

HOSEA was a contemporary of Amos in Israel, and of Isaiah and Micah in Judah, and his ministry continued after the first, or Assyrian, captivity of the northern kingdom (2 Ki. 15. 29). His style is abrupt, metaphorical, and figurative.

Israel is Jehovah's adulterous wife, repudiated, but ultimately to be purified and restored. This is Hosea's distinctive message, which may be summed up in his two words, Lo-ammi, "not my people," and Ammi, "my people." Israel is not merely apostate and sinful—that is said also; but her sin takes its character from the exalted relationship into which she has been brought.

The book is in three parts: I. The dishonoured wife, 1. 1-3. 5. II. The sinful people, 4. 1-13. 8. III. The ultimate blessing and glory of Israel, 13. 9-14. 9.

The events recorded in Hosea cover a period of 60 years (Ussher).

## CHAPTER 1.

*Part I. Israel Jehovah's dishonoured wife, repudiated but to be restored (Hos. 1. 1-3. 5).*

**T**HE word of the LORD that came unto 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.

(1) *The symbolic marriage: the birth of Jezreel.*

2 The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: <sup>a</sup>for the land hath committed great whoredom, *departing from the LORD.*

3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son.

4 And the LORD said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little *while*, and I will avenge the blood of <sup>b</sup>Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel.

5 And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.

(2) *The birth of Lo-ruhamah.*

6 And she conceived again, and

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bare a daughter. And God said unto him, Call her name <sup>c</sup>Lo-ruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away.

7 <sup>d</sup>But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.

(3) *The birth of Lo-ammi.*

8 Now when she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son.

9 Then said God, Call his name <sup>e</sup>Lo-ammi: for ye are not <sup>f</sup>my people, and I will not be your God.

(4) *The future blessing and restoration of Israel.*

10 Yet the number of the children of <sup>g</sup>Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, *that* in the place where it was said unto them, *Ye are not my people*, *there* it shall be said unto them, *Ye are* the sons of the living God.

11 Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great *shall* be the day of Jezreel.

<sup>a</sup> Deut. 31. 16;  
Psa. 73. 27;  
Jer. 2. 13;  
Ezk. 23. 3.

<sup>b</sup> 2 Ki. 10. 1-14.

<sup>c</sup> i. e. *unpitied.*

<sup>d</sup> 2 Ki. 19. 35.

<sup>e</sup> i. e. *not my people.*

<sup>f</sup> Rom. 9. 25, 26.

<sup>1</sup> "My people" is an expression used in the O.T. exclusively of Israel the nation. It is never used of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. See Mt. 2. 6.

<sup>2</sup> "Israel" in Hosea means the ten tribes forming the northern kingdom as distinguished from "Judah" (the tribes of Judah and Benjamin) forming the southern kingdom which adhered to the Davidic family. (See 1 Ki. 12. 1-21.) The promise of verse 10 awaits fulfilment. See "Israel" (Gen. 12. 2, 3; Rom. 11. 26).

## CHAPTER 2.

(5) *The chastisement of adulterous Israel.* (Cf. 2 Ki. 17. 1-18.)

SAY ye unto your brethren, <sup>a</sup>Ammi; and to your sisters, <sup>b</sup>Ruhamah.

2 Plead with your mother, plead: for <sup>1</sup>she is not my <sup>a</sup>wife, neither <sup>am</sup> I her husband: let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts;

3 <sup>a</sup>Lest I strip her naked, and set her as in the day that she was born, and make her as a wilderness, and set her like a dry land, and slay her with thirst.

4 And I will not have mercy upon her children; for they *be* the children of whoredoms.

5 For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give *me* my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink.

6 Therefore, <sup>a</sup>behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths.

7 And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find *them*: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then *was it* better with me than now.

8 For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, *which* they prepared for Baal.

9 Therefore will I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax *given* to cover her nakedness.

10 And now will I discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of mine hand.

11 I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new

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moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts.

12 And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, whereof she hath said, These *are* my rewards that my lovers have given me: and I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them.

13 And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgat me, saith the LORD.

(6) *Israel, the adulterous wife, to be restored.*

14 Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.

15 And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of <sup>1</sup>Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

16 And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, *that* thou shalt call me <sup>1</sup>Ishi; and shalt call me no more <sup>h</sup>Baali.

17 For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name.

18 And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and *with* the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.

19 And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

20 I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.

21 And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the

a i.e. my people.

b i.e. having obtained pity.

c Wife of Jehovah. vs. 1-23. (Isa. 54.5; Hos. 2.1-23.)

d Jer. 13.22,26; Ezk. 16.37, 39.

e Job 3.23; 19.8; Lam. 3.7,9.

f i.e. trouble. Josh. 7.26; Isa. 65.10.

g i.e. my husband.

h i.e. my lord.

<sup>1</sup> That Israel is the wife of Jehovah (see vs. 16-23), now disowned but yet to be restored, is the clear teaching of the passages. This relationship is not to be confounded with that of the Church to Christ (John 3. 29, *refs.*). In the mystery of the Divine tri-unity both are true. The N.T. speaks of the Church as a virgin espoused to one husband (2 Cor. 11. 1, 2); which could never be said of an adulterous wife, restored in grace. Israel is, then, to be the restored and forgiven wife of Jehovah, the Church the virgin wife of the Lamb (John 3. 29; Rev. 19. 6-8); Israel Jehovah's earthly wife (Hos. 2. 23); the Church the Lamb's heavenly bride (Rev. 19. 7).

LORD, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth;

22 And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel.

23 And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to *them which were* not my <sup>a</sup>people, Thou art my people; and <sup>b</sup>they shall say, Thou art my God.

### CHAPTER 3.

(7) *The undying love of Jehovah: the future Davidic kingdom.*

**T**HEN said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.

2 So I love her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley:

3 And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee.

4 For the children of Israel shall abide many days <sup>d</sup>without a <sup>e</sup>king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim:

5 Afterward shall the children of Israel <sup>f</sup>return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their <sup>g</sup>king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.

### CHAPTER 4.

*Part II. The sinful people (Hos. 4. 1-13. 8). (1) The general charge.*

**H**EAR the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath <sup>h</sup>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.

3 <sup>i</sup>Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts

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<sup>a</sup> Rom.9.25, 26; Eph.2. 11-22; 1 Pet. 2.10.

<sup>b</sup> *Christ (First Advent).* Mic.5.2; (Gen.3.15; Acts 1.9.)

<sup>c</sup> One homer = about 86 gals.

<sup>d</sup> *Kingdom (O.T.).* vs. 4,5; Joel 3.16-20. (Gen.1.26; Zech.12.8.)

<sup>e</sup> John 19.15.

<sup>f</sup> *Israel (prophecies).* vs.4,5. Joel 3.1-8,15-20. (Gen.12.2,3; Rom.11.26.)

<sup>g</sup> *Christ (Second Advent).* vs.4,5; Mic. 4.7. (Deut. 30.3; Acts 1. 9-11.)

<sup>h</sup> Hos.12.2; Isa.1.18; 3. 13,14; Jer. 25.31; Mic. 6.2.

<sup>i</sup> Jer.4.28; 12.4; Amos 5 16; 8.8.

<sup>j</sup> Isa.5 13.

<sup>k</sup> 1 Sam.2.30; Mal.2.9; Phil.3.19.

<sup>l</sup> 2 Tim.4. 3,4.

<sup>m</sup> Lev.26.26; Mic.6.14; Hag.1.6.

<sup>n</sup> Isa.1.29; 57.5,7; Ezk.6.13; 20.28.

<sup>o</sup> Amos 7.17; Rom.1.28.

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.

(2) *The wilful ignorance of Israel.*

6 <sup>j</sup>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.

7 As they were increased, so they sinned against me: <sup>k</sup>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.

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

10 <sup>m</sup>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.

(3) *The idolatry of Israel.*

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.

13 <sup>n</sup>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: <sup>o</sup>therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery.

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.

15 Though thou, Israel, play the harlot, yet let not Judah offend; and come not ye unto Gilgal, neither

go ye up to Beth-aven, nor swear,  
The LORD liveth.

16 <sup>a</sup>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: <sup>b</sup>let  
him alone.

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.

## CHAPTER 5.

### (4) *The withdrawn face of Jehovah.*

**H**EAR 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.

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 Eph-  
raim, thou committest whoredom,  
*and* Israel is defiled.

4 They will not frame their do-  
ings 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 <sup>c</sup>the pride of Israel doth  
testify to his face: therefore shall  
Israel and Ephraim fall in their  
iniquity; Judah also shall fall with  
them.

6 <sup>d</sup>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.

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

8 <sup>e</sup>Blow ye the cornet in Gibeah,  
*and* the trumpet in Ramah: <sup>f</sup>cry  
aloud at Beth-aven, <sup>g</sup>after thee, O  
Benjamin.

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

10 The princes of Judah were like  
them that <sup>h</sup>remove the bound:

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<sup>a</sup> Jer.3.6; 7.  
24; 8.5;  
Zech.7.11.

<sup>b</sup> Mt.15.14.

<sup>c</sup> Hos.7.10.

<sup>d</sup> Prov.1.28;  
Isa.1.15;  
Jer.11.11;  
Ezk.8.18;  
Mic.3.4;  
John 7.34.

<sup>e</sup> Hos.8.1;  
Joel 2.1.

<sup>f</sup> Hos.4.15;  
Josh.7.2.

<sup>g</sup> Jud.5.14.

<sup>h</sup> Deut.19.14;  
27.17.

<sup>i</sup> Deut.28.33.

<sup>j</sup> Prov.12.4.

<sup>k</sup> Jer.30.12.

<sup>l</sup> Hos.13.7,8;  
Lam.3.10.

<sup>m</sup> Hos.11.8.

<sup>n</sup> Mt.9.13;  
12.7.

*therefore* I will pour out my wrath  
upon them like water.

11 Ephraim *is* <sup>i</sup>oppressed *and*  
broken in judgment, because he  
willingly walked after the com-  
mandment.

12 *Therefore will I be* unto Eph-  
raim as a moth, and to the house  
of Judah <sup>j</sup>as rottenness.

13 When Ephraim saw his sick-  
ness, and Judah *saw* <sup>k</sup>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 <sup>l</sup>*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*.

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.

## CHAPTER 6.

(5) *The voice of the remnant in  
the last days.* (Cf. "Remnant,"  
Isa. 1. 9; Rom. 11. 5.)

**C**OME, 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.

3 Then shall we know, *if* we fol-  
low on to know the LORD: his go-  
ing forth is prepared as the morn-  
ing; and he shall come unto us as  
the rain, as the latter *and* former  
rain unto the earth.

(6) *The response of Jehovah.*

4 <sup>m</sup>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.

6 For I desired <sup>n</sup>mercy, and not  
sacrifice; and the knowledge of God  
more than burnt-offerings.

7 But they like men have trans-  
gressed 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.

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.

### CHAPTER 7.

(Response of Jehovah, continued.  
Begins Hos. 6. 4.)

**W**HEN 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.

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.

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 scorners.

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.

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 testified to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all this.

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

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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.

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.

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.

### CHAPTER 8.

(Response of Jehovah, continued.  
Begins Hos. 6. 4.)

**S**ET 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.

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

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

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.

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?

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.

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.

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

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

a Isa. 64. 7.

b Hos. 11. 11.

c Ezk. 12. 13.

d Ex. 14. 30,  
note;  
Isa. 59. 20,  
note.

e Job 35. 9, 10;  
Psa. 78. 36;  
Jer. 3. 10;  
Zech. 7. 5.

f Hos. 5. 15;  
Psa. 78. 34.

g Hos. 10.  
12, 13;  
Prov. 22. 8.

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.

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

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

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

14 <sup>c</sup>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.

## CHAPTER 9.

(Response of Jehovah, continued.  
Begins Hos. 6. 4.)

**R**EJOICE not, O Israel, for joy, as *other* people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor.

2 The floor and the winepress shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail in her.

3 They shall not dwell <sup>a</sup>in the LORD'S land; <sup>b</sup>but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and <sup>c</sup>they shall eat unclean *things* in Assyria.

4 They shall not offer wine *offerings* to the LORD, neither shall they be pleasing unto him: their sacrifices *shall be* unto them as the bread of mourners; all that eat thereof shall be polluted: for their bread for their soul shall not come into the house of the LORD.

5 What will ye do in the solemn day, and in the day of the feast of the LORD?

6 For, lo, they are gone because of destruction: Egypt shall gather them up, Memphis shall bury them: the pleasant *places* for their silver, <sup>b</sup>nettles shall possess them: thorns *shall be* in their tabernacles.

7 The days of visitation are come, the days of recompence are come; Israel shall know *it*: the prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad, for the multitude of thine iniquity, and the great hatred.

8 The <sup>h</sup>watchman of Ephraim

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<sup>a</sup> Deut. 4. 6, 8;  
Psa. 119. 18;  
147. 19, 20.

<sup>b</sup> Hos. 9. 9;  
Amos 8. 7.

<sup>c</sup> Deut. 32. 18.

<sup>d</sup> Lev. 25. 23;  
Jer. 2. 7; 16.  
18.

<sup>e</sup> Hos. 8. 13;  
11. 5.

<sup>f</sup> Ezk. 4. 13;  
Dan. 1. 8.

<sup>g</sup> Hos. 10. 8;  
Isa. 5. 6; 32.  
13; 34. 13.

<sup>h</sup> Jer. 6. 17; 31.  
6; Ezk. 3. 17;  
33. 7.

<sup>i</sup> Isa. 28. 4;  
Mic. 7. 1.

<sup>j</sup> Num. 25. 3;  
Psa. 106. 28.

<sup>k</sup> 1 Ki. 18. 2;  
Mt. 6. 24.

<sup>l</sup> Lev. 26. 33.

<sup>m</sup> Cf. Hos.  
14. 8.

was with my God: *but* the prophet is a snare of a fowler in all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God.

9 They have deeply corrupted *themselves*, as in the days of Gibeah: *therefore* he will remember their iniquity, he will visit their sins.

10 I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the <sup>h</sup>firstripe in the fig tree at her first time: *but* they went to <sup>h</sup>Baal-peor, and separated themselves unto *that* shame; and *their* abominations were according as they loved.

11 As for Ephraim, their glory shall fly away like a bird, from the birth, and from the womb, and from the conception.

12 Though they bring up their children, yet will I bereave them, *that there shall not be* a man *left*: yea, woe also to them when I depart from them!

13 Ephraim, as I saw Tyrus, is planted in a pleasant place: *but* Ephraim shall bring forth his children to the murderer.

14 Give them, O LORD: what wilt thou give? give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.

15 All their wickedness is in Gilgal: for there I hated them: for the wickedness of their doings I will drive them out of mine house, I will love them no more: all their princes are revolvers.

16 Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit: yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay *even* the beloved *fruit* of their womb.

17. My God will <sup>h</sup>cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be <sup>h</sup>wanderers among the nations.

## CHAPTER 10.

(Response of Jehovah, continued.  
Begins Hos. 6. 4.)

**I**SRAEL is an empty vine, he bringeth forth <sup>m</sup>fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images.

2 Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images.

3 For now they shall say, We

have no king, because we feared not the LORD; what then should a king do to us?

4 They have spoken words, swearing falsely in making a covenant: thus judgment springeth up as hemlock in the furrows of the field.

5 The inhabitants of Samaria shall fear because of <sup>a</sup>the calves of Beth-aven: for the people thereof shall mourn over it, and the priests thereof *that* rejoiced on it, <sup>b</sup>for the glory thereof, because it is departed from it.

6 It shall be also carried unto Assyria for a present to king Jareb: Ephraim shall receive shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his own counsel.

7 *As for Samaria*, her king is cut off as the foam upon the water.

8 The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, <sup>c</sup>Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us.

9 O Israel, thou hast sinned from the days of Gibeah: there they stood: <sup>d</sup>the battle in Gibeah against the children of iniquity did not overtake them.

10 *It is* in my desire that I should chastise them; and the people shall be gathered against them, when they shall bind themselves in their two furrows.

11 And Ephraim *is* as <sup>e</sup>an heifer *that is* taught, and loveth to tread out *the corn*; but I passed over upon her fair neck: I will make Ephraim to ride; Judah shall plow, and Jacob shall break his clods.

12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; <sup>f</sup>break up your fallow ground: for *it is* time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

13 Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst <sup>g</sup>trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men.

14 Therefore shall a tumult arise among thy people, and all thy fortresses shall be spoiled, as Shalman spoiled <sup>h</sup>Beth-arbel in the day of battle: the mother was dashed in pieces upon *her* children.

15 So shall Beth-el do unto you because of your great wickedness: in a morning shall the king of Israel utterly be cut off.

B.C. 740.

## CHAPTER 11.

(*Response of Jehovah, continued, Begins Hos. 6. 4.*)

**W**HEN Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called <sup>i</sup>my son out of Egypt.

2 As they called them, so they went from them: they sacrificed unto Baalim, and burned incense to graven images.

3 I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them.

4 I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and <sup>j</sup>I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them.

5 He shall not return into the land of Egypt, but the Assyrian shall be his king, because they refused to <sup>k</sup>return.

6 And the sword shall abide on his cities, and shall consume his branches, and devour *them*, because of their own counsels.

7 And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the most High, none at all would exalt *him*.

8 How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? *how* shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as <sup>l</sup>Admah? *how* shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my <sup>m</sup>repentings are kindled together.

9 I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: for I *am* God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee: and I will not enter into the city.

10 They shall walk after the LORD: he shall roar like a lion: when he shall roar, then the children shall tremble from the west.

11 They shall tremble as a bird out of Egypt, and as a dove out of the land of Assyria: and I will place them in their houses, saith the LORD.

12 Ephraim compasseth me about with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit: but Judah yet ruleth with God, and is faithful with the saints.

## CHAPTER 12.

(*Response of Jehovah, continued, Begins Hos. 6. 4.*)

**E**PHRAIM <sup>n</sup>feedeth on wind, and followeth after the east wind: he daily increaseth lies and desola-

<sup>a</sup> Hos. 8. 5, 6;  
1 Ki. 12. 28,  
29.

<sup>b</sup> Hos. 9. 11.

<sup>c</sup> Lk. 23. 30.

<sup>d</sup> See Jud. 20.

<sup>e</sup> Jer. 50. 11;  
Mic. 4. 13.

<sup>f</sup> Jer. 4. 3.

<sup>g</sup> Psa. 2. 12,  
*note.*

<sup>h</sup> 2 Ki. 18. 34;  
19. 13.

<sup>i</sup> Mt. 2. 15.

<sup>j</sup> Lev. 26. 13.

<sup>k</sup> i. e. to Jeho-  
vah.

<sup>l</sup> Gen. 14. 8; 19.  
24, 25; Deut.  
29. 23; Amos  
4. 11.

<sup>m</sup> Zech. 8. 14,  
*note.*

<sup>n</sup> Hos. 8. 7.

tion; and they do make a covenant with the Assyrians, and oil is carried into Egypt.

2 <sup>a</sup>The LORD hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him.

3 He took his brother <sup>b</sup>by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he <sup>c</sup>had power with God:

4 Yea, he had power over the <sup>d</sup>angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in <sup>e</sup>Beth-el, and there he spake with us;

5 Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD *is* his <sup>f</sup>memorial.

6 Therefore <sup>g</sup>turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.

7 *He is* a merchant, the balances of deceit *are* in his hand: he loveth to oppress.

8 And Ephraim said, Yet I am become rich, I have found me out substance: *in* all my labours they shall find none iniquity in me that *were* sin.

9 And I *that am* the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt will yet make thee to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast.

10 <sup>h</sup>I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.

11 *Is there* iniquity *in* Gilead? surely they are vanity: they sacrifice bullocks in Gilgal; yea, their altars *are* as heaps in the furrows of the fields.

12 And Jacob <sup>i</sup>fled into the country of Syria, and <sup>j</sup>Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he kept *sheep*.

13 And <sup>k</sup>by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved.

14 Ephraim provoked *him* to anger most bitterly: therefore shall he leave his blood upon him, and his reproach shall his Lord return unto him.

### CHAPTER 13.

(*Response of Jehovah, concluded.*  
Begins Hos. 6. 4.)

**W**HEN Ephraim spake trembling, he exalted himself in Israel; but <sup>l</sup>when he offended in Baal, he died.

B.C. 725.

<sup>a</sup> Hos.4.1;  
Mic.6.2.

<sup>b</sup> Gen.25.26.

<sup>c</sup> Gen.32.24.

<sup>d</sup> Heb.1.4,  
*note.*

<sup>e</sup> Gen.28.12,  
19; 35.9,10,  
15.

<sup>f</sup> Ex.3.15.

<sup>g</sup> Hos.14.1,  
Mic.6.8.

<sup>h</sup> 2 Ki.17.13.

<sup>i</sup> Gen.28.5;  
Deut.26.5.

<sup>j</sup> Gen.29.20,  
28.

<sup>k</sup> Ex.12.50,  
51; 13.3;  
Psa.77.20;  
Isa.63.11;  
Mic.6.4.

<sup>l</sup> Hos.11.2;  
2 Ki.17.16,  
18.

<sup>m</sup> 2 Sam.17.  
8; Prov.17.  
12.

<sup>n</sup> *Resurrection.*  
Mt.9.23-25.  
(Job 19.25;  
1 Cor.15.52.)

<sup>o</sup> Heb. *goel*,  
*Redemp.*  
(*Kinsman*  
*type*).  
Isa.59.20,  
*note.*

<sup>p</sup> 1 Cor.15.55.

<sup>q</sup> Heb. *Sheol*,  
also in pre-  
ceding  
clause. See  
Hab.2.5,  
*note.*

2 And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, *and* idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves.

3 Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew that passeth away, as the chaff *that* is driven with the whirlwind out of the floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney.

4 Yet I *am* the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for *there* is no saviour beside me.

5 I did know thee in the wilderness, in the land of great drought.

6 According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten me.

7 Therefore I will be unto them as a lion: as a leopard by the way will I observe *them*:

8 I will meet them <sup>m</sup>as a bear *that* is bereaved of *her* whelps, and will rend the caul of their heart, and there will I devour them like a lion: the wild beast shall tear them.

*Part III. <sup>1</sup>The ultimate blessing of Israel in the kingdom (Hos. 13. 9-14. 9).*

9 O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me *is* thine help.

10 I will be thy king: where *is* any other that may save thee in all thy cities? and thy judges of whom thou saidst, Give me a king and princes?

11 I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took *him* away in my wrath.

12 The iniquity of Ephraim *is* bound up; his sin *is* hid.

13 The sorrows of a travailing woman shall come upon him: he *is* an unwise son; for he should not stay long in *the place* of the breaking forth of children.

14 I will ransom them from the power of the <sup>n</sup>grave; I will <sup>o</sup>redeem them from <sup>p</sup>death: O death, I will be thy plagues; <sup>q</sup>O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.

15 Though he be fruitful among *his* brethren, an east wind shall come, the wind of the LORD shall come up from the wilderness, and his spring shall become dry, and

<sup>1</sup> The response of Jehovah continues to the end, but at verse 9 changes to entreaty and promise.



his fountain shall be dried up; he shall spoil the treasure of all pleasant vessels.

16 Samaria shall become desolate; <sup>a</sup>for she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up.

#### CHAPTER 14.

**O** ISRAEL, <sup>b</sup>return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

2 Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.

3 Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, *Ye are our gods*: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.

B.C. 725.

<sup>a</sup> 2 Ki. 18. 12.

<sup>b</sup> Hos. 12. 6;  
Joel 2. 13.

<sup>c</sup> Hos. 11. 7;  
Jer. 5. 6;  
14. 7.

<sup>d</sup> Eph. 1. 6.

<sup>e</sup> Job 29. 19;  
Prov. 19. 12.

<sup>f</sup> Psa. 52. 8;  
128. 3.

<sup>g</sup> John 15. 4.  
Cf. Hos. 10.  
1. See Jas.  
1. 17.

4 <sup>c</sup>I will heal their backsliding, <sup>d</sup>I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

5 <sup>e</sup>I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.

6 His branches shall spread, and <sup>f</sup>his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon.

7 They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof *shall be* as the wine of Lebanon.

8 Ephraim *shall say*, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard *him*, and observed him: I *am* like a green fir tree. <sup>g</sup>From me is thy fruit found.

9 Who *is* wise, and he shall understand these *things*? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD *are* right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.