

Chapter 1

(1) The word of the LORD {Jehovah} that came to Hosea {deliverer},^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.^b

(2) The beginning of the word of the LORD {Jehovah} by Hosea. And the LORD {Jehovah} said to Hosea, **Go, take to yourself a wife of prostitution and children of prostitution: because the land has committed great prostitution, departing from the LORD {Jehovah}.**

(3) So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; who conceived, and gave birth to him a son.

(4) And the LORD {Jehovah} said to him, **Call his name Jezreel {God will scatter};^c because in yet a little *while*, I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel.**

(5) And it will come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel {God will scatter}.

(6) And she conceived again, and gave birth to a daughter. And *God* said to him, **Call her name Loruhamah {no mercy};^d because I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly {completely} take them away.**

(7) **But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the LORD {Jehovah} their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.**

(8) Now when she had weaned Loruhamah, she conceived, and gave birth to a son.

(9) Then *God* said, **Call his name Loammi {not My people};^e because you *are* not My people, and I will not be your *God*.**

(10) Yet the number of the children of Israel will be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it will come to pass, *that* in the place where it was said to them, *You are* not My people, *there* it shall be said to them, *You are* the sons of the living God.

1:1a - Hosea {הוֹשֵׁעַ} - deliverer

1:1b - Uzziah's reign ends [3371 A.H./C-671 B.C.] after reign of 52 years - See Is. 6:1
 Jotham's reign ends [3386 A.H./C-656 B.C.] after reign of 16 years. Ahaz reign ends [3402 A.H./C-640 B.C.] after reign of 16 years. Hezekiah co-reigns with his father Ahaz [3400 A.H./C-642 B.C.] 2 years. Hezekiah begins sole reign upon death of his father [3402 A.H./C-640 B.C.] - 4 years before end of Northern Kingdom of Israel - 118 years before captivity of Southern Kingdom of Judah - See Isaiah 1:1. See Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History.

1:4c - Jezreel {יִזְרְעֵאל} - God will sow or scatter - When Assyria conquered Israel in 3406 A.H./C-636 B.C. - the northern kingdom of Israel was literally scattered all over the known world by the Assyrians, who normally took people from conquered areas and re-settled them far away from each other to prevent future rebellions.

1:6d - Loruhamah {לֹא רַחֲמֵי} - no mercy

1:9e - Loammi {לֹא עַמִּי} - not My people

(11) Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel^f will be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they will come up out of the land: because great *will be* the day of Jezreel.^g

Chapter 2

(1) Say to your brothers, Ammi {My people};^a and to your sisters, Ruhamah {obtained mercy}.^b

(2) Plead with your mother, plead: because she is not My wife, neither *am* I her Husband: let her therefore put away her prostitution out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts;

(3) 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 kill her with thirst.

(4) And I will not have mercy upon her children; because they *are* the children of prostitution.

(5) Because their mother has played the prostitute: she who has conceived them has done shamefully: because she said, I will go after my lovers, who give *me* my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.

(6) Therefore, indeed, I will hedge up your way with thorns, and make a wall, that she will not find her paths.

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

(8) But 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 I will return, and take away My corn in its time, and My wine in its season, and will recover My wool and My flax *given* to cover her nakedness.

(10) And now I will uncover her nakedness in the sight of her lovers, and no one shall deliver her out of My hand.

(11) I will also cause all her joy to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths {Saturdays}, and all her solemn feasts.

(12) And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, of which she has 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, in which she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot Me, says the LORD {Jehovah}.

(14) Therefore, indeed, I will lure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably to her.

(15) And I will give her her vineyards from there, and the valley of 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.

1:11f - children of Judah - the southern kingdom of Judah which actually consisted of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin - the children of Israel - the northern kingdom of Israel which consisted of the other ten tribes of Israel which came to be known as the Lost Tribes of Israel. -- Following the death of king Solomon, Israel was split into the two kingdoms.

1:11g - the day of Jezreel {God will disperse} - known in the New Testament as the Second Coming of the Lord on the day of Armageddon at the end of Daniel's last seven years known as the time of Jacob's Trouble {Jer. 30:7} - see 1:4

2:1a - Ammi {עמי} - My people

2:1b - Ruhamah {רחמה} - obtained mercy

(16) And it shall be at that day, says the LORD {Jehovah}, *that* you shall call Me Ishi {my Husband};^c and shall no more call me Baali {my Baal}.^d

(17) Because 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 birds of heaven, and *with* the crawling things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will cause them to lie down safely.

(19) And I will wed you to Myself forever; yes, I will wed you to Myself in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving kindness, and in mercies.

(20) I will even wed you to Myself in faithfulness: and you will know the LORD {Jehovah}.

(21) And it will come to pass in that day, I will hear, says the LORD {Jehovah}, I will hear the heavens, and they will hear the earth;

(22) And the earth will hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they will hear Jezreel.

(23) And I will sow her to Myself in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her who had not obtained mercy; and I will say to *those who were* not My people, *You are* My people; and they will say, *You are* my God.

Chapter 3

(1) Then the LORD {Jehovah} said to me, Go again, love a woman who is loved by *her* friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD {Jehovah} towards the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love bottles of wine.

(2) So I bought her for myself for fifteen *pieces* of silver,^a and *for* one and a half homers of barley {about 9 bushels or 80 gal.; 222L.}:

(3) And I said to her, You shall live for me many days; you shall not play the prostitute, and you shall not be for *another* man: so I *will* also *be* for you.

(4) Because the children of Israel shall live many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image,^b and without an ephod {priestly robe},^c and *without* family idol:^d

(5) Afterward the children of Israel will return, and seek the LORD {Jehovah} their God, and David their king; and will fear the LORD {Jehovah} and His goodness in the latter days.

Chapter 4

(1) Hear the word of the LORD {Jehovah}, you children of Israel: because the LORD {Jehovah} has a controversy with those who live in the land, because *there is* no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

2:16c - Ishi {אִשִּׁי} - my husband

2:16d - Baali {בַּעֲלִי} - my Baal - a pagan deity

3:2a - 15 pieces of silver - according to Ex. 21:32 the common price for a slave was 30 pieces of silver. A homer = 10 ephahs = 222 liters = 6.25 bushels so - 1 1/2 homers was about 9 bushels or about 80 gallons. - see [Appendix J: Bible Weights and Measures](#)

Gomer apparently left Hosea and returned to prostitution. Probably due to her indebtedness, she was now being sold as a slave. Female slaves were commonly stripped naked for public auction. Hosea now goes and buys her back for a little more than half the price of a normal slave. Apparently, she, like Israel, is no longer attractive enough to sell for the normal price. Hosea demonstrates God's love for Israel by buying his wife back from slavery in spite of her infidelity and unattractiveness.

3:4b - image - handmade god

3:4c - ephod - priestly robe

3:4d - teraphim {תְּרָפִים} - family idol

(2) By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out *{against the Lord's commandments}*, and murders are everywhere.

(3) Therefore the land will mourn, and everyone who lives in it will die, with the beasts of the field, and with the birds of heaven; yes, the fish of the sea also will be taken away.

(4) Yet let no man strive with, nor reprove another: because your people *are* as those who strive with the priest.

(5) Therefore you will fall in the day, and the prophet also will fall 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 will also reject you, that you will be no priest to Me: since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.

(7) As they were increased, so they sinned against Me: *therefore* will I change their glory into shame.

(8) They enjoy the sin of My people, and they set their hearts on their evil. (9) And it will be the same for the people and the priests: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them according to their deeds.

(10) Because they will eat, and not have enough: they will commit prostitution, and will not increase: because they have quit taking heed of the LORD {Jehovah}.

(11) Prostitution and wine and new wine take away the heart.

(12) My people ask counsel at their wooden idols, and their staff declares to them: because the spirit of prostitution has caused *them* to err, and they have gone prostituting leaving their God.

(13) They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because its shadow *is* good: therefore your daughters will commit prostitution, and your spouses will commit adultery.

(14) I will not punish your daughters when they commit prostitution, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: because they themselves are separated with prostitutes, and they sacrifice with prostitutes: therefore the people *who* do not understand will fall.

(15) Though you, Israel, play the prostitute, *yet* do not let Judah take offense; and do not come to Gilgal, neither go up to Bethaven, nor swear, The LORD {Jehovah} lives.

(16) Because Israel slides back as a backsliding heifer: now the LORD {Jehovah} will feed them as a lamb in a large place.

(17) Ephraim *is* joined to idols: let him alone.

(18) Their drink is sour: they have committed prostitution continually: her rulers shamefully make love, admit it.

(19) The wind has bound her up in her wings, and they will be ashamed because of their sacrifices.

Chapter 5

(1) Hear this, O priests; and listen, you house of Israel; and pay attention, O house of the king; because judgment *is* towards you, because you have been a snare on Mizpah, and a net spread upon Tabor.^a

(2) And the revolters are profound to make slaughter, though I *have been* a rebuker of them all.

(3) I know Ephraim,^b and Israel is not hid from Me: because now, O Ephraim, you commit prostitution, *and* Israel is defiled.

5:1a - Mizpah and Tabor were places of worship which defiled God's laws and have not taught His ways
5:3b - Ephraim - another name for the northern kingdom of Israel - see Hosea 7:1

(4) They will not constrain their deeds to turn to their God: because the spirit of prostitution *is* in their midst, and they have not known the LORD {Jehovah}.

(5) And the pride of Israel testifies to his face: therefore Israel and Ephraim will fall in their evil deeds; Judah also will fall with them.

(6) They will go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD {Jehovah}; but they will not find *Him*; He has withdrawn Himself from them.

(7) They have dealt treacherously against the LORD {Jehovah}: because they have given birth to illegitimate children: now a month will devour them with their portions.

(8) Blow the cornet in Gibeah, *and* the trumpet in Ramah: cry aloud *at* Bethaven, after you, O Benjamin.

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

(10) The princes of Judah were like those who remove the boundaries:^c *therefore* I will pour out My wrath {anger; judgment} upon them like water.

(11) Ephraim *is* oppressed *and* broken in judgment, because he willingly walked after the commandment.

(12) Therefore I *will be* to Ephraim as a moth, and to the house of Judah as rottenness.

(13) When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah *saw* his wound, then Ephraim went to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet he could not heal you, nor cure you of your wound.

(14) Because I *will be* to 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 no one will rescue *him*.

(15) I will go *and* return to My place, until they acknowledge their offense, and seek My face: in their affliction they will seek Me early.

Chapter 6

(1) Come, and let us return to the LORD {Jehovah}: because He has torn, and He will heal us; He has stricken, and He will bind us up.

(2) After two days He will revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we will live in His sight.

(3) Then we will know, *if* we continue to know the LORD {Jehovah}: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He will come to us as the rain, as the latter *and* former rain to the earth.

(4) O Ephraim, what shall I do to you? O Judah, what shall I do to you? because your goodness *is* as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goes away.

(5) Therefore I have cut *them* down by the prophets; I have killed them by the words of My mouth: and your judgments *are as* the light *that* goes forth.

(6) Because I desired mercy,^a and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

(7) But they like men have sinned against the covenant: there they have dealt treacherously against Me.

(8) Gilead *is* a city of those who do evil, *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: because they commit shameful acts.

(10) I have seen a horrible thing in the house of Israel: there *is* the prostitution of Ephraim, Israel is defiled.

5:10c - those who remove boundaries - boundaries were markers which showed where one person's property started and another's ended. Those who removed boundaries were guilty of stealing land that did not belong to them.
6:6a - mercy - Mat. 5:7; Mat. 9:13; Mat. 12:7

(11) Also, O Judah, he has set a harvest for you, when I returned the captivity of My people.

Chapter 7

(1) When I would have healed Israel, then the evil of Ephraim was uncovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: because they commit falsehood; and the thief comes inside, *and* the troop of robbers spoils outside.

(2) And they do not consider in their hearts *that* I remember all their wickedness: now their own deeds have come upon them; 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* ceases from raising after he has kneaded the dough, until it is 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) Because they have made their hearts ready like an oven, while they lie in wait: their baker sleeps all the night; in the morning it burns as a flaming fire.

(7) They are all hot as an oven, and have devoured their judges; all their kings are fallen: *there is* no one among them who calls to Me.

(8) Ephraim, he has mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned.

(9) Strangers have devoured his strength, and he does not know *it*: yes, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he does not know.

(10) And the pride of Israel testifies to his face: and they do not return to the LORD {Jehovah} their God, nor for all this do they seek Him.

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

(12) When they shall go, I will spread My net upon them; I will bring them down as the birds of the heaven; I will chastise them, as their congregation has heard.

(13) Woe to them! because they have fled from Me: destruction to them! because they have sinned against Me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against Me.

(14) And they have not cried to Me with their hearts, 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 they imagine mischief against Me.

(16) They return, *but* not to the most High: they are like a deceitful bow: their princes will fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue: this *will be* their derision in the land of Egypt.

Chapter 8

(1) *Put* the trumpet to your mouth. *He will come* as an eagle against the house {temple} of the LORD {Jehovah}, because they have sinned against My covenant, and turned away from My law.

(2) Israel will cry to me, My God, we know You.

(3) Israel has cast off *the thing that is good*: the enemy will pursue him.

(4) They have set up kings, but not by Me: they have made princes, and I did not know *it*: of their silver and their gold they have made for themselves idols, that they may be cut off.

(5) Your calf, O Samaria, has cast *you* off; My anger is kindled against them: how long *will it be* before they attain to innocence?

(6) Because it was also from Israel: the workman made it; therefore it *is* not God: but the calf of Samaria^a will be broken in pieces.

8:6a – calf of Samaria – I Ki. 12:28; Ex. 32:4

(7) Because they have sown the wind, and they will reap the whirlwind: it has no stalk: the bud will yield no meal: if it happens that it does yield, the strangers will swallow it up.
(8) Israel is swallowed up: now they shall be among the Gentiles {non-Jews; nations} as a vessel in which is no pleasure.
(9) Because they have gone up to Assyria, a wild donkey alone by himself: Ephraim has hired lovers.^b
(10) Yes, though they have hired among the nations, now I will gather them, and they will sorrow a little for the burden of the king of princes.
(11) Because Ephraim has made many altars to sin, altars will be to him to sin.
(12) I have written to him the great things of My law, *but* they were counted as a strange thing.
(13) They sacrifice meat *for* the sacrifices of My offerings, and eat *it*; *but* the LORD {Jehovah} does not accept them; now He will remember their evil deeds, and visit their sins: they will return to Egypt.
(14) Because Israel has forgotten his Maker, and builds temples; and Judah has multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it will devour its palaces.

Chapter 9

(1) Do not rejoice, for joy, O Israel, as *other* people: because you have gone prostituting away from your God, you have loved a reward upon every corn floor.
(2) The floor and the wine press will not feed them, and the new wine will fail in her.
(3) They shall not live in the LORD's {Jehovah's} land; but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean *things* in Assyria.

(4) They will not offer wine *offerings* to the LORD {Jehovah}, neither will they be pleasing to Him: their sacrifices *will be* to them as the bread of mourners; all who eat of it will be polluted: because their bread for their soul will not come into the house {temple} of the LORD {Jehovah}.
(5) What will you do in the solemn day, and in the day of the feast of the LORD {Jehovah}?
(6) Because, indeed, they are gone because of destruction: Egypt will gather them up, Memphis will bury them: the pleasant *places* for their silver, nettles will possess them: thorns *will be* in their tabernacles.
(7) The days of visitation have come, the days of payment have come; Israel will know *it*: the prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad, because the multitude of your evil deeds, and the great hatred.
(8) The watchman of Ephraim *was* with My God: *but* the prophet is a trap of a fowler {bird trapper}^a in all his ways, and hatred in the house {temple} of his God.
(9) They have deeply corrupted *themselves*, as in the days of Gibeah: *therefore* He will remember their evil deeds, He will visit their sins.
(10) I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the first ripe in the fig tree at her first time: *but* they went to Baalpeor, and separated themselves to *that* shame; and *their* abominations were according as they loved.
(11) *As for* Ephraim, their glory will fly away like a bird, from the birth, and from the womb, and from the conception.
(12) Though they bring up their children, yet I will cause them to mourn for them, *that there will not be* a man *left*: yes, woe also to them when I depart from them!

8:9b - unlike normal prostitutes who charge for their services, Israel pays men to make love to her

9:8a - a fowler is a person who traps birds to sell

(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 {Jehovah}: what will You give? give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.
(15) All their wickedness is in Gilgal: because there I hated them: for the wickedness of their deeds I will drive them out of My house {temple}, I will love them no more: all their princes are revolvers.
(16) Ephraim is stricken, their root is dried up, they will bear no fruit: yes, though they bring forth, yet I will kill *even* the beloved fruit of their womb.
(17) My God will cast them away, because they did not listen to Him: and they will be wanderers among the nations.

Chapter 10

(1) Israel is an empty vine, he brings forth fruit to himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he has increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images.
(2) Their heart is divided; now they will be found faulty: He will break down their altars, He will spoil their images.
(3) Because now they will say, We have no king, because we did not fear {revere} the LORD {Jehovah}; what then should a king do to us?
(4) They have spoken words, swearing falsely in making a covenant: therefore judgment springs up as hemlock in the furrows of the field.
(5) Those who live in Samaria will fear because of the calves of Bethaven: because its people will mourn over it, and its priests *who* rejoiced on it, because its glory has departed from it.
(6) It will be also carried to Assyria *for* a present to king Jareb: Ephraim will receive shame, and Israel will 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, will be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle will come up on their altars; and they will 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 evil deeds did not overtake them.
(10) *It is* in My desire that I should punish them; and the people will be gathered against them, when they will bind themselves in their two furrows.
(11) And Ephraim is as a heifer *that is* taught, *and* loves to tread out *the corn*; but I passed over upon her fair neck: I will make Ephraim to ride; Judah will plow, *and* Jacob will break his clods.
(12) Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow {unsown} ground: because *it is* time to seek the LORD {Jehovah}, until He comes and rains righteousness upon you.
(13) You have plowed wickedness, you have reaped evil; you have eaten the fruit of lies: because you trusted in your own way, in the multitude of your mighty men.
(14) Therefore a storm will arise among your people, and all your fortresses will be spoiled, as Shalman spoiled Betharbel in the day of battle: the mother was dashed in pieces upon *her* children.
(15) So Bethel will do to you because of your great wickedness: in a morning the king of Israel will be completely cut off.

Chapter 11

(1) When Israel *was* a child, then I loved him, and called My son out of Egypt.^a
(2) As they called them, so they went from them: they sacrificed to Baalim, and burned incense to graven images.

11:1a – out of Egypt I called My Son – Mat. 2:15

(3) I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms; but they did not know that I healed them.
(4) I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as those who take off the yoke on their jaws, and I gave to them food.
(5) He will not return into the land of Egypt, but the Assyrian will be his king, because they refused to return.
(6) And the sword will stay on his cities, and will 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, no one at all would exalt *Him*.
(8) How shall I give you up, Ephraim? *how* shall I deliver you, Israel? how shall I make you as Admah?^b *how* shall I set you as Zeboim?^c My heart has turned inside Me, My desire to change My judgments are kindled together.
(9) I will not execute the fierceness of My anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: because I *am* God, and not man; the Holy One in your midst: and I will not enter into the city.
(10) They will walk after the LORD {Jehovah}: He will roar like a lion: when He roars, then the children will tremble from the west.
(11) They will 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, says the LORD {Jehovah}.
(12) Ephraim encircles me with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit: but Judah still rules with God, and is faithful with the saints.

Chapter 12

(1) Ephraim feeds on wind, and follows after the east wind: he daily increases lies and desolation; and they make a covenant with the Assyrians, and oil is carried into Egypt.
(2) The LORD {Jehovah} has also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his deeds He will pay him.
(3) He took his brother by the heel in the womb,^a and by his strength he had power with God:
(4) Yes, he had power over the angel, and prevailed:^b he wept, and made requests to Him: he found Him *in* Bethel, and there He spoke with us;
(5) Even the LORD {Jehovah} God of hosts {multitudes; armies}; the LORD {Jehovah} *is* his memorial.
(6) Therefore turn to your God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on your God continually.
(7) *He is* a merchant, the balances of deceit *are* in his hand: he loves to oppress.
(8) And Ephraim said, Yet I have become rich, I have found my own substance: *in* all my labors they will find no evil in me that *is* sin.
(9) And I *Who am* the LORD {Jehovah} your God from the land of Egypt will yet cause you to live in tabernacles {tents}, as in the days of the solemn feast.
(10) I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used parables, by the ministry of the prophets.
(11) *Is there* evil *in* Gilead? surely they are vanity: they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal; yes, their altars *are* as heaps in the furrows of the fields.

11:8b - Admah - earthy - a place near the dead
11:8c - Zeboim - gazelles - a place in Palestine
12:3a - Gen. 25:26
12:4b - Gen. 32:24-30

(12) And Jacob fled into the country of Syria, and Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he kept *sheep*.^c

(13) And by a prophet the LORD {Jehovah} brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet he was preserved.

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

Chapter 13

(1) When Ephraim spoke trembling, he exalted himself in Israel; but when he offended in Baal, he died.

(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 who sacrifice kiss the calves.

(3) Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew that passes 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 {Jehovah} your God from the land of Egypt, and you shall know no god but Me: because *there is* no savior besides Me.

(5) I knew you 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 they have forgotten Me.

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

(8) I will meet them as a bear *that is* bereaved of *her cubs*, and will tear the muscle of their hearts, and there I will devour them like a lion: the wild beast will tear them.

(9) O Israel, you have destroyed yourself; but in Me *is* your help.

(10) I will be your King: where in all your cities *is any other* who may save you? and your judges of 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 {anger; judgment}.

(12) The evil of Ephraim *is* bound up; his sin *is* hidden.

(13) The sorrows of a woman in child birth shall come upon him: he *is* an unwise son; because he should not stay long in *the place* of the birth of children.

(14) 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: repentance will be hidden from My eyes.

(15) Though he is fruitful among *his* brothers, an east wind will come, the wind of the LORD {Jehovah} will come up from the wilderness, and his spring will become dry, and his fountain will be dried up: he will spoil the treasure of all pleasant vessels.

(16) Samaria will become desolate; because she has rebelled against her God: they will fall by the sword: their infants will be dashed in pieces, and their pregnant women will be ripped up.

Chapter 14

(1) O Israel, return to the LORD {Jehovah} your God; because you have fallen because of your evil deeds.

(2) Take with you words, and turn to the LORD {Jehovah}: say to Him, Take away all evil, and receive *us* graciously: so we will give the calves {sacrifices} of our lips {praise}.

(3) Asshur will not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, *You are* our gods: because in You the fatherless find mercy.

(4) I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: because My anger is turned away from him.

12:12c – Gen. 29:18f

{28} Hosea

(5) I will be as the dew to Israel: he will grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.

(6) His branches will spread, and his beauty will be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon.

(7) Those who live under His shadow will return; they will revive *as* the corn, and grow as the vine: its scent *will be* as the wine of Lebanon.

(8) Ephraim *will say*, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard *him*, and observed him: I *am* like a green fir tree. From Me your fruit is found.

(9) Who *is* wise, and he will understand these *things?* prudent, and he will know them? because the ways of the LORD {Jehovah} *are* right, and the just will walk in them: but the sinners will fall in them.

