

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 yields fruit for himself.
 The more his fruit increased,
the more he made numerous altars.
 The more his land prospered,
the more he improved *his* stone pillars.
- 2 Their heart is false;
 now they must bear *their* guilt.
 He himself will break down their altars;
 he will destroy their stone pillars.
- 3 For now they will say,
 “We have no king;
 indeed, we did not fear Yahweh,
 and what can a king do for us?”
- 4 They utter words of vain oaths
when making covenants,
 and judgment blossoms like a poisonous plant
 on the furrows of the field.
- 5 The inhabitants of Samaria tremble
 for the calf of Beth-aven.
 Indeed, his people will mourn for it,
 and his idolatrous priests will wail over it—
 over its glory because it has departed from it.
- 6 It will also be brought to Assyria,
as tribute to *the* great king.
 Ephraim will obtain disgrace
 and Israel will be ashamed from his advice.
- 7 Samaria will be destroyed;
 her king *is* like a chip on the surface of the water.
- 8 The high places of Aven,
 the sin of Israel, will be destroyed.
 Thorn and thistle will grow
 on their altars.
 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 have remained.
 Will not war in Gibeah overtake them
 against the children of evil?
- 10 In my desire I will punish them;
 nations will be gathered against them
 when they are punished for their double iniquities.
- 11 Ephraim *was* a trained heifer,
 that loved to thresh *grain*,
 and I myself spared
 the fairness of her neck;
 I will make Ephraim break the ground,
 Judah will plow,
 Jacob must till for himself.
- 12 Sow for yourselves righteousness;
 reap loyal love.
 Break up for yourself fallow ground;
it is time to seek Yahweh

so he will come and rain
righteousness upon you.

- 13 You have plowed wickedness,
you have reaped injustice,
you have eaten the fruit of lies,
because you have trusted in your strength,
in the multitude of your warriors.
- 14 The tumult of war will rise up against your people,
and all your fortresses will be destroyed,
as Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel;
on the day of war
mothers were dashed to pieces with *their* children.
- 15 So it will be done to you, *O* Bethel,
because of the evil of your wickedness;
at dawn, the king of Israel
will be utterly destroyed.

Israel Will Be Slaves in the New Egypt: Assyria

- 11:1 When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son. [\[Matt 2:15\]](#)
- 2 When I called them, they went from my face.
They sacrificed to the Baals, and they sacrificed to idols.
- 3 And I myself taught Ephraim to walk;
I took them in my arms,
but they did not know that I healed them.
- 4 I drew them with human ties,
with the bands of love.
I was to them like one who lifted up a yoke on their jaws,
though I bent down to them *and* let them eat.
- 5 He will return to the land of Egypt,
and Assyria will be his king,
because they refused to return.

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

- 6 *The* sword rages in his cities;
it consumes his false prophets
and devours because of their plans.
- 7 My people are bent on backsliding from me.
To the Most High they call,
he does not raise them at all.
- 8 How can I give you up, *O* Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, *O* Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart is disturbed within me;
all my compassions are aroused.
- 9 I will not execute my fierce anger,
I will not again destroy Ephraim;
because I *am* God
and not a mortal,
the Holy *One* in your midst;
and I will not come in wrath.

A New Exodus in the Future

- 10 They will go after Yahweh;
he roars like a lion.
When he roars,
his children will come trembling

from *the* sea.

- 11 They will tremble like birds from Egypt,
and like doves from the land of Assyria;
and I will let them return to their homes—
a declaration of Yahweh.

Israel a Deceiver

- 12 Ephraim has surrounded me with lies,
and the house of Israel with deceit;
and Judah is still wandering with God
and *is* faithful to the Holy One.
- 12:1 Ephraim herds *the* wind
and *is* pursuing *the* east wind all day long;
he multiplies deception and violence
and he makes a treaty with Assyria,
and oil is brought to Egypt.
- 2 Yahweh has a quarrel with Judah
and will punish Jacob according to his ways
and repay him according to his deeds.
- 3 In the womb he deceived his brother,
and in his manhood he struggled with God.
- 4 He struggled with *the* angel and prevailed;
he pleaded for his mercy.
He met him at Bethel,
and there he spoke with him.
- 5 Yahweh the God of hosts,
Yahweh *is* his renowned name!
- 6 But you, you must return to your God;
keep love and justice,
and wait continually for your God.
- 7 *The* trader, in his hand *are* scales of deceit;
he loves to oppress.
- 8 And Ephraim said, “Surely, I am rich,
I gained wealth for myself;
in all my toil they have not found guilt in me
that is *sin*.”
- 9 But I *am* Yahweh your God
since the land of Egypt;
I will make you live in tents again,
like the days of *the* appointed festival.
- 10 I spoke to the prophets;
I myself multiplied revelations
and through the hand of the prophets I will destroy.
- 11 If *in* Gilead *there is* evil,
surely they will come to nothing.
In Gilgal they sacrifice bulls,
also their altars will be like stone heaps
on furrows of *the* field.
- 12 Jacob fled *to* the open field of Aram,
and Israel served for a wife,
and for a wife he watched over *sheep*.
- 13 And by a prophet Yahweh brought
Israel up from Egypt,
and by a prophet
he was watched over.
- 14 Ephraim has caused bitter provocation,
and his Lord will hold him responsible for his crimes
and pay back to him his insults.

13:1 When Ephraim spoke, *there was* terror;
he was exalted in Israel,
but he incurred guilt through Baal and died.

“I Will Destroy You, Israel”

- 2 And now they sin again,
and they make for themselves a molten idol,
idols from their silver metal according to their understanding,
all of them the work of skilled craftsmen.
To these they say, “Sacrifice!”
People are kissing bull calves.
- 3 Therefore, they will be like the morning cloud,
and like *the* dew of early morning going *away*,
like chaff swirling from *the* threshing floor,
or like smoke from a window.
- 4 I *am* Yahweh your God
since the land of Egypt;
you know no god except me,
and no one saves besides me.
- 5 I fed you in the desert,
in the land of drought.
- 6 When I fed them, they were satisfied;
they were satisfied and their heart was lifted up;
therefore they forgot me.
- 7 And I will be like a lion to them;
I lie in wait beside *the* way, like a leopard.
- 8 I will attack them like a bear robbed of her offspring,
and I will tear open the covering of their heart;
there I will devour them like a lion,
like an animal of the field would mutilate them.
- 9 I will destroy you, O Israel;
who will help you?
- 10 Where now *is* your king that he may save you?
Where in all your cities *are* your judges,
of whom you said, “Give to
me a king and rulers?”
- 11 I gave you a king in my anger,
and I took *him* in my wrath.
- 12 The sin of Ephraim *is* wrapped up;
his sin *is* concealed.
- 13 The labor pains of childbirth come for him;
he *is* an unwise son
because *at the* proper time, he does not present himself
at the mouth of the womb.
- 14 Should I redeem them from the power of Sheol?
Should I deliver them from death?
Where *are* your plagues, O Death?
Where *is* your destruction, O Sheol? [cf. [1 Cor 15:55](#)]
Compassion is hidden from my eyes.
- 15 Although he may flourish among reeds,
the east wind will come, a wind of Yahweh
rising from *the* desert;
his fountain will dry up,
his spring will be parched.
It will plunder his treasury,
every object of desire.
- 16 Samaria will be guilty,
because she has rebelled against her God;

they will fall by *the* sword,
their children will be dashed to pieces,
and their pregnant women will be ripped open.

A Promise for the Remnant That Will Return

- 14:1 Return to Yahweh your God, *O* Israel,
for you have stumbled because of your sin.
- 2 Take words with you,
and return to Yahweh.
Say to him,
“Take away all guilt;
accept good, and we will offer
the fruit of our lips. [[Heb 13:15](#)]
- 3 Assyria will not save us;
we will not ride on horses,
and we will say no more, “Our God,”
to the work of our hands
because in you *the* fatherless child finds mercy.
- 4 I will heal their disloyalty;
I will love them freely
because my anger has turned back
from them.
- 5 I will be like the dew to Israel;
he will blossom like the lily plant,
and he will strike his roots like the *trees of* Lebanon.
- 6 His new plant shoots will spread out;
his splendor will be like the olive tree,
and his scent like the *trees of* Lebanon.
- 7 They will again dwell in my shadow;
they will grow grain
and they will blossom like the plant vine;
his fame *will be* like the wine of Lebanon.
- 8 *O* Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?
I myself have answered and looked after you.
I am like a luxuriant cypress;
your fruit comes from me.
- 9 Who *is* wise that he can understand these *things*?
Who is discerning that he knows them?
The ways of Yahweh *are* right,
and *the* righteous walk in them;
but transgressors stumble in them.

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