***Studying the Northern Kingdom Prophets”—Hosea 8-9***

***Hosea 8 – Sow the Wind, Reap the Whirlwind***

**Historically, this warning by Hosea was fulfilled in the invasion of Tiglath-Pileser III, 734-733 B.C., and the conquest of Shalmaneser in 722 B.C., when Samaria finally fell. (2 Kings 15:29, “**In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abelbethmaachah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria,” **and 17:1-6, “**In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years. 2And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him. 3Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant, and gave him presents. 4And the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea: for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and brought no present to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year: therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison. 5Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years. 6In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.”**) In 722 B.C., the Northern Kingdom fell. Hosea explains that this is coming!! He is a contemporary of Amos.**

**8:1-6, “Set the trumpet to your mouth! *He shall come* like an eagle against the house of the Lord, because they have transgressed My covenant and rebelled against My law. Israel will cry to Me, My God, we know You! Israel has rejected the good; the enemy will pursue him. They set up kings, but not by Me; they made princes, but I did not acknowledge *them.* From their silver and gold they made idols for themselves; that they might be cut off. Your calf is rejected, O Samaria! My anger is aroused against them; how long until they attain to innocence? For from Israel *is* even this: A workman made it, and it *is* not God; but the calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces.”**

1. **Discuss the “trumpet” reference. Set the trumpet to your mouth!** Trumpets were used to assemble God’s people and to call troops to battle. Here, God commands the trumpet to sound to gather the mighty Assyrians against Israel for judgment, because they have transgressed “My covenant.” The enemy here is Assyria, ready to swoop down like a powerful eagle.
2. **Elaborate on the covenant curse of Deuteronomy 28:48-49, “**Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the Lord shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.49The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand..”
	1. **Parallel with Peter’s words in I Peter 4:17, “**For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?,” **and Luke 6:46, “**And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”
	2. **See “*Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”* (**[**Matthew 7:22-23**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Matthew+7:22-23&t1=en_nas)**)**
3. **What follows in Chapter 8 are FIVE GROUNDS FOR JUDGMENT AGAINST ISRAEL. Note these.**
	1. **THE BREAKING OF GOD’S COVENANT. 4:1, “**Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land, “ **6**, “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,” **and 5:4, “**They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the Lord.”
		1. **See Micah 6:8, “**8He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” **Amos 5:14-15, “**Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. 15Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph,” **and Deuteronomy 28:45, “Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.15Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.”**
	2. **THE CHOICE OF UNGODLY KINGS…. Jeroboam rebelled against Rehoboam, the son of Solomon….they went through nine dynasties, which went into pagan religion. Southern Kingdom, only one dynasty—David’s.**
	3. **THE MAKING OF CALVES….IDOLATRY set up in Dan and Bethel, which were expressly forbidden by God!**
		1. **Explain this: “The calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces: Israel made beautiful idols out of silver and gold, but they will not stand. In judgment, God will break them to pieces.”** Your calf is rejected is literally your calf stinks. That’s what God thought of their idols!
		2. **Review the story of Jezebel bringing idol worship of Baal into the northern kingdom.**
	4. **ALLIANCES WITH UNGODLY NATIONS (verses 9-10)**
	5. **FALSE ALTARS (verse 11)**

**8:7-10, “They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no bud; it shall never produce meal. If it should produce, aliens would swallow it up. Israel is swallowed up; now they are among the Gentiles like a vessel in which *is* no pleasure. For they have gone up to Assyria, *like* a wild donkey alone by itself; Ephraim has hired lovers. Yes, though they have hired among the nations, now I will gather them; and they shall sorrow a little, because of the burden of the king of princes.”**

1. **Discuss this: for two hundred years they forgot God, and now for over two thousand years, they have been forsaken by God…..**THEY REAP THE WHIRLWIND, AND ARE CALLED, “THE WANDERING JEW!” They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind: but it is true in how judgment feels……*reaped* in a contracted period of judgment. Now they are among the Gentiles . . . now I will gather them: God promised that Israel would face the conquering Assyrians and exile, but also that He would one day gather them again. This note of mercy is sprinkled through the song warning of judgment.
	1. **Compare this with the downfall of America….prayer out of schools, God out of the market place.**
2. **The fourth “ground for judgment,” is making alliances with nations. Elaborate. SEE NUMBER 3.**
3. **Compare the reference “wild donkey/ass,” verse 9, to what God calls Ishmael in Genesis 16:12.**
4. **Who is “the king of princes?” Assyria**

**8:11-13, “Because Ephraim has made many altars for sin, they have become for him altars for sinning. I have written for him the great things of My law, *but* they were considered a strange thing. *For* the sacrifices of My offerings they sacrifice flesh and eat *it, but* the Lord does not accept them. Now He will remember their iniquity and punish their sins. They shall return to Egypt.”**

1. **What are “altars for sin?”** Israel foolishly built many altars for sin. So it is no surprise that those altars became altars for sinning. When we give ourselves opportunity and occasion for sin, it is never surprising when we end up sinning.
2. **How does verse 12 denote who is the author of the Bible?** I have written for him: This tells us the *author* of the Bible - God Himself. Spurgeon said it well: This volume is the writing of the living God: each fetter was penned with an Almighty finger; each word in it dropped from the everlasting lips, each sentence was dictated by the Holy Spirit.
3. **Describe “the great things of My law.”** This tells us the *content* of the Bible - great things. The Bible treats of great things, and of great things only. There is nothing in this Bible which is unimportant. Every verse in it has a solemn meaning, and if we have not found it out yet, we hope yet to do it. (Spurgeon)
	1. **Paul expressed the same idea in 1 Corinthians 2:14: *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned*. COMMENT.** The Word of God and the things of the spirit are great things, but seem like a strange thing when man is in sin and idolatry.
4. **Why did they return to Egypt? Is this an idiom for bondage? See Deuteronomy 28:68, “**And the Lord shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you.”  **THIS HIGHLIGHTS THE APPROPRIATENESS OF GOD’S JUDGMENT, HAVING BEEN SAVED FROM EGYPT’S BONDAGE, THEY RETURN TO BONDAGE BECAUSE OF DISOBEDIENCE.**

**8:14, “For Israel has forgotten his Maker, and has built temples; Judah also has multiplied fortified cities; but I will send fire upon his cities, and it shall devour his palaces.”**

1. **What is the difference between Israel and Judah and their forms of worship? For Israel has forgotten his Maker: Israel built temples, but not unto the Lord who made them. Therefore, the judgment described in this chapter is coming upon them. Judah also has multiplied fortified cities:**
	1. **Compare with Isaiah 37:33-36, “**Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it. 34By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the Lord. 35For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.36Then the angel of the Lord went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.”  **While Israel practiced outright idolatry, Judah was guilty of a more subtle sin.** They trusted in the fortified cities they built against the Assyrians. Those cities would be of no help (I will send fire upon his cities), and the only the Lord would preserve Judah from total destruction ([Isaiah 37:33-36](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Isaiah+37:33-36&t1=en_nas)).
2. **Is there any difference between the attitude of Israel and the attitude of modern Americans?** Perhaps we can capture some of the ungodly heart of Israel and Judah by examining our own attraction to bigness and nice facilities. What could be wrong with success and nice buildings? They easily become idols if your heart turns from God. If God brings size and great buildings, it is wonderful - as long as we don’t turn our eyes of Him, making those things idols. ISRAEL HAD FORGOTTEN HER MAKER!
	1. **Re-visit the implication of the covenant curse pronounced here. See Deuteronomy 28:52, “**And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee,” **and 2 Kings 18:13, “Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and took them.”**
	2. **See also Romans 1:18-20, *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.20For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse;”* WE ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE.**
	3. **How does Israel’s self-sufficiency play-in here?**
	4. **Use Ezekiel 39:6, “**And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the Lord.”
		1. **Who is them that “dwell carelessly in the isles?”**
3. **Sum-up Chapter 8’s lesson.**

***Hosea 9– Exiled and Dried Up***

***Chapter 9 is often labeled: “The end of the good life in Israel.”* Do not rejoice, O Israel, with joy like other peoples: At the time Hosea brought this prophecy, things perhaps were not so bad in Israel. Maybe there were plenty of fun and good times among the people. But they shouldn’t rejoice like other peoples, because judgment was on the way. This chapter is going to highlight the penalty for ingratitude. In this chapter: God threatens to deprive this degenerate seed of Israel of all their worldly enjoyments, because by sin they had forfeited their title to them, so that they should have no comfort either in receiving them themselves or in offering them to God. He dooms them to utter ruin, for their own sins and the sins of the prophets. He upbraids them with the wickedness of their fathers before them, whose steps they followed. And, He threatens them with the destruction of their children and the demise of their posterity.**

**9:1-4, “Do not rejoice, O Israel, with joy like *other* peoples, for you have played the harlot against your God. You have made love *for* hire on every threshing floor. The threshing floor and the winepress shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail in her. They shall not dwell in the Lords land, but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and shall eat unclean *things* in Assyria. They shall not offer wine *offerings* to the Lord, nor shall their sacrifices be pleasing to Him. *It shall be* like bread of mourners to them; all who eat it shall be defiled. For their bread *shall be* for their *own* life; it shall not come into the house of the Lord”**

1. **What are the five penalties for ingratitude listed in this chapter?** Penalties for ingratitude.
	1. **(Verses 1-2) Death of joy.**
	2. **(Verses 3-6) Exile from their land.**
	3. **(Verses 7-9) Loss of spiritual discernment**
	4. **(Verses 10-16) Declining birth rate**
	5. **(Verse 17) Cast out**
2. **Could Hosea’s message in this opening part be a sermon on the occasion of the harvest festival? Why?** It was probably the case, though we do not know this for sure, that Hosea delivered the opening part of this oracle as a sermon on the occasion of a harvest festival . . . characterized by feasting, mirth, and dancing. **Every thrashing floor had attributed their success to Baal--wheat, wine, wool, grains, etc.**
3. **Talk about “made love for hire on the threshing floor.” You have made love for hire on every threshing floor**: Israel practiced idolatry on the **threshing floor**, a place where grain was processed. They worshipped idols here because they believed that it helped the harvest. Because of their idolatry, the Lord would curse their harvest, and **the threshing floor and the winepress shall not feed them**.
	1. **What was the curse promised for this idolatrous behavior? They shall not dwell in the Lords land**: Not only would God curse their grain and grape harvest, but He would also cast them out of the land in exile to both Egypt and Assyria. In the lands of exile there would be no bread or food for sacrifice to the Lord, only for survival (**their bread shall be for their own life**).
	2. **Review the covenant curses in Deuteronomy 28:30,** “Thou shalt betroth a wife, and another man shall lie with her: thou shalt build an house, and thou shalt not dwell therein: thou shalt plant a vineyard, and shalt not gather the grapes thereof,” **38-42, “**Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather but little in; for the locust shall consume it. 39Thou shalt plant vineyards, and dress them, but shalt neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them. 40Thou shalt have olive trees throughout all thy coasts, but thou shalt not anoint thyself with the oil; for thine olive shall cast his fruit. 41Thou shalt beget sons and daughters, but thou shalt not enjoy them; for they shall go into captivity. 42All thy trees and fruit of thy land shall the locust consume,” **and 51, “**And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee.”
		1. **See also Hosea 2:9, “**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,” **and 7:14, “**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.”
		2. **Re-visit the “Third Horsemen” of Revelation in Revelation 6:5-6, “**And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.6And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.”
4. **Discuss how verse 3, but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and shall eat unclean *things* in Assyria, goes against Moses’ command in Exodus 20:2, “**I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage,”**…..never to return to Egypt, which represents bondage.**
5. **Who owns the land of Israel? See Exodus 15:17, “**Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O Lord, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established,” **Leviticus 25:23,** “The land shall not be sold for ever**: for the land is mine,** for ye are strangers and sojourners with me,” **and Deuteronomy 11:10-12, “**For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs: 11But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: 12A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the Year even unto the end of the year.”
6. **Talk about how Israel’s punishment fits her crime. Use Amos 7:17, “**Therefore thus saith the Lord; Thy wife shall be an harlot in the city, and thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the sword, and thy land shall be divided by line; and thou shalt die in a polluted land: and Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of his land,” **Ezekiel 4:13, “**And the Lord said, Even thus shall the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles, whither I will drive them,”  **Hosea 5:3, “**I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled,” **and 6:10, “**I have seen an horrible thing in the house of Israel: there is the whoredom of Ephraim, Israel is defiled.” **ISRAEL HAD PROVED HERSELF UNWORTHY OF THE FREEDOM SHE HAD ENJOYED IN THE LAND.**
7. **Which offerings were to cease? Wine (Numbers 15:1-12, “**And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 2Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land of your habitations, which I give unto you,3And will make an offering by fire unto the Lord, a burnt offering, or a sacrifice in performing a vow, or in a freewill offering, or in your solemn feasts, to make a sweet savour unto the Lord, of the herd or of the flock:4Then shall he that offereth his offering unto the Lord bring a meat offering of a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of oil.5And the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering shalt thou prepare with the burnt offering or sacrifice, for one lamb. 6Or for a ram, thou shalt prepare for a meat offering two tenth deals of flour mingled with the third part of an hin of oil. 7And for a drink offering thou shalt offer the third part of an hin of wine, for a sweet savour unto the Lord. 8And when thou preparest a bullock for a burnt offering, or for a sacrifice in performing a vow, or peace offerings unto the Lord: 9Then shall he bring with a bullock a meat offering of three tenth deals of flour mingled with half an hin of oil. 10And thou shalt bring for a drink offering half an hin of wine, for an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the Lord. 11Thus shall it be done for one bullock, or for one ram, or for a lamb, or a kid. 12According to the number that ye shall prepare, so shall ye do to every one according to their number,”**) and those offered in a foreign land would not be acceptable to the Lord. ISRAEL WAS TO BE DENIED ITS OPPORTUNITY TO WORSHIP THE ONE TRUE GOD.**

**9:5-9, “What will you do in the appointed day, and in the day of the feast of the Lord? For indeed they are gone because of destruction. Egypt shall gather them up; Memphis shall bury them. Nettles shall possess their valuables of silver; thorns *shall be* in their tents. The days of punishment have come; the days of recompense have come. Israel knows! The prophet *is* a fool, the spiritual man *is* insane, because of the greatness of your iniquity and great enmity. The watchman of Ephraim *is* with my God; but the prophet *is* a fowlers snare in all his ways; enmity in the house of his God. They are deeply corrupted, as in the days of Gibeah. He will remember their iniquity; He will punish their sins.”**

1. **Verse 5 is a rhetorical question asked by God. Elaborate on its implications.**
2. **What is the “appointed day?” They are gone because of destruction**: Israel did not honor the Lord in their **appointed** feast days, so they Lord will take them away. In their lands of exile, they will not be able to honor the feasts of the Lord. MAYBE THIS IS THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES. DESTRUCTION WAS TO COVER ISRAEL.
3. **What is Memphis**? A town in Egypt which was a large graveyard…..the emphasis here is that Israel was to DIE!
4. **Who is the watchman of Ephraim, verse 8**? **Review Ezekiel 33:6**, ***“But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.”*** THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL HAD TRIED TO ENSNARE THE PROPHETS OF GOD WHICH HE HAD SENT TO WARN THEM OF THEIR DISASTER.
5. **Compare this with Amos** **and Jeremiah. See Amos 7:10-13, “**Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words. 11For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land. 12Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there: 13But prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court,” **Jeremiah 29:26, “**The Lord hath made thee priest in the stead of Jehoiada the priest, that ye should be officers in the house of the Lord, for every man that is mad, and maketh himself a prophet, that thou shouldest put him in prison, and in the stocks.”
6. **Why did the people think Hosea was a fool**? **The prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is insane**: This is what the people of Israel said about Hosea. When things prospered and everyone was happy, Hosea announced coming judgment and called for repentance. They thought he was a fool and crazy. They said in effect, Who in his right mind would prophesy a judgment like this when we are in the midst of such a bountiful harvest, in itself a proof of God’s blessing?
	1. **Reference Judges 19. As in the days of Gibeah**: Judges 19 describes horrific crimes of perversion and violence in Israel in the days of the Judges. Hosea says that in his day it is just as bad in Israel.
7. **In verse 9, what are the “days of Gibeah?” See Judges 19, “**And they passed on and went their way; and the sun went down upon them when they were by Gibeah, which belongeth to Benjamin. 15And they turned aside thither, to go in and to lodge in Gibeah: and when he went in, he sat him down in a street of the city: for there was no man that took them into his house to lodging. 16And, behold, there came an old man from his work out of the field at even, which was also of mount Ephraim; and he sojourned in Gibeah: but the men of the place were Benjamites. 17And when he had lifted up his eyes, he saw a wayfaring man in the street of the city: and the old man said, Whither goest thou? and whence comest thou? 18And he said unto him, We are passing from Bethlehemjudah toward the side of mount Ephraim; from thence am I: and I went to Bethlehemjudah, but I am now going to the house of the Lord; and there is no man that receiveth me to house. 19Yet there is both straw and provender for our asses; and there is bread and wine also for me, and for thy handmaid, and for the young man which is with thy servants: there is no want of any thing. 20And the old man said, Peace be with thee; howsoever let all thy wants lie upon me; only lodge not in the street. 21So he brought him into his house, and gave provender unto the asses: and they washed their feet, and did eat and drink. 22Now as they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, certain sons of Belial, beset the house round about, and beat at the door, and spake to the master of the house, the old man, saying, Bring forth the man that came into thine house, that we may know him. 23And the man, the master of the house, went out unto them, and said unto them, Nay, my brethren, nay, I pray you, do not so wickedly; seeing that this man is come into mine house, do not this folly. 24Behold, here is my daughter a maiden, and his concubine; them I will bring out now, and humble ye them, and do with them what seemeth good unto you: but unto this man do not so vile a thing. 25But the men would not hearken to him: so the man took his concubine, and brought her forth unto them; and they knew her, and abused her all the night until the morning: and when the day began to spring, they let her go. 26Then came the woman in the dawning of the day, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her lord was, till it was light. 27And her lord rose up in the morning, and opened the doors of the house, and went out to go his way: and, behold, the woman his concubine was fallen down at the door of the house, and her hands were upon the threshold. 28And he said unto her, Up, and let us be going. But none answered. Then the man took her up upon an ass, and the man rose up, and gat him unto his place. 29And when he was come into his house, he took a knife, and laid hold on his concubine, and divided her, together with her bones, into twelve pieces, and sent her into all the coasts of Israel.30And it was so, that all that saw it said, There was no such deed done nor seen from the day that the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt unto this day: consider of it, take advice, and speak your minds.” **LOW, SHOCKING DEPRAVITY! This is a sordid story. This was a town of Benjamin, where a Levite sought shelter for himself and concubine. Townsmen wanted homosexual relationships…they used his concubine and killed her. The Levite cut her body into 12 pieces to the 12 tribes of Israel…Benjamin was attacked.**

**9:10-14, “I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstfruits on the fig tree in its first season. *But* they went to Baal Peor, and separated themselves *to that* shame; they became an abomination like the thing they loved. *As for* Ephraim, their glory shall fly away like a bird; no birth, no pregnancy, and no conception! Though they bring up their children, yet I will bereave them to the last man. Yes, woe to them when I depart from them! Just as I saw Ephraim like Tyre, planted in a pleasant place, so Ephraim will bring out his children to the murderer. Give them, O Lord; what will You give? Give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts!”**

1. **Elaborate on the symbolisms: “Like grapes in the wilderness . . . as the firstfruits on the fig tree**.” God fondly remembers the days when Israel was faithful and fruitful unto Him. **Grapes in the wilderness** and the **firstfruits on the fig tree** are unexpected blessings. There was a time when Israel was something special to God, as if one found luscious **grapes in the wilderness**. While they were faithful, they were as *acceptable* to me as *ripe grapes* would be to a *thirsty traveler* in the desert.
2. **Who is Baal Peor? See Numbers 25:1-3 “**And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. 2And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. 3And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel.” **But they went to Baal Peor**: Israel’s sin and idolatry in the days of Hosea is like their sin at **Baal Peor** in Numbers 25, associated with sexual immorality and idolatry. Sexual immorality with Moabite women against God. ….Historical illusion to Baal worship, fertility rites, and whoredom.
	1. **Are we like the gods we serve? See Psalm 115:7-8, “**They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat.8**They that make them are like unto them**; so is every one that trusteth in them. **“They became an abomination like the thing they loved**: Israel loved their disgraceful idols, and they have become like them. We will become like the god we love and serve, whether it is the Lord or like an **abomination**.
	2. **Was Hosea praying anger against these people? Give them, O Lord - What will You give?** The idea is that Hosea began an angry prayer against the people (**Give them, O Lord**), then he stopped because he checked his heart and didn’t know what to pray (**What will you give?**). In the end, he asked for **a miscarrying womb and dry breasts**. Really, Hosea prayed for mercy. Knowing the coming judgment, he prayed Lord, give them few children so those children will not have to face the horrors of Your coming judgment. Sometimes those who see themselves - perhaps accurately - as more spiritual and closer to God than others in a church or group get angry and frustrated with those who don’t seem to have hearts burning for the Lord. Their frustration is understandable but the pause in Hosea’s prayer should give them pause. It is a good thing to long for revival and spiritual passion among Gods people, but if that makes us proud, angry, or bitter against others then Satan has won a great victory.
3. **Discuss how Hosea emphasizes that immorality will bring a national curse of infertility—conception, birth, and children—on Israel.** **HOSEA DOES THIS UNIQUELY, AS NO OTHER AUTHOR DOES!**
4. **Where is Tyre?** A great economic center. See Ezekiel 26. There was a false prosperity in the land, and the people were deceived by it. Tyre was the maritime equivalent of Babylon. Carthage, a rival of Rome, was only a colony of Tyre. When Tyre was at the height of its power, the prophet Ezekiel prophesied this:© CC Sharealike David Bjorgen on Flickr https://www.flickr.com/photos/cybjorg/72357601/in/photolist-7oRoR-9DEAj ***And they shall destroy the walls of Tyros, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her...and they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water...And I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon; thou shalt be built no more: for I the LORD have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD (Ezekiel 26:4,12,14).***
5. **Verse 14 seems to be a “broken off pray**er,” **Give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts!” by Hosea. Discuss its ramifications for Israel.**

**9:15-17, “All their wickedness *is* in Gilgal, for there I hated them. Because of the evil of their deeds I will drive them from my house; I will love them no more. All their princes *are* rebellious. Ephraim is stricken, their root is dried up; they shall bear no fruit. Yes, were they to bear children, I would kill the darlings of their womb. My God will cast them away, because they did not obey Him; and they shall be wanderers among the nations.”**

1. **Where is Gilgal?** All their wickedness is in Gilgal, for there I hated them: As mentioned before in [***Hosea 4:15***](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Hosea+4:15&t1=en_nas)***, “Though thou, Israel, play the harlot, yet let not Judah offend; and come not ye unto Gilgal, neither go ye up to Bethaven, nor swear, The Lord liveth.”*** God despised the city of Gilgal as a center of idolatry in Israel. At one time, stood for the historic rebellion against God with a shrine to Baal.
	1. **See: Gilgal was a place where prophets were trained under Elijah and Elisha (**[**2 Kings 2:1**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Kings+2:1&t1=en_nas)**, “**And it came to pass, when the Lord would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal,’[**4:38**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Kings+4:38&t1=en_nas)**, “**And Elisha came again to Gilgal: and there was a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets were sitting before him: and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and seethe pottage for the sons of the prophets.”**) But in Hosea’s day it had become a center of false worship (**[**Hosea 4:15**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Hosea+4:15&t1=en_nas)**, “**Though thou, Israel, play the harlot, yet let not Judah offend; and come not ye unto Gilgal, neither go ye up to Bethaven, nor swear, The Lord liveth,” ***Hosea*** [***12***](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Hosea+4:12&t1=en_nas)***: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,”*** [**Amos 4:4**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Amos+4:4&t1=en_nas)**, “**Come to Bethel, and transgress; at Gilgal multiply transgression; and bring your sacrifices every morning, and your tithes after three years,”[**5**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Amos+4:5&t1=en_nas)**:5, “**But seek not Bethel, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not to Beersheba: for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall come to nought.”**)**
2. **Note the idiom of the “withering fruit.”**
3. **Does verse 17’s phrase, “wanderers among the nations” apply to Israel today? “THE WANDERING JEW” HAS BEEN AN IDIOM IN ALL SECULAR LITERATURE. THOSE WHO ‘STRAYED FROM THE COVENANT’ HAS BEEN REDUCED TO ‘STRAYING’ AMONG THE NATIONS.**
4. **Why does God evict Israel from His house?** I will drive them from My house: In this sense, exile was the perfect punishment for Israel. They had disgraced Gods house, His land, so He would evict them.
5. **Note the paradox: because they bear no fruit, He would kill the beloved fruit of their womb.** They shall bear no fruit . . . I would kill the beloved fruit of their womb: One of the major reasons Israel went after idols like Baal and Ashtoreth was because those gods were thought to bring fertility and fruitfulness. God reminds Israel that He is really the Lord over the womb, and that He will turn their fruitfulness into barrenness.
6. **Why is the old covenant mentioned here? See Deuteronomy 30:17-19, “**17But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; 18I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. 19I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live,”
	1. **New Covenant in Hebrews 8:9-12, “**9Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.10For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:11And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.12For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more,”**10:16-17, “**This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.’  **My God will cast them away, because they did not obey Him: This is exactly what the Lord promised under the terms of the Old Covenant (**[**Deuteronomy 30:20**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Deuteronomy+30:24-28&t1=en_nas)**, “**That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”**) Thankfully, we can come to God by faith in a new and better covenant, where He promises to remember our sins no more (**[**Hebrews 8:12**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Hebrews+8:12&t1=en_nas)**,** [**10**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Hebrews+8:10&t1=en_nas)**:16-17).**

***And, here are the promises:***

***Romans 5:1-2, Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom also we have access by faith into this grace in wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”***

***Micah 6:8, “8He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”***