



The Book of Hosea

Author: Hosea

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Hosea's Wife and Children

1 The word of the Lord that came to Hosea,^a 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.

The Corruption

2 When Jehovah first spoke through Hosea, Jehovah said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a woman of prostitution^b and have children of prostitution,^c for the land commits great prostitution^d by forsaking Jehovah." **3** So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

Jezreel

4 And Jehovah said to him, "Call his name Jezreel,^e for in just a little while, I will visit^f the blood of Jezreel^g upon the house of Jehu, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. **5** And it will happen on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel."

^a Shortened form of Hoshaiiah, which means "Saved by Jah; Jah Has Saved."

^b I.e., immorality; promiscuity; or fornication

^c I.e., immorality; promiscuity; or fornication

^d I.e., immorality; promiscuity; or fornication

^e Meaning God will sow seed

^f I.e. *avenge*

^g Meaning God will sow seed

Lo-ruhamah

6 And she conceived again and bore a daughter. And Jehovah said to him, "Call her name Lo-ruhamah,^h for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, that I would ever forgive them. **7** But I will have mercy on the house of Judah and deliver them by Jehovah their God and will not deliver them by bow, sword, battle, horses or horsemen."

Lo-ammi

8 When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah,ⁱ she conceived and bore a son. **9** And Jehovah said, "Call his name Lo-ammi,^j for you are not my people, and I am not your God."

Hope of Restoration and Unity

10 ^kYet the number of the sons of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered; and in the place where it is said to them, "You are not my people," it will be said to them, "You are the sons of the living God."

11 And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel will be gathered together, and they will appoint for themselves one head; and they will go up from the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel.

Israel's Unfaithfulness Punished

2 Say to your brothers, "Ammi,"^l and to your sisters, "Ruhamah."^m

2 "Contend with your mother, Contend for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband;

^h Meaning *not shown mercy*

ⁱ Meaning *not shown mercy*

^j Meaning *not my people*

^k Ch 2:1 in Hebrew

^l Meaning *my people*

^m Meaning *shown mercy*



that she put away her prostitution^a from her face,

and her adultery from between her breasts;

³ lest I strip her naked

and make her as in the day she was born.

I will also make her like a wilderness,

and make her like a waterless land,

and kill her with thirst.

⁴ And to her sons I will not have compassion,

For they are the sons of prostitution.^b

⁵ For their mother has committed prostitution;^c

she who conceived them has acted shamefully.

For she said, 'I will go after my lovers,

who give me my bread and my water,

my wool and my linen,^d my oil and my drink.'

⁶ Therefore behold, I will hedge up her^e way with thorns,

and I will build a stone wall against her,

so that she cannot find her paths.

⁷ And she shall pursue her lovers

but she will not overtake them;

and she shall seek them

but she shall not find them.

Then she shall say,

'I will go and return to my first husband,

for it was better for me than now.'

⁸ And she did not know

that it was I who gave her

the grain, the new wine, and the fresh oil,

and lavished on her silver and gold,

which they used for Baal.

⁹ Therefore I will take back

my grain in its time,

and my new wine in its season,

and I will snatch away my wool and my linen,^f

which were to cover her nakedness.

¹⁰ Now I will uncover her lewdness

in the sight of her lovers,

and no man will rescue her out of my hand.

¹¹ And I will put an end to all her mirth,

her feasts, her new moons, her Sabbaths,

and all her appointed festivals.

¹² And I will lay waste her vines and her fig trees,

of which she said,

'These are my wages,

which my lovers have given me.'

I will make them a forest,

and the beasts of the field will devour them.

¹³ And I will punish her for the days of the Baals

when she burn incense to them

and adorned herself with her ring and jewelry,

and went after her lovers

and forgot me, declares Jehovah.

Jehovah's Mercy on Israel

¹⁴ "Therefore, behold, I will allure her,

and bring her into the wilderness,

and I will speak to her heart.

¹⁵ And there I will give her her vineyards

and make the Valley of Achor^g a door of

hope.

And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth,

as in the day of her going up from

the land of Egypt.

¹⁶ "And it will come about in that day,

declares Jehovah, you will call me Ishi,^h

and no longer will you call me Baali.ⁱ

¹⁷ For I will remove the names of the Baals from her

mouth, and they shall not be remembered

again by their name. ¹⁸ And I will make for

^a I.e., immorality; promiscuity; or fornication

^b I.e., immorality; promiscuity; or fornication

^c I.e., immorality; promiscuity; or fornication

^d Or flax

^e LXX, Syr reads her; MT reads your

^f Or flax

^g Meaning ostracism; trouble. It is a valley or low plain forming part of the NE boundary of the tribal territory of Judah. (Josh. 15:7)

^h Meaning my husband

ⁱ Meaning my Baal



them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, with the the birds of the heavens, and with the creeping things of the ground. And I will break^a the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety. ¹⁹And I will betroth you to me forever; and I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love^b and in mercy. ²⁰And I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you will know Jehovah.

²¹ “And it will come about in that day, I will answer, declares Jehovah,
I will answer the heavens,
and they will answer the earth,
²² and the earth will answer the grain, and the new wine, and the fresh oil,
and they will answer Jezreel,
²³ and I will sow her for myself in the land. And I will have mercy on Lo-ruhamah,^c
and I will say to Lo-ammi,^d “You are my people”;
and he will say, “You are my God.””

Hosea Redeems His Adulterous Wife

3 And Jehovah said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man^e and is an adulteress, even as Jehovah loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.”

² So I bought her for myself for fifteen shekels and a homer measure and a half of barley. ³ And I said to her, “You must dwell as mine^f for many days. You shall not^g

^a I.e. *remove from the land; rid the land of; abolish from the land*

^b Or *lovingkindness*

^c Meaning *not shown mercy*

^d Meaning *not my people*

^e Lit *loved by a companion*

^f Lit *sit for me (at home)* – LHI

^g Lit “You shall not be for a man”, means “you shall not belong to a (another) man,” i.e. have intercourse with another man. – LHI

prostitute yourself, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you.”

Israel to Come Back to Jehovah

⁴ For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar and without ephod or teraphim.^h ⁵ Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek Jehovah their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to Jehovah and to His goodness in the last days.

Jehovah’s Case against Israel

4 Hear the word of Jehovah, O sons of Israel,

for Jehovah has a case against the inhabitants of the land.
Because there is no faithfulness or loyal love,
or knowledge of God in the land;

² there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing,
and committing adultery;
have broken forth, and bloodshed follows;ⁱ bloodshed.

³ Therefore the land mourns,
and all who dwell in it languish,
with the animals of the field
and the birds of the heavens,
and even the fish of the sea are taken away.^j

⁴ Yet let no man contend,
and let no man accuse,
For your people are like those who
contend against a priest..

⁵ So you will stumble by day;
and the prophet also will stumble with you by night;
and I will destroy your mother.

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge;
because you have rejected knowledge,
I reject you from being a priest to me.

^h I.e., *household gods; idols*

ⁱ Lit *touches*

^j I.e. *will be taken away in death*



And since you have forgotten the law of your God,

I also will forget your sons.

⁷ The more they multiplied,
the more they sinned against me;
I will change their glory into shame.

⁸ They feed on the sin of my people;
and to their iniquity they keep lifting up
their soul.^a

Israel's Idolatry and Promiscuity

⁹ And it will be like people, like priest;
I will punish them for their ways
and repay them for their deeds.

¹⁰ They will eat, but not be satisfied;
they shall play the whore, but not
multiply,

for Jehovah they have forsaken
giving regard.

¹¹ Prostitution,^b wine, and new wine,
take away heart.^c

¹² My people consult their wooden idol,^d
and their divining rod informs them;
For a spirit of prostitution has led them
astray,

and they played the prositute from under
their God.^e

¹³ On the tops of the mountains they sacrifice
and burn offerings on the hills,
under oak, poplar, and terebinth,
because their shade is good.

Therefore your daughters play the prositute,
and your brides commit adultery.

¹⁴ I will not visit sins upon your daughters
when they play the prositute,
or your brides when they commit
adultery;

for the men themselves go aside with
prostitutes
and sacrifice with cult prostitutes,

^a I.e. they are greedy for their iniquity

^b I.e. immorality; promiscuity; or fornication

^c I.e. understanding

^d Lit their wood

^e I.e. they played the prositute forsaking their
God

and a people without understanding will be
thrust down.^f

¹⁵ Though you, O Israel, play the prositute,
do not let Judah become guilty;
and do not go to Gilgal,
nor go up to Beth-aven,
and do not swear, "As Jehovah lives!"

¹⁶ Like a stubborn heifer,
Israel is stubborn;^g
Can Jehovah feed them
like a lamb in a broad pasture?

¹⁷ Ephraim is joined to idols;
let him alone.

¹⁸ When their drink is gone, they play the
prositute^h continually;
their rulersⁱ dearly love shame.

¹⁹ A wind has wrapped them^j in its wings,
and they will be ashamed because of their
sacrifices.

Judgment on Ephraim and Judah

5 Hear this, O priests!
Pay attention, O house of Israel!
Give ear, O house of the king!

For the judgment is for you;
for you have been a snare at Mizpah
and a net spread upon Tabor.

² And the revolvers have gone deep into
slaughter,
but I am a correction to all of them.

³ I know Ephraim,
and Israel is not hidden from me;
for now, O Ephraim, you have played the
prositute;^k
Israel has defiled itself.

⁴ Their deeds do not allow them
to return to their God.

^f I.e. will come to ruin

^g I.e. rebellious

^h Or become grossly immoral; fornication

ⁱ Lit shields

^j Lit her

^k I.e. immorality; promiscuity; or fornication



For the spirit of prostitution is within them,
and Jehovah they know not.

Arrogance

⁵ The pride of Israel has testified to his face;^a
and Israel and Ephraim have stumbled in
their error;

and Judah has stumbled with them.

⁶ They will go with their flocks and herds
to seek Jehovah,

but they will not find him;

he has withdrawn from them.

⁷ They have dealt treacherously against
Jehovah;

for they have fathered foreign sons.

Now the new moon shall devour them
with their fields.

⁸ Blow the horn in Gibeah,
the trumpet in Ramah.

Sound the alarm at Beth-aven;^b
we follow you, O Benjamin!

⁹ Ephraim will become a desolation
in the day of punishment;

among the tribes of Israel

I will make known what is sure.

¹⁰ The princes of Judah have become
like those who move a boundary;^c

on them I will pour out

my wrath like water.

¹¹ Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgment,
because he was determined to follow
man's command.

¹² But I am like a moth to Ephraim,
and like rotteness to the house of Judah.

¹³ When Ephraim saw his sickness,
and Judah his wound,

then Ephraim went to Assyria,
and sent to the great king.^d

^a Meaning in his presence; has testified
against him

^b Lit house of iniquity

^c Judaeans farmers lived off their land, its
boundaries were marked with stones or
posts.

^d Or to King Jareb

But he is unable to heal you
or to cure you of your wound.^e

¹⁴ For I will be like a lion to Ephraim,
and like a young lion to the house
of Judah.

I, even I, will tear and go away;

I will carry off, and there will be none to
deliver.

¹⁵ I will go, I will return to my place,
until they acknowledge their guilt and
seek my face,

and in their distress earnestly seek me.

A Call to Return to Jehovah

6 Come, and let us return to Jehovah;

for he himself has torn us, but he will bind
us;

he has struck us down, and he will bind us
up.

² He will revive us after two days;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before his face.^f

³ Let us know, let us press on to know
Jehovah;

his going forth is sure as the dawn;

he will come to us like the rain,

as the spring rain watering the earth.^g

Ephraim^g (Israel) and Judah's Insincere Steadfast Love

⁴ What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?

What shall I do with you, O Judah?

Your love is like a morning cloud,

like the dew that goes early away.

⁵ Therefore I have hewn them in pieces by
the prophets;

I have slain them by the words of my

mouth,

and the judgment goes forth like the light.

⁶ For I delight steadfast love and not sacrifice,

^e Or ulcer

^f I.e. before his presence

^g As the most dominant tribe of the northern
kingdom of Israel, Ephraim came to stand for
the entire ten-tribe kingdom.



and knowledge of God rather than in whole burnt offerings.

Ephraim^a (Israel) and Judah's Shameful Conduct

⁷ But like men^b they transgressed the covenant;
 there they dealt faithlessly with me.
⁸ Gilead is a city of evildoers,
 tracked with footprints of blood.
⁹ And as robbers lie in wait for a man,
 so a band of priests;
 they murder on the way to Shechem;
 they have acted wickedly.^c
¹⁰ In the house of Israel I have seen a horrible thing;
 Ephraim's prostitution is there; Israel is defiled.

Judah's Guilt

¹¹ For you also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed,
 when I return my people from captivity.

Ephraim's^d (Israel's) Wickedness Described

7 When I would heal Israel,
 the iniquity of Ephraim is revealed,
 and the evil deeds of Samaria;
 for they deal falsely;
 the thief breaks in,
 and the bandits raid outside.

² But they do not say in their heart
 that I remember all their wickedness.

^a As the most dominant tribe of the northern kingdom of Israel, Ephraim came to stand for the entire ten-tribe kingdom.

^b Or Adam

^c **wickedness**, with a focus on behavior that is lewd, shameless in relation to sexual behavior (Lev 18:17; 19:29; 20:14^(2x); Jdg 20:6; Job 31:11; Jer 13:27; Eze 16:27–24:13 passim+)— DBL-H.

^d As the most dominant tribe of the northern kingdom of Israel, Ephraim came to stand for the entire ten-tribe kingdom.

Now their deeds are all around them;
 they are before my face.

³ By their wickedness they make the king glad,

and the princes by their lies.

⁴ They are all adulterers,
 they are like a heated oven^e
 whose baker ceases to stir the fire,
 from the kneading of the dough
 until it is leavened.

⁵ On the day of our king, the princes
 became sick with the heat of wine;
 he stretched out his hand with mockers.

⁶ For their hearts are like an oven as they
 approach with their intrigue;
 all night long their baker sleeps;^f
 in the morning it blazes like a flaming
 fire.^g

⁷ All of them are hot as an oven,
 and they devour their rulers.

All their kings have fallen;
 and none of them calls on me.

Ephraim^h (Israel) Mixes with Pagan People

⁸ Ephraim mixes himself with the nations;
 Ephraim is a bread cake not turned.

⁹ Strangers devour his strength,
 and he does not know it;
 also gray hairs are sprinkled on him,
 and he does not know it.

^e The adulterous Israelites were likened to a baker's heated oven because of the wicked passions burning within them.

^f The baker (likely a reference to the king) sleeps all night, something a baker does not do.

^g Even though the baker (the king) sleeps all night, his fire does not go out but rather is raging. This baker (the king) is negligent in his duties because of his debauchery with wine and "sleep," an allusion to the adultery mentioned in 7:4.

^h As the most dominant tribe of the northern kingdom of Israel, Ephraim came to stand for the entire ten-tribe kingdom.



¹⁰ The pride of Israel testifies to his face;
 yet they do not return to Jehovah their
 God,
 and they have not sought him in all this.

**Apostate Ephraim^a (Israel) foolishly
 placing Their confidence in Pagan
 Nations**

¹¹ Ephraim is like a dove,
 silly and without heart,^b
 they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria.

¹² As they go, I will spread my net over
 them;

I will bring them down like the birds of
 the heavens;

I will discipline them according to the
 report to their assembly.

¹³ Woe to them, for they have strayed from
 me!

Destruction to them, for they have
 rebelled against me!

I would redeem them,
 but they speak lies against me.

Failure to Return to Pure Worship

¹⁴ They do not cry to me from their heart,
 but they wail on their beds;
 for grain and wine they assemble themselves;
 they turn aside from me.

¹⁵ Although I trained and strengthened their
 arms,
 yet they devise evil against me.

¹⁶ They turn, but not upward;
 they are like a treacherous bow;
 their princes will fall by the sword
 because of the indignation of their tongue.
 This will be their derision in the land of
 Egypt.

^a As the most dominant tribe of the northern
 kingdom of Israel, Ephraim came to stand for
 the entire ten-tribe kingdom.

^b I.e. *lacking good sense*

**Israel Will Reap the Consequences of
 Idolatry**

8 Put to your lips the trumpet!
 One like a vulture is over the house of
 Jehovah,
 because they have transgressed my covenant
 and rebelled against my law.

² They cry out to me,
 "My God, we of Israel know You!"

³ Israel has spurned the good;
 the enemy shall pursue him.

⁴ They made kings, but not through me.
 They set up princes, but I did not know it.
 With their silver and gold they made idols
 for themselves,

that they might be cut off.

⁵ He has spurned your calf, O Samaria;
 my anger burns against them.
 How long will they be incapable of
 innocence?

⁶ For it is from Israel;
 a craftsman made it;
 it is not God;
 The calf of Samaria
 will be broken to splinters.

Sowing Wind, Reaping a Storm

⁷ For they sow the wind,
 and they shall reap the whirlwind.

The standing grain has no heads;
 it will yield no flour;
 if it were to yield,
 strangers would swallow it.

⁸ Israel is swallowed up;
 already they are among the nations
 like a vessel in which there is no delight.

⁹ For they have gone up to Assyria,
 a wild donkey going alone;
 Ephraim has hired lovers.

¹⁰ Even though they hire allies among the
 nations,

Now I will soon gather them up.
 And they will begin to suffer for a while
 because of the burden of the king of
 princes.



God Will Remember Israel's Sin

- 11** Because Ephraim has multiplied altars for sinning,
they have become to him altars for sinning.
- 12** Were I to write for him my laws by the ten thousands,
they are regarded as a strange thing.
- 13** As for my sacrificial gifts,
they sacrifice the flesh and eat it,
but Jehovah does not accept them.
Now he will remember their iniquity
and punish their sins;
they shall return to Egypt.

Israel has forgotten his Maker

- 14** For Israel has forgotten his Maker
and built palaces,
and Judah has multiplied fortified cities;
so I will send a fire on his cities,
and it will devour her strongholds.

Ephraim's Sins Lead to Rejection by God

- 9** Do not rejoice, O Israel,
do not exult like the nations!
For by prostitution you have strayed from your God;
You have loved the wages of a prostitute
on every threshing floor of grain.
- 2** Threshing floor and winepress will not feed them,
and the new wine will fail her.^a
- 3** They will not remain in the land of Jehovah,
but Ephraim shall return to Egypt,
and in Assyria they will eat unclean food.
- 4** They will not pour drink offerings of wine to Jehovah,
and their sacrifices will not please him.
They are like the bread of mourning;
all those eating it will defile themselves;

^a I.e. *Israel*

for their bread shall be for their soul only;^b
it will not come into the house of Jehovah.

- 5** What will you do on the day of the appointed festival,
and on the day of the feast of Jehovah?
- 6** For look! they will have to flee because of destruction;
but Egypt will gather them;
Memphis will bury them.
Nettles will possess their precious things of silver;
thorns will be in their tents.

- 7** The days of punishment have come;
the days of retribution have come;
Israel will know it.
The prophet is a fool;
the man of the spirit is mad,^c
because your error is abundant
the animosity against you is abundant.
- 8** The watchman of Ephraim was with my God;
yet now all the ways of his prophets are as the traps of a birdcatcher,
and animosity in the house of his God.
- 9** They have deeply corrupted themselves
as in the days of Gibeah;
he will remember their error;
he will punish their sins.

Child Mortality Rate Will Soar

- 10** Like grapes in the wilderness,
I found Israel.
Like the first fruit on the fig tree
in its first season,
I saw your fathers.
But they came to Baal-peor
and consecrated themselves to the thing of shame,
and became detestable like the thing they loved.

^b Or *for their bread will be for themselves alone*

^c To act like a man man or a demented person, manifesting or displaying irrational and unpredictable behavior



- 11 Ephraim's glory flies away like a bird;
no birth, no pregnancy, no conception!
- 12 Even though they bring up their children,
I will bereave them until no man is left.
Woe to them indeed
when I depart from them!
- 13 Ephraim, planted in a pasture, was to me
like Tyre;
Now Ephraim must bring his sons out to
the slaughter.
- 14 Give them, O Jehovah,
what will you give?
Give them a miscarrying womb
and dry breasts.
- 15 All their wickedness was in Gilgal;
for there I came to hate them.
Because of the wickedness of their deeds
I will drive them out of my house.
I will love them no more;
all their princes are rebels.
- 16 Ephraim is stricken;
their root is dried up;
they shall bear no fruit.
Even though they give birth,
I will put their beloved children to death.
- 17 My God will reject them
because they have not listened to him;
they shall be wanderers among the
nations.

Israel, a Degenerate Vine, Will Be Ruined

- 10 Israel is a luxuriant vine
that yields its fruit.
The more his fruit increased,
the more altars he made;
the better his land produces,
the more splendid his sacred pillars.
- 2 Their heart is false;
now they must bear their guilt.
Jehovah will break down their altars
and destroy their sacred pillars.

Breaking the Covenant

- 3 For now they will say:
"We have no king,

- for we do not fear Jehovah;
and a king, what could he do for us?"
- 4 They utter mere words;
with empty oaths they make covenants;
so judgment springs up like poisonous weeds
in the furrows of the field.

Her Idols Will Be Destroyed

- 5 The inhabitants of Samaria tremble
for the calf of Beth-aven.
Indeed, its people will mourn for it, and so
do its idolatrous priests,
those who rejoiced over it and over it and
its glory,
because it has departed from it.
- 6 The thing itself shall be carried to Assyria
as tribute to the great king.
Ephraim will be put to shame,
and Israel will be ashamed of its own
counsel.
- 7 Samaria and her king will be cut off
like a twig on the face of the waters.
- 8 The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel,
shall be destroyed.
Thorn and thistle shall grow up
on their altars,
and they shall say to the mountains, "Cover
us,"
and to the hills, "Fall on us."

Israel's Defeat because of Sin

- 9 From the days of Gibeah, you have sinned,
O Israel;
there they have stood.
Will not war overtake the sons of
unrighteousness in Gibeah?
- 10 In my desire I will punish them,
and nations shall be gathered against them
when their two errors are bound on
them.^a
- 11 Ephraim was a trained calf
that loved to thresh,
and I spared her fair neck;

^a I.e., when they bear their punishment like a yoke



I will put Ephraim to the yoke;
 Judah must plow;
 Jacob must harrow for himself.
 12 Sow for yourselves righteousness;
 reap loyal love;
 break up your fallow ground,
 for it is the time to seek Jehovah,
 that he may come and 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 own way
 and in the multitude of your warriors,
 14 therefore the tumult of war will arise
 among your people,
 and all your fortresses will be destroyed,
 as Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel on the day
 of battle;
 mothers were dashed in pieces with their
 children.

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

**God's Love for Israel from His
 Boyhood**

11 When Israel was a child, I loved him,
 and out of Egypt I called my son.
 2 The more they^a called them,
 the more they went from them;
 they kept sacrificing to the Baals
 and burning offerings to idols.

3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;
 I took them up by their arms,
 but they did not know that I healed them.

4 I led them with cords a man,
 with the bands of love,
 and I became to them as one who lifts the
 yoke from their jaws,
 and I bent down to them and fed them.

**God's Case Against Israel – Their
 Suffering**

5 They will not return to the land of Egypt,
 but Assyria will be their king,
 because they have refused to return to
 me.

6 And a sword will whirl against his cities,
 consume the bars of their gates,
 and devour them because of their own
 counsels.

7 My people are bent on turning away from
 me,
 and though they call out to the Most
 High,
 he will not raise them up 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 turned over within me;
 my compassions have grown tender.

9 I will not execute my fierce anger;
 I will not again destroy Ephraim;
 for I am God and not a man,
 the Holy One in your midst,
 and I will not come in wrath.

10 They will walk after Jehovah;
 he will roar like a lion;
 when he roars,
 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 return them to their homes,
 declares Jehovah.

Israel's History

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

Ephraim Should Return to Jehovah

12 Ephraim feeds on the wind

^a I.e. God's prophets



and pursues the east wind all day long;
 he multiplies falsehood and violence;
 they make a covenant with Assyria,
 and oil is carried to Egypt.
 The Lord's Indictment of Israel and Judah

Jehovah's Indictment of Israel and Judah

² Jehovah also has a dispute with Judah
 and will punish Jacob according to his
 ways;
 he will repay him according to his deeds.

Jacob Contended with God

³ In the womb he took his brother by the
 heel,
 and in his manhood he contended with
 God.

Jacob Wept to Get God's Favor

⁴ He wrestled with the angel and prevailed;
 he wept and sought his favor.
 He met him^a at Bethel,
 and there He spoke with us,

⁵ Jehovah the God of armies,
 Jehovah is his memorial name:

⁶ "But you, you must return to your God;
 hold fast to love and justice,
 and wait continually for your God."

Confess and Forsake Your Sin

⁷ A merchant, in whose hands are deceptive
 scales,
 he loves to oppress.

⁸ Ephraim keeps saying, 'Indeed, I have
 become rich;

I have found wealth for myself;
 in all my labors they have not found guilt in
 me
 that is sin."

⁹ I am Jehovah your God
 from the land of Egypt;
 I will again make you dwell in tents,
 as in the days of the appointed festival.

Judgment on Apostate Israel

¹⁰ I spoke to the prophets;
 I myself multiplied visions,
 and through the prophets I gave parables.

¹¹ If there is evil in Gilead,
 they will surely come to nothing;
 in Gilgal they sacrifice bulls;
 their altars also are like stone heaps
 on the furrows of the field.

¹² Jacob fled to the land of Aram;
 there Israel served for a wife,
 and for a wife he kept sheep.

¹³ And by a prophet Jehovah brought Israel
 up from Egypt,
 and by a prophet he was kept.

¹⁴ Ephraim has provoked to bitter anger;
 so Jehovah will leave his bloodguilt on
 him
 and will repay his reproach to him.

Idolatrous Ephraim Forgot Jehovah

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

² And now they sin more and more,
 and make for themselves metal images,
 idols skillfully made of their silver,
 all of them the work of craftsmen.

To them they say,
 "Those who offer human sacrifice kiss
 calves!"

³ Therefore they shall be like the morning
 mist
 or like dew of early morning going away,
 like chaff blown from the threshing floor by
 a storm
 or like smoke from a window.

Death and Resurrection

⁴ But I am Jehovah your God
 from the land of Egypt;
 you know no God but me,
 and besides me there is no savior.

⁵ I who knew you in the wilderness,

^a I.e. God



in the land of drought.
⁶ They were satisfied with their pastures,
 they were satisfied and their heart became
 proud;
 and so they forgot me.
⁷ So I will be like a lion to them;
 like a leopard lurking along the way.
⁸ I will come upon them like a bear robbed
 of her cubs;
 I will rip open their chest,^a
 and there I will devour them like a lion,
 as a wild beast of the field would rip them
 open.
⁹ It will destroy you, O Israel,
 for you turned against me, against your
 helper.
¹⁰ Where now is your king, that he may save
 you in all your cities,
 Where are all your judges,
 of whom you said,
 "Give me a king and princes"?
¹¹ I gave you a king in my anger,
 and I took him away in my wrath.
¹² The error of Ephraim is bound up;
 his sin is stored up.
¹³ The pangs of childbirth come for him,
 but he is an unwise son,
 it is the time that he should not delay
 at the breaking forth of sons.
¹⁴ Shall I ransom them from the hand of
 Sheol?
 Shall I redeem them from Death?
 O Death, where are your destruction?
 O Sheol, where is your sting?
 Compassion will be hidden from my eyes.

The Coming Judgment

¹⁵ Though he may flourish among the reeds,
 the east wind, the wind of Jehovah, shall
 come,
 rising from the wilderness,
 and his fountain will dry up;
 his spring will be parched;

^a Lit *the enclosure of their heart*

it will plunder his treasury
 of all desirable articles.
¹⁶ Samaria will be guilty,
 because she has rebelled against her God;
 they will fall by the sword;
 their little ones shall be dashed in pieces,
 and their pregnant women ripped open.^b

A Plea to Return to Jehovah

14 Return, O Israel, to Jehovah your God,
 for you have stumbled because of your
 error.
² Take words with you
 and return to Jehovah;
 say to him,
 "Take away all error;
 accept what is good,
 and we will offer with bulls
 the praise of our lips.^c
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;
 for in you the orphan finds mercy."

Healing of Israel's Unfaithfulness

⁴ I will heal their apostasy;
 I will love them freely,
 for my anger has turned from them.
⁵ I will be like the dew to Israel;
 he will blossom like the lily;
 he will take root like the trees of Lebanon;
⁶ his shoots will spread out;
 his beauty will be like the olive tree,
 and his fragrance like that of Lebanon.
⁷ They will again dwell in his shadow;
 they will grow grain;
 and will blossom like the vine;
 his remembrance^d will be like the wine of
 Lebanon.
⁸ O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?
 It is I who answer and look after you.

^b Hosea 13:16 is 14:1 in the Hebrew

^c Lit *offer in return the young bulls of our lips*

^d I.e. *fame*



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 Jehovah are right,
and the righteous walk in them,
but transgressors stumble in them.