

Hosea's Prophecy to Israel—Indictment, Punishment and Restoration – Part 2 (c. 743 BC)

Hosea 10–14

The End of Cult, King, and Capital

- 10:1 Israel is a luxuriant vine;
 He produces fruit for himself.
 The more his fruit,
 The more altars he made;
 The richer his land,
 The better he made the *sacred* pillars.
- 2 Their heart is faithless;
 Now they must bear their guilt.
 The LORD will break down their altars
And destroy their *sacred* pillars.
- 3 Surely now they will say, "We have no king,
 For we do not revere the LORD.
 As for the king, what can he do for us?"
- 4 They speak *mere* words,
 With worthless oaths they make covenants;
 And judgment sprouts like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field.
- 5 The inhabitants of Samaria will fear
 For the calf of Beth-aven.
 Indeed, its people will mourn for it,
 And its idolatrous priests will cry out over it,
 Over its glory, since it has departed from it.
- 6 The thing itself will be carried to Assyria
 As tribute to King Jareb;
 Ephraim will be seized with shame
 And Israel will be ashamed of its own counsel.
- 7 Samaria will be cut off *with* her king
 Like a stick on the surface of the water.
- 8 Also the high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, will be destroyed;
 Thorn and thistle will grow on their altars;
 Then they will say to the mountains, "Cover us!"
 And to the hills, "Fall on us!" [[Luke 23:27–31](#)]

Remember Gibeah and Beth Arbel—You Cannot Trust in Military Might

- 9 From the days of Gibeah you have sinned, O Israel;
 There they stand!
 Will not the battle against the sons of iniquity overtake them in Gibeah?
- 10 When it is My desire, I will chastise them;
 And the peoples will be gathered against them
 When they are bound for their double guilt.
- 11 Ephraim is a trained heifer that loves to thresh,
 But I will come over her fair neck *with a yoke*;
 I will harness Ephraim,
 Judah will plow, Jacob will harrow for himself.
- 12 Sow with a view to righteousness,
 Reap in accordance with kindness;

- Break up your fallow ground,
For it is time to seek the LORD
Until He comes to rain righteousness on you.
- 13 You have plowed wickedness, you have reaped injustice,
You have eaten the fruit of lies.
Because you have trusted in your way, in your numerous warriors,
- 14 Therefore a tumult will arise among your people,
And all your fortresses will be destroyed,
As Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel on the day of battle,
When mothers were dashed in pieces with *their* children.
- 15 Thus it will be done to you at Bethel because of your great wickedness.
At dawn the king of Israel will be completely cut off.

Israel Will Be Slaves in the New Egypt: Assyria

- 11:1 When Israel *was* a youth I loved him,
And out of Egypt I called My son. [[Matt 2:15](#)]
- 2 The more they called them,
The more they went from them;
They kept sacrificing to the Baals
And burning incense to idols.
- 3 Yet it is I who taught Ephraim to walk,
I took them in My arms;
But they did not know that I healed them.
- 4 I led them with cords of a man, with bonds of love,
And I became to them as one who lifts the yoke from their jaws;
And I bent down *and* fed them.
- 5 They will not return to the land of Egypt;
But Assyria—he will be their king
Because they refused to return *to Me*.

Yahweh Cannot Totally Destroy Israel as He Did the Cities of the Plain (see Genesis 19)

- 6 The sword will whirl against their cities,
And will demolish their gate bars
And consume *them* because of their counsels.
- 7 So My people are bent on turning from Me.
Though they call them to *the One* on high,
None at all exalts *Him*.
- 8 How can I give you up, O Ephraim?
How can I surrender you, O Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart is turned over within Me,
All My compassions are kindled.
- 9 I will not execute My fierce anger;
I will not destroy Ephraim again.
For I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst,
And I will not come in wrath.

A New Exodus in the Future

- 10 They will walk after the LORD,
He will roar like a lion;
Indeed He will roar
And *His* sons will come trembling from the west.
- 11 They will come trembling like birds from Egypt
And like doves from the land of Assyria;
And I will settle them in their houses, declares the LORD.

Israel a Deceiver

- 12 Ephraim surrounds Me with lies
And the house of Israel with deceit;
Judah is also unruly against God,
Even against the Holy One who is faithful.
- 12:1 Ephraim feeds on wind,
And pursues the east wind continually;
He multiplies lies and violence.
Moreover, he makes a covenant with Assyria,
And oil is carried to Egypt.
- 2 The LORD also has a dispute with Judah,
And will punish Jacob according to his ways;
He will repay him according to his deeds.
- 3 In the womb he took his brother by the heel,
And in his maturity he contended with God.
- 4 Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed;
He wept and sought His favor.
He found Him at Bethel
And there He spoke with us,
- 5 Even the LORD, the God of hosts,
The LORD is His name.
- 6 Therefore, return to your God,
Observe kindness and justice,
And wait for your God continually.
- 7 A merchant, in whose hands are false balances,
He loves to oppress.
- 8 And Ephraim said, "Surely I have become rich,
I have found wealth for myself;
In all my labors they will find in me
No iniquity, which *would be* sin."
- 9 But *I have been* the LORD your God since the land of Egypt;
I will make you live in tents again,
As in the days of the appointed festival.
- 10 I have also spoken to the prophets,
And I gave numerous visions,
And through the prophets I gave parables.
- 11 Is there iniquity *in* Gilead?
Surely they are worthless.
In Gilgal they sacrifice bulls,
Yes, their altars are like the stone heaps

Beside the furrows of the field.

- 12 Now Jacob fled to the land of Aram,
And Israel worked for a wife,
And for a wife he kept *sheep*.
- 13 But by a prophet the LORD brought Israel from Egypt,
And by a prophet he was kept.
- 14 Ephraim has provoked to bitter anger;
So his Lord will leave his bloodguilt on him
And bring back his reproach to him.
- 13:1 When Ephraim spoke, *there was* trembling.
He exalted himself in Israel,
But through Baal he did wrong and died.

“I Will Destroy You, Israel”

- 2 And now they sin more and more,
And make for themselves molten images,
Idols skillfully made from their silver,
All of them the work of craftsmen.
They say of them, “Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves!”
- 3 Therefore they will be like the morning cloud
And like dew which soon disappears,
Like chaff which is blown away from the threshing floor
And like smoke from a chimney.
- 4 Yet I *have been* the LORD your God
Since the land of Egypt;
And you were not to know any god except Me,
For there is no savior besides Me.
- 5 I cared for you in the wilderness,
In the land of drought.
- 6 As *they had* their pasture, they became satisfied,
And being satisfied, their heart became proud;
Therefore they forgot Me.
- 7 So I will be like a lion to them;
Like a leopard I will lie in wait by the wayside.
- 8 I will encounter them like a bear robbed of her cubs,
And I will tear open their chests;
There I will also devour them like a lioness,
As a wild beast would tear them.
- 9 *It is* your destruction, O Israel,
That *you are* against Me, against your help.
- 10 Where now is your king
That he may save you in all your cities,
And your judges of whom you requested,
“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 pains of childbirth come upon him;

- He is not a wise son,
 For it is not the time that he should delay at the opening of the womb.
- 14 Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol?
 Shall I redeem them from death?
 O Death, where are your thorns?
 O Sheol, where is your sting? [cf. [1 Cor 15:55](#)]
 Compassion will be hidden from My sight.
- 15 Though he flourishes among the reeds,
 An east wind will come,
 The wind of the LORD coming up from the wilderness;
 And his fountain will become dry
 And his spring will be dried up;
 It will plunder *his* treasury of every precious article.
- 16 Samaria will be held guilty,
 For she has rebelled against her God.
 They will fall by the sword,
 Their little ones will be dashed in pieces,
 And their pregnant women will be ripped open.

A Promise for the Remnant That Will Return

- 14:1 Return, O Israel, 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
 And receive *us* graciously,
 That we may present the fruit of our lips. [[Heb 13:15](#)]
- 3 "Assyria will not save us,
 We will not ride on horses;
 Nor will we say again, 'Our god,'
 To the work of our hands;
 For in You the orphan finds mercy."
- 4 I will heal their apostasy,
 I will love them freely,
 For My anger has turned away from them.
- 5 I will be like the dew to Israel;
 He will blossom like the lily,
 And he will take root like *the cedars of Lebanon*.
- 6 His shoots will sprout,
 And his beauty will be like the olive tree
 And his fragrance like *the cedars of Lebanon*.
- 7 Those who live in his shadow
 Will again raise grain,
 And they will blossom like the vine.
 His renown *will be* like the wine of Lebanon.
- 8 O Ephraim, what more have I to do with idols?
 It is I who answer and look after you.
 I am like a luxuriant cypress;
 From Me comes your fruit.
- 9 Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;

Whoever is discerning, let him know them.
 For the ways of the LORD are right,
 And the righteous will walk in them,
 But transgressors will stumble in them.

The Death of Menahem [Israel] (742n BC)

2 Kings 15:21–22

21 Now the rest of the acts of Menahem and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

22 And Menahem slept with his fathers, and Pekahiah his son became king in his place.

Pekahiah, Menahem's Son, Assumes the Throne of Israel (742n BC)

2 Kings 15:23–24

23 In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekahiah son of Menahem became king over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* two years.

24 He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin.

Pekahiah [Israel] is Assassinated by Pekah (740n BC)

2 Kings 15:25–26

25 Then Pekah son of Remaliah, his officer, conspired against him and struck him in Samaria, in the castle of the king's house with Argob and Arie; and with him were fifty men of the Gileadites, and he killed him and became king in his place.

26 Now the rest of the acts of Pekahiah and all that he did, behold they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

Pekah Assumes the Throne of Israel (740n BC)

2 Kings 15:27–28

27 In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekah son of Remaliah became king over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* twenty years.

28 He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin.

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Chronological Notes

- 1) Pekah assumed the throne of Israel in 740t/739n (Pekahiah's reign officially ended in 740n), but many scholars believe that he had been reigning as a rival to the kings of Israel since 752n. Young comments, "The contention of Cook and Thiele that Pekah, in Gilead, began a rival reign to Menahem's rule in Samaria after Shallum's death will be accepted here as the only solution that has explained adequately the chronological data associated with Pekah. Pekah's twenty-year reign and the rivalry with Menahem began in 732n + 20 = 752n."¹

¹ Rodger C. Young, "When Was Samaria Captured? The Need for Precision in Biblical Chronologies," *JETS* 47.4 (Dec 2004): 581–582 (be sure to read note 11). See also J. H. Cook, "Pekah," *Vetus Testamentum* 14 (1964): 121–135.