.

Hosea 4:16 For Israel is stubborn like a stubborn calf; now the Lord will let them forage like a lamb in open country.

- **4:17** "let him alone" (Luke 9:5) a testimony against ignorance.

Hosea 4:17 Ephraim is joined to idols, let him alone.

New Testament Equivalent:

1 Corinthians 14:38 But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant.

(Both refer to people who you cannot reason with)

3. **4:18-19** Fully Ignorant

Hosea 4:18-19 Their drink is rebellion; they commit harlotry continually. Her rulers dearly love dishonor. ¹⁹ The wind has wrapped her up in its wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.

Chapter 5

E. Israel's Revolt & God's Rebuke 5:1-9

1. **5:1a** The People.

Hosea 5:1a Hear this, O priests! Take heed, O house of Israel!

- The Priests- Their job was to teach the law, instead they led the people astray (**Isaiah 28:7-9**).

- The Nation- Their job was to live according to God's law, instead they forsook it (**Isaiah 43:10**).
- King Zechariah- His job was to enforce God's law, instead he forsook it (Assassinated **2 Kings 15:8-10**)

2. **5:1b-2** The Places.

Hosea 5:1b-2 Give ear, O house of the king! for yours is the judgment, because you have been a snare to Mizpah and a net spread on Tabor. ² The revolvers are deeply involved in slaughter, though I rebuke them all.

- Mizpah & Tabor- these two places that intercepted and murdered those who would go up to worship at Jerusalem (**Hosea 4:2**). The priests were also guilty of murder (**Hosea 6:9**).

3. **5:3-4** Their Practice.

Hosea 5:3-4 I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from Me; for now, O Ephraim, you commit harlotry; Israel is defiled. ⁴ "They do not direct their deeds toward turning to their God, for the spirit of harlotry is in their midst, and they do not know the Lord.

- God knew His people were spiritual harlots (worship false gods). "The spirit of harlotry" refers to demonic influence.
- The same demonic spirit exists today (**1 Timothy 4:1-2**).

4. **5:5** Their Pride.

Hosea 5:5 The pride of Israel testifies to his face; therefore, Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also stumbles with them.

- God's people did not know Him because of their pride.

5. **5:6-9** Their Punishment.

- **5:6** God's patience has limitations (**Isaiah 55:10**).

Hosea 5:6 With their flocks and herds, they shall go to seek the Lord, but they will not find *Him*; He has withdrawn Himself from them.

- **5:7** Pagan children refer to children who don't know God.

Hosea 5:7 They have dealt treacherously with the Lord, For they have begotten pagan children. Now a New Moon shall devour them and their heritage.

- **5:8-9** Their problem

Hosea 5:8-9 Blow the ram's horn in Gibeah, the trumpet in Ramah! Cry aloud at Beth Aven, 'Look behind you, O Benjamin!' ⁹ Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke; among the tribes of Israel, I make known what is sure.

F. Judah's & Israel's Revolt & God's Rebuke 5:10-15.

1. **5:10** Their princes.

Hosea 5:10 The princes of Judah are like those who remove a landmark; I will pour out My wrath on them like water.

- “**Remove a landmark**”-The princes (Government leaders) unlawfully took land from landowners by removing a landmark. It was the government taking property without compensating the owner. This sin was prohibited by Jewish law.
- **Deuteronomy 27:17** says, “**Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark.**”

2. **5:11-12** Their precepts.

Hosea 5:11-12 Ephraim is oppressed *and* broken in judgment, Because he willingly walked by *human* precept.

**12 Therefore, I will be to Ephraim like a moth,
And to the house of Judah like rottenness.**

- The princes abandoned the precepts of God's law, changed the law to their advantage.
- Oppressed- עָשָׂק (asaq) to violate, defraud, do violence, get deceitfully by extortion.
- God would judge them like a moth slowly eats away a garment and weatherization causes wood to rot.

3. **5:13** Their politics.

Hosea 5:13 When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then Ephraim went to Assyria and sent to King Jareb; yet he cannot cure you, nor heal you of your wound.

- Israel did not realize that God made their military sicker & weaker than their enemies because God wanted Israel to seek Him for help. Instead of seeking God for help, they sought protection by making a political alliance with Assyria.
- It's a major problem when the people of God seek political protection from political alliances rather than seeking protection from God.
- In **722 B.C.** Assyria invaded Israel (**2 Kings 18:9-12**).

4. **5:14-15** Their problem.

Hosea 5:14-15 "For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, and like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, even I, will tear *them* and go away; I will take *them* away, and no one shall rescue. ¹⁵ I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me."

- **5:14** God will use Assyria like a young lion to "tear" and "take away" Israel from their land. He will allow no other nation to rescue them from their fate.

- **5:15** “I will return to my place” meaning that God will remove Himself (His blessing) from Israel until they repent and return to Him. Sometimes only suffering and affliction will lead God’s people to repentance.

Chapter 6

G. A Call To Repentance 6:1-3.

1. 6:1 Return to The Lord.

Hosea 6:1 Come, and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.

- God is like a surgeon. Skin has to be “**torn**” with a scalpel before it can “**heal**.” Israel will have to be “**stricken**” with God’s chastisement before God can “**bind**” her wounds. That’s why Jesus is our Great Physician! (Matthew 9:10-13).

2. 6:2-3 Revival from The Lord.

Hosea 6:2-3 After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight. ³ Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter *and* former rain to the earth.

- God can only **revive** His people after they **repent**.
- Revival will help us to “**pursue the knowledge of the Lord.**”

H. A Fall From Repentance 6:4-11.

1. 6:4 The Importance of Leadership.

Hosea 6:4 O Ephraim, what shall I do to you? O Judah, what shall I do to you?

For your faithfulness is like a morning cloud, and like the early dew it goes away.

- Israel (Ephriam) had **20 unrighteous kings**, Judah also had **20 kings**, of which **7 were righteous**. Under these 7 kings, Judah had **brief moments of repentance**.
- **Asa** 908-867 B.C., **Jehoshaphat** 867-846 B.C., **Amaziah** 798-769 B.C., **Uzziah (Azariah)** 769-733 B.C., **Jotham** 758-743 B.C., **Hezekiah** 727 B.C.-698 B.C., **Josiah** 630 B.C.-609 B.C.
- Unfortunately, the unrighteous kings that followed these righteous kings took Judah back to unrighteousness. Hence, Judah's faithfulness was short lived "**like a morning cloud, and like the early dew it goes away.**"

2. **6:5-6** The Impudence in the Land.

Hosea 6:5-6 Therefore I have hewn *them* by the prophets,
I have slain them by the words of My mouth;
And your judgments *are like light that goes forth*.

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

- God sent His word by the prophets to hew the people to bring repentance back to the land. "**Hewn**"- **to break in pieces** with heavy cutting blows.
- **Jeremiah 23:29** "***Is not My word like a fire?***" says the Lord, "***and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?***"
- Since Israel was impudent and did not listen to God's word through the prophets, God will slay them with His words (announcing His judgment).
- **6:6** God desires **devotion** more than **duty**. He desires **mercy and knowledge** more than **sacrifice and burnt offerings**.

3. **6:7-10** The Immorality in the Land.

Hosea 6:7-11 "***But like men they transgressed the covenant; There they dealt treacherously with Me.***

⁸ **Gilead is a city of evildoers and defiled with blood.**
⁹ **As bands of robbers lie in wait for a man, so the company of priests murder on the way to Shechem; surely, they commit lewdness.** ¹⁰ **I have seen a horrible thing in the house of Israel: There is the harlotry of Ephraim; Israel is defiled.**
¹¹ **Also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed for you, When I return the captives of My people.**

- **6:7-10** Their immorality was manifested by their transgression, treachery, evil, bloodshed, murdering priests, lewdness, harlotry, and defilement.
- **6:11** In the midst of Israel's present judgment, God appoints a harvest of future blessing for Judah when they will return to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity and rebuild the temple by the order of King Cyrus of Persia in 516 B.C. (**Ezra 1:2-3**).

Chapter 7

I. The Sin of the Laypeople 7:1-4.

1. **7:1** The absence of morality.

Hosea 7:1 When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was uncovered, and the wickedness of Samaria. For they have committed fraud; a thief comes in; a band of robbers takes spoil outside.

- **7:1a** God's willingness to forgive.
- **7:1b** Israel's unwillingness to repent.

2. **7:2-4** The approval of immorality.

Hosea 7:2-4 They do not consider in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness; now their own deeds have surrounded them; they are before My face. ³ They make a king glad with their wickedness, and princes with their lies.

⁴“**They are all adulterers. Like an oven heated by a baker—
He ceases stirring *the fire* after kneading the dough,
Until it is leavened.**

- **7:2** Disregarding The Lord.
- **7:3-4** Delighting their leaders.

J. The Sin of The Leaders 7:5-7.

1. 7:5 Their princes.

Hosea 7:5 In the day of our king, Princes have made *him* sick, inflamed with wine; He stretched out his hand with scoffers.

- The day of the king was a festival of celebration honoring the king. They honored him with reveling and drunkenness. The king stretched his hand to represent his friendship with the scoffers who mock anything that is good and holy.

2. 7:6-7 Their preparation.

Hosea 7:6-7 They prepare their heart like an oven, while they lie in wait; their baker sleeps all night; in the morning it burns like a flaming fire. ⁷ They are all hot, like an oven, and have devoured their judges; all their kings have fallen.
None among them calls upon Me.

- **7:6** Their hearts burn with wickedness.
- **7:7** Their heat (passion) devour each other (Judges & Kings).

3. 7:8-16 Their problem.

- **7:8-10** mixing with the worldly Canaanites taking on their ways See (**2 Kings 17:16-18**).

Hosea 7:8-10 Ephraim has mixed himself among the peoples; Ephraim is a cake unturned. ⁹ Aliens have devoured his strength, but he does not know *it*; yes, gray hairs are here and there on him, yet he does not know *it*. ¹⁰ And the pride of Israel testifies to his face, but they do not return to the Lord their God, nor seek Him for all this.

4. **7:11-16** They trusted sinful nations that would betray their trust.

- **7:11** Their Desire.

Hosea 7:11 Ephraim also is like a silly dove, without sense. They call to Egypt; they go to Assyria.

- **7:12-13** Their Destruction.

Hosea 7:12-13 Wherever they go, I will spread My net on them; I will bring them down like birds of the air; I will chastise them according to what their congregation has heard. ¹³ “Woe to them, for they have fled from Me! Destruction to them, because they have transgressed against Me! Though I redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against Me.

- **7:14-15** Their Devising.

¹⁴ They did not cry out to Me with their heart when they wailed upon their beds. “They assemble together for grain and new wine, they rebel against Me; ¹⁵ Though I disciplined *and* strengthened their arms, yet they devise evil against Me;

- **7:16** Their Derision (the object of ridicule).

¹⁶ They return, *but* not to the Most High; they are like a treacherous bow. Their princes shall fall by the sword for

the cursing's of their tongue. This *shall be* their derision in the land of Egypt.

V. The Sin of Apostasy 8:1-14.

A. The Crime 8:1-6.

1. **8:1** The crime of rebellion against God.

Hosea 8:1 Set the trumpet to your mouth!
*He shall come like an eagle against the house of the Lord,
 Because they have transgressed My covenant
 And rebelled against My law.*

- Transgressed- to go beyond a boundary by violating God's law.
- "Rebelled"- speaks of their apostasy, a deliberate departure from God's law that requires chastisement (**Luke 12:47**).

2. **8:2-3** The cry that's rejected by God. (**Isaiah 29:13**).

- **8:2** They claim to know God, but they reject God (**Isaiah 29:13**).

Hosea 8:2-3 Israel will cry to Me, 'My God, we know You!'

- **8:3** Their enemy (Assyria) chase them out of Israel.

Hosea 8:3 Israel has rejected the good; the enemy will pursue him.

3. **8:4-6** The cause of rejection by God.

Hosea 8:4 They set up kings, but not by Me; they made princes, but I did not acknowledge *them*. From their silver and gold, they made idols for themselves that they might be cut off.

⁵ Your calf is rejected, O Samaria! My anger is aroused against them—How long until they attain to innocence?

⁶ For from Israel *is* even this: A workman made it, and it *is* not God; but the calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces.

- **8:4** Corrupt leaders “Cut off” meaning many kings assassinated.
- **8:5-6** Idol worship that started with Jeroboam (**1 Kings 12:26-29**) and refusing to acknowledge their sin against God.

B. 8:7-13 The Consequences.

1. 8:7a Rejected by their Actions.

Hosea 8:7a They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind.

- Reaping more (whirlwind) than what was sown (wind).
- Jesus taught about the positive side of reaping more than what is sown (**John 12:23-24**).

2. 8:7b-10 Rejected by Assyria.

Hosea 8:7b-10 The stalk has no bud; it shall never produce meal. If it should produce, Aliens would swallow it up.

⁸ Israel is swallowed up; now they are among the Gentiles Like a vessel in which is no pleasure. ⁹ For they have gone up to Assyria, Like a wild donkey alone by itself; Ephraim has hired lovers. ¹⁰ Yes, though they have hired among the nations, Now I will gather them;

- **8:7b-8** Swallowed by the enemy.
- **8:9-10a** Seduced by their enemy.

3. 8:10b Robbed by Assyria.

Hosea 8:10b and they shall sorrow a little, Because of the burden of the king of princes.

- The “burden of the king” refers to the tribute (taxes) imposed by the king of Assyria that Israel could not afford to pay.

4. 8:11-14 Retribution by God.

- **8:11-13** Rejection of Gods law.

**“Because Ephraim has made many altars for sin,
They have become for him altars for sinning. ¹² I have written for him the
great things of My law, *but they were considered a strange thing.*
¹³ *For the sacrifices of My offerings they sacrifice flesh and eat it,
but the Lord does not accept them. Now He will remember their iniquity
and punish their sins. They shall return to Egypt.***

- **8:14** Rejection of God’s love.

**¹⁴ “For Israel has forgotten his Maker, and has built temples; Judah also
has multiplied fortified cities; but I will send fire upon his cities, and it
shall devour his palaces.”**

VI. The Suffering From Apostasy.

A. Destruction of The People 9:1-6

1. **9:1-2** Perverse Love (idol worship).

Hosea 9:1-2 Do not rejoice, O Israel, with joy like
*other peoples, for you have played the harlot against your God.
You have made love for hire on every threshing floor.*
**² The threshing floor and the winepress shall not feed them,
and the new wine shall fail in her.**

- **9:1** They gave thanks and sacrificed to the idol for their harvest on the threshing floor rather than sacrificing and giving thanks to God. They did the same with the grapes and the winepress.
- **9:2** As a result, their joy was temporary because the fruits of their labor would fail. The time of prosperity was about to end.

2. **9:3a** Pulled from their land.

Hosea 9:3a They shall not dwell in the Lord’s land,
But Ephraim shall return to Egypt,

- God warned them of this by Moses (**Deuteronomy 30:17-18**).
- Egypt attacked Israel before Assyria conquered Egypt & Israel.

3. **9:3b-6** Profaned by their Lifestyle.

Hosea 9:3b-6 And shall eat unclean *things* in Assyria.

⁴They shall not offer wine *offerings* to the Lord, nor shall their sacrifices be pleasing to Him. It shall be like bread of mourners to them; all who eat it shall be defiled. For their bread shall be for their own life; it shall not come into the house of the Lord. ⁵What will you do in the appointed day, And in the day of the feast of the Lord? ⁶For indeed they are gone because of destruction. Egypt shall gather them up; Memphis shall bury them. Nettles shall possess their valuables of silver; thorns *shall be* in their tents.

- **9:4** Appetites defiled- eating things that were unclean.
- **9:5** Appointed day- the feast of the Lord taken away.
- **9:6** Assured destruction- by their enemies.

B. Days of Punishment 9:7-10:15.

1. **9:7-9** Foolish prophets.

Hosea 7:7-9 The days of punishment have come; the days of recompense have come. Israel knows! The prophet *is* a fool, The spiritual man *is* insane, because of the greatness of your iniquity and great enmity. ⁸The watchman of Ephraim *is* with my God; but the prophet *is* a fowler's snare in all his ways— Enmity in the house of his God. ⁹They are deeply corrupted, As in the days of Gibeah. He will remember their iniquity; He will punish their sins.

- **9:7** “Fool”- אָוִיל (evil) one who despises Godly wisdom.
- **9:7** Foretold by the prophet Amos (**Amos 6:3-7**).

- **9:8** “Fowler’s snare”- one who catches birds in a trap. The prophets are like birds who get caught in a trap (Apostasy).
- **9:9** “Corrupted”- to pervert, to bring to ruin (morally).

2. **9:10-14** Foolish people.

Hosea 9:10-14 I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness;
 I saw your fathers as the first fruits on the fig tree in its first season.
But they went to Baal Peor, and separated themselves to that shame;
 They became an abomination like the thing they loved. ¹¹ *As for Ephraim,*
their glory shall fly away like a bird—No birth, no pregnancy, and no
conception! ¹² Though they bring up their children, yet I will bereave them
to the last man. Yes, woe to them when I depart from them!
¹³ *Just as I saw Ephraim like Tyre, planted in a pleasant place,*
So Ephraim will bring out his children to the murderer.” ¹⁴ Give them,
O Lord—What will You give? Give them a miscarrying womb
And dry breasts!

- **9:10** Their Fathers in the wilderness had the blessings of God.
- **9:10** They also suffered the same fate (**Numbers 25:2-3**).
- **9:11-14** This refers to Israel and their worship of the false god’s of fertility, Baal & Asherah (**2 Kings 17:14-16**). These false gods would not help them to produce crops or children.
- **9:15-17** Disobedience led to their destruction.

Hosea 9:15-17 “All their wickedness *is* in Gilgal, for there I hated them. Because of the evil of their deeds, I will drive them from My house; I will love them no more. All their princes *are* rebellious. ¹⁶ Ephraim is stricken; their root is dried up; they shall bear no fruit. Yes, were they to bear children, I would kill the darlings of their womb.” ¹⁷ My God will cast them away, because they did not obey Him; and they shall be wanderers among the nations.

- Does God hate? See **Proverbs 6:16-19**, **Psalm 5:5**, **11:5**.

- God hates without sinful intent. He can hate the sinner in a perfectly holy way and still love the sinner. See **Romans 5:8**.

C. **Dangers of Prosperity 10:1-15.**

1. **10:1** Deceitful and sinful practices.

Hosea 10:1 Israel empties *his* vine; He brings forth fruit for himself. According to the multitude of his fruit he has increased the altars; according to the bounty of his land They have embellished *his sacred* pillars.

- The more prosperous they were, the more sinful they were.

2. **10:2** Destruction of sacred pillars.

Hosea 10:2 Their heart is divided; now they are held guilty. He will break down their altars; He will ruin their *sacred* pillars.

- God would allow the Assyrians to destroy their pillars and alters.

3. **10:3-15** Despair of sinful people.

- **10:3** Leader was taken.

Hosea 10:3 For now, they say, “We have no king, because we did not fear the Lord, and as for a king, what would he do for us?”

- **10:4** Lies were told.

Hosea 10:4 They have spoken words, swearing falsely in making a covenant. Thus, judgment springs up like hemlock in the furrows of the field.

- **10:5-9** Land in terror.

Hosea 10:5-9 The inhabitants of Samaria fear because of the calf of Beth Aven. For its people mourn for it, and its priests shriek for it—Because its glory has departed from it.

⁶ *The idol* also shall be carried to Assyria as a present for King Jareb. Ephraim shall receive shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his own counsel. ⁷ *As for Samaria*, her king is cut off like a twig on the water. ⁸ Also the high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed.

The thorn and thistle shall grow on their altars; They shall say to the mountains, “Cover us!” And to the hills, “Fall on us!” ⁹ “O Israel, you have sinned from the days of Gibeah; There they stood. The battle in Gibeah against the children of iniquity did not overtake them.

- **10:10-15** Lord of trouble (**James 4:4**).

Hosea 10:10-15 When *it is* My desire, I will chasten them. Peoples shall be gathered against them when I bind them for their two transgressions.

¹¹ Ephraim *is* a trained heifer that loves to thresh *grain*; but I harnessed her fair neck, I will make Ephraim pull *a plow*, Judah shall plow; Jacob shall break his clods.” ¹² Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for *it is* time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you. ¹³ You have plowed wickedness; you have reaped iniquity. You have eaten the fruit of lies, because you trusted in your own way, in the multitude of your mighty men. ¹⁴ Therefore tumult shall arise among your people, and all your fortresses shall be plundered as Shalman plundered Beth Arbel in the day of battle—A mother dashed in pieces upon *her* children. ¹⁵ Thus it shall be done to you, O Bethel, because of your great wickedness. at dawn the king of Israel shall be cut off utterly.

Note: The 2 transgressions (leaving God & loving idols).

VII. God's Love For His Children 11:1-14:9.

God deals with his children in stages, like a parent deals with his or her children. Many times, a child's action determines how they are parented. If children are rebellious, they will be chastised by their parents. If children are

obedient, they will be **blessed** by their parents. In chapter 11, God parents Israel like as a **minor child**. In chapters 12 & 13 God parents Israel like a **rebellious teenager**. In chapter 14 he deals with Israel like a **mature adult**.

A. God's Care for His Minor Child 11:1-4.

1. **11:1-2** God's loving call.

Hosea 11:1-2 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son. ²As they called them, So they went from them; they sacrificed to the Baals and burned incense to carved images.

2. **11:3-4** God's loving cord.

Hosea 11:3-4 "I taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by their arms; but they did not know that I healed them. ⁴I drew them with gentle cords, with bands of love, and I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped *and* fed them.

B. God's Chastisement of His Minor Child 11:5-7.

1. **11:5** They refused to repent.

Hosea 11:5 He shall not return to the land of Egypt; but the Assyrian shall be his king, because they refused to repent.

2. **11:6** They challenged and were chastened.

Hosea 11:6 And the sword shall slash in his cities, devour his districts, and consume *them*, because of their own counsels.

3. **11:7** They were bent on backsliding.

Hosea 11:7 My people are bent on backsliding from Me. Though they call to the Most High, none at all exalt *Him*.

C. God's Compassion for His Minor Child 11:8-11.

1. 11:8-9 God's sympathy.

Hosea 11:8-9 How can I give you up, Ephraim? *How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I set you like Zeboiim? My heart churns within Me; My sympathy is stirred.*

⁹ *I will not execute the fierceness of My anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim. For I **am** God, and not man, The Holy One in your midst; and I will not come with terror.*

- **Genesis 10:19** mentions Admah and Zeboiim as Canaanite border cities in. They were in the vicinity of Sodom and Gomorrah and suffered the same fate as Sodom and Gomorrah.

2. 11:10-11 God's salvation.

Hosea 11:10-11 *"They shall walk after the Lord. He will roar like a lion. When He roars, then **His** sons shall come trembling from the west; ¹¹They shall come trembling like a bird from Egypt, like a dove from the land of Assyria. And I will let them dwell in their houses," says the Lord.*

D. God's Charge to His Minor Child 11:12.

1. 11:12a Israel's struggle.

Hosea 11:12 *Ephraim has encircled Me with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit;*

2. 11:12b Judah's steadfastness.

Hosea 11:12b *but Judah still walks with God, even with the Holy One **who is faithful.***

E. God's Concern For His Adolescent Child 12:1-14.

1. **12:1-3** Ungodly Alliances (Israel's foolish disobedience).

Hosea 12:1 Ephraim feeds on the wind, and pursues the east wind; He daily increases lies and desolation. Also, they make a covenant with the Assyrians, and oil is carried to Egypt.

- **12:1** “Feeds on the wind” represents empty promises of Assyria that will leave Ephraim hungry. “East wind” represents destruction (**Psalms 48:7**). Assyria will scatter them like the east wind (**Jeremiah 18:17**).
- **12:1** Israel believes the lies of Assyria and makes a treaty with Assyria which will lead to their destruction.
- **12:1** Israel carries olive oil to Egypt to buy Egypt's friendship.

2. **12:2** Ungodly Actions (Judah's future disobedience).

Hosea 12:2 “The Lord also brings a charge against Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his deeds He will recompense him.

- **12:2** Judah's charge and chastisement.

3. **12:3-6** Remembering the past & repenting in the present.

- **12:3** Speaks of Jacob's start (in the womb), and Jacob's strength and struggle (in the world).

Hosea 12:3 He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and in his strength, he struggled with God.

- **12:4-5** Requesting favor and receiving favor (**Genesis 32:28-29**). God speaks to us through Jacob's example (**1 Corinthians 10:11**).

Hosea 12:4-5 Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; He wept, and sought favor from Him. He found Him in Bethel,

and there He spoke to us—⁵ That is, the Lord God of hosts.
The Lord *is* His memorable name.

- **12:6** Return to God and receive His favor.

Hosea 12:6 So you, by *the help of your God*, return;
Observe mercy and justice, and wait on your God continually.

4. **12:7-8** Riches that bring pain by ill-gotten gain.

Hosea 12:7-8 A cunning Canaanite! Deceitful scales *are* in his hand; he loves to oppress.⁸ And Ephraim said, ‘Surely I have become rich, I have found wealth for myself; *In* all my labors They shall find in me no iniquity that *is* sin.’

- **12:7** “**Cunning Canaanite**” was a euphemism for **swindlers**. Israel like Canaanite merchants got their wealth by swindling their own people. This speaks of a flagrant misuse of power by the elite.
- **12:8** The elite became wealthy at the expense of the poor. They associated their wealth to the blessing of the false god’s they worshiped “**They shall find in me no iniquity that *is* sin.**”

5. **12:9-11** God’s Indignation.

- **12:9** Wandering of God’s people.

Hosea 12:9 But I *am* the Lord your God, ever since the land of Egypt;
I will again make you dwell in tents, as in the days of the appointed feast.

- **12:10** Warning from God’s prophets.

Hosea 12:10 I have also spoken by the prophets, and have multiplied visions; I have given symbols through the witness of the prophets.”

- **12:11** Warning of God's promise.

Hosea 12:11 Though Gilead *has* idols— Surely, they
are vanity— Though they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal,
Indeed their altars *shall be* heaps in the furrows of the field.

6. **12:12-12:14** God's Israel.

- **12:12** God's Runaway Child.

Hosea 12:12 Jacob fled to the country of Syria; Israel served for a spouse,
and for a wife he tended *sheep*.

- **12:13** God's Redeeming Care.

Hosea 12:13 By a prophet the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt,
And by a prophet he was preserved.

- **12:14** God's Righteous Condemnation.

Hosea 12:14 Ephraim provoked *Him* to anger most bitterly;
Therefore his Lord will leave the guilt of his bloodshed upon him,
And return his reproach upon him.

F. God's Condemnation of His Adolescent Child 13:1-3.

Note: This is Judgement that comes from God's broken heart.

1. **13:1** Ephraim's prideful exaltation.

Hosea 13:1 When Ephraim spoke, trembling, he
exalted *himself* in Israel; but when he offended through
Baal worship, he died.

2. **13:2** Ephraim's perverse excess.

Hosea 13:2 Now they sin more and more, and have made for themselves molded images, idols of their silver, according to their skill; all of it *is* the work of craftsmen. They say of them, “Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves!”

3. **13:3** Ephriam’s poor examples.

Hosea 13:3 Therefore they shall be like the morning cloud and like the early dew that passes away, like chaff blown off from a threshing floor and like smoke from a chimney.

- See **James 4:14**

4. **13:4-6** Ephriam’s protection.

Hosea 4:4-6 Yet I *am* the Lord your God ever since the land of Egypt, and you shall know no God but Me; for there is no savior besides Me. ⁵ I knew you in the wilderness, in the land of great drought. ⁶ When they had pasture, they were filled; they were filled and their heart was exalted; therefore, they forgot Me.

5. **13:7-13** Ephriam’s problem.

Hosea 13:7-13 So I will be to them like a lion, like a leopard by the road I will lurk; ⁸ I will meet them like a bear deprived of *her cubs*; I will tear open their rib cage, and there I will devour them like a lion. The wild beast shall tear them. ⁹ “O Israel, you are destroyed, but your help *is* from Me. ¹⁰ I will be your King; Where *is any other*, that he may save you in all your cities? And your judges to whom you said, ‘Give me a king and princes’? ¹¹ I gave you a king in My anger, and took *him* away in My wrath. ¹² “The iniquity of Ephraim *is* bound up; his sin *is* stored up. ¹³ The sorrows of a woman in childbirth shall come upon him. He *is* an unwise son, for he should not stay long where children are born.

6. **13:14a** Ephriam’s pardon.

Hosea 13:14a I will ransom them from the power of the grave;
I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues!
O Grave, I will be your destruction!

7. **13:14b-16** Ephraim's punishment.

Hosea 14:14b-16 Pity is hidden from My eyes. ¹⁵ Though he is fruitful among *his* brethren, an east wind shall come; the wind of the Lord shall come up from the wilderness. Then his spring shall become dry, and his fountain shall be dried up. He shall plunder the treasury of every desirable prize.

¹⁶ Samaria is held guilty, for she has rebelled against her God. They shall fall by the sword, their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child ripped open.

G. God's Cleansing of His Adult Child 14:1-9.

1. **14:1-3** God's call.

Hosea 14:1-3 O Israel, return to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity; ² Take words with you, and return to the Lord. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity; Receive *us* graciously, for we will offer the sacrifices of our lips. ³ Assyria shall not save us, we will not ride on horses, nor will we say anymore to the work of our hands, '*You are our gods.*' for in You the fatherless finds mercy."

2. **14:4-9** God's cure.

Hosea 14:4-9 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away from him. ⁵ I will be like the dew to Israel; He shall grow like the lily, and lengthen his roots like Lebanon. ⁶ His branches shall spread; his beauty shall be like an olive tree, and his fragrance like Lebanon. ⁷ Those who dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall be revived *like* grain, and grow like a vine. Their scent *shall be* like the wine of Lebanon. ⁸ "Ephraim *shall say*, 'What have I to do anymore with idols?'

I have heard and observed him. I *am* like a green cypress tree;
Your fruit is found in Me."⁹ Who *is* wise? Let him understand these things.
Who *is* prudent? Let him know them. For the ways of the Lord *are* right;
The righteous walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

- God's fruit is also found in us (**Galatians 5:22-23**).