**The Book of Hosea**

**Ye are not my People!**

**Chapter One**

**Departing from the LORD**

   Hosea was a prophet who prophesied around 775 B.C. some 200 plus years after David was Israel's king. Solomon was the first of Israel's kings to allow idolatry in Israel, and God promised he would divide the kingdom into two in his son Rehoboam's reign because of it.

    Israel was made up of the ten tribes in the north under Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, and the nation of Judah was made up of the two tribes in the south, Judah, and Benjamin.

**1 The word of the LORD that came unto Hosea, 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 son of Beeri:** Not related to the Beeri in Genesis 26:24. His name means “my well”.

  Notice that only one king is mentioned as the king of Israel (Jeroboam the second), while four are listed as kings that reigned in Judah in the days of Hosea's prophecy. 2nd Kings 24-28 covers the same time period.

**2 The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.**

**The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea:**   This statement is not found in any other place in the Bible. This implies that there is more that will follow later.

   Perhaps that explains why four kings are listed in Judah that reigned during the time that Hosea was receiving these revelations from the LORD.   They were not all given at just one time, but over the span of 41 years.

**Go take unto thee a wife of whoredoms:** Did the LORD really tell Hosea to marry a literal whore? For the answer to that we must ask ourselves is that command contrary to the LORD'S nature?

   Would the LORD command someone like a prophet to sin, in order to teach the nation an object lesson? No, God would never command Hosea to marry someone who was a whore! Gomer was not a whore when Hosea married her. We know this by seeing what is said next in the very same verse:

**And children of whoredoms:** Hosea was also to take children of whoredoms as his children.

   Gomer did not have any children from her whoredoms as of yet, because she was a virgin when she married Hosea the prophet. The children came later as a result of Gomer's unfaithfulness to Hosea.

   This would be consistent with the LORD'S nature. I believe as do many others that Gomer became unfaithful to her husband only sometime after they were married, just like Israel did as the wife of the LORD in her spiritual adultery which is idolatry.

   We do know that it is the LORD'S will that a bride be a virgin on her wedding day as well as the groom, so that should tell you the answer to this question. The LORD is all knowing, and he foresaw Gomer's unfaithfulness, just as he foresaw Israel's unfaithfulness to him.

**The land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD:**  The LORD is speaking about a nation that has committed spiritual idolatry against him. The LORD is the husband in this story that Hosea represents, and Israel is his adulterous wife, represented by Gomer, who commits spiritual idolatry by departing from him.

   What does the LORD consider as committing "great" whoredom? It is not being a nation of Sodomites with all their sexual perversions, but whoredom in the LORD'S eyes is departing from him in the worshipping other gods.

**3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son. 4 And the LORD said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel.**

**Gomer:** Not the Gomer of end times prophecy in Genesis 10:2, but there are similarities in their actions against Israel. Her name was prophetic of her actions against Hosea.

**The daughter of Diblaim:** Diblaim means a lump of figs. See Isaiah 38:21.

**Call his name Jezreel:**

  First, we must understand which Jehu is being spoken about, this is Jehu the king of Israel, the son of Jehosaphat, the son of Nimshi, not Jehu the prophet, the son of Hanani.

   He is responsible for the death of the king of Israel (king Joram, the son of Ahab and Jezebel), and Ahaziah the king of Judah in one battle found in 2 Kings 10 as well as the death of Jezebel, king Ahab's wife.

   He was actually told to wipe out the house of Ahab by God in 2 kings 9:6-7 and God spared his seed for four generations, but he did not turn from the sin of Jeroboam, so God was avenging the blood of all the lost who he had a hand in turning them away from the LORD to worship the idols set up by Jeroboam.

   Jehu was a wicked king, but he followed the LORD one time, and he was rewarded for that, but God did not forget about his leading the nation in idolatry. His one act of obedience did not erase his many other evil acts it only prolonged his days and those of his sons. See 2 Kings 10:29-31

   Jehu called Jezebel a whore for her Baal worship, but Jehu worshiped a golden calf in Samaria and led all Israel to do so also instead of in Jerusalem where God commanded Israel to worship.

  What were the whoredoms that Jezebel the Queen of Israel had committed so many of? She drew away Israel from the LORD with her witchcraft. She was a Baal worshipper and she caused Israel to go after her in her idolatry.

**And bare him a son:**  Jezreel was Hosea's actual son as the scriptures say Gomer bare him (Hosea) a son. God cared about every soul that perished in Jezreel that day. Jehu went above what God had commanded him and killed the king of Judah as well.

**5 And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.**

   The bow of Israel is a reference to the strength of Israel as is seen in the prophecy of Jacob (Israel) concerning the tribe of Joseph in Genesis 49:24. This happens to Israel not too long after Hosea's prophecy is completed when they are taken into captivity and Israel's kingdom ceases to be.

    I know that Israel has been a nation since 1948 but it is Israel's kingdom in verse 4 that the LORD takes away not the nation itself. Israel has not had a king ruling over it, nor will she until the Messiah rules as her King. Jezreel means literally, God will sow.

**6 And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And God said unto him, Call her name Loruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away. 7 But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.**

   God waits to give Hosea further prophecy concerning the nation of Israel until Gomer bares a daughter named Loruhamah which means Lo = No, and Ruhamah = have mercy.

    This time it is not said that Gomer bare Hosea a daughter which some believe it to mean that it was one of Gomer's lovers or her first adulteress affair that resulted in a pregnancy.

    Now the title of God is used for the first time in Hosea's prophecy instead of LORD. The word for God (Elohim) is not here in the original Hebrew and so that the reader may understand who is speaking here the word God is inserted in italics to give a clearer understanding. Whenever you see the word LORD it is the name of Jehovah.

    Notice what is meant by God not having any more mercy for Israel, it means that they all shall be taken into captivity. Notice also in the same verse he says he will save Judah but not the bow, sword, battle, horses, or horsemen, but by himself.

   Judah is saved by an angel of the LORD going into the camp of the Assyrian Army and destroying in one night 185,000 soldiers who had laid siege against Judah. They (Judah) would later go in captivity where God would protect them in Babylon before she would return after 70 years.

   Israel went into the Assyrian captivity and was dispersed throughout the world, only a remnant of the northern ten tribes ever returned to the land. The rest are still dispersed and those who eventually trust in Christ in the time of Jacob's trouble will be gathered back in the land to enjoy their long awaited kingdom.

**8 Now when she had weaned Loruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son. 9 Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God.**

**Ye are not my people**

   Again we find proof that God spoke to Hosea multiple times over the years and this time it was after Gomer weans Loruhamah. God gives Israel a writing of divorcement for her spiritual adultery against him. She becomes “Not his people” at their divorce.

   Israel ceased to be God's people then, and have remained in that state and will remain in that state until they accept their Messiah at the end of the tribulation period.

    Technically, Israel was to not be God's people for 490 years. 483 of those years went by, and Christ was crucified at the end of those 483 years when the Messiah was cut off. One prophetic week is yet to be fulfilled for Israel to make an end of sin

**Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. 25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.**﻿

   That final week of Israel not being God's people (Loammi) was put on hold as God ushered in the dispensation of grace when he saved the apostle of the Gentiles and dispensed the doctrines of our current dispensation to the body of Christ.

    Today Israel is no different than any other nation in how God deals with them. They had an advantage under the law, they will again in their kingdom under the new covenant.

**Romans 11:32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.﻿**

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

   The very same place where he disowned Israel, and had no more mercy on them, in Jezreel, God says that he will reclaim them as his people there in the Jezreel valley. That will be in Israel's kingdom and not before.

   The apostle Paul in Romans 9-11 speaks to all of us to educate us on the condition of the children of Israel in this present dispensation of grace. He reiterates Hosea's words and says:

**Romans 9:25 As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. 26 And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.**

   People like to quote verse twenty-five out of context and say that is us Gentiles (not his people) who become his people by faith. Israel is Israel, the body of Christ is the body of Christ. We do not become Israel by faith. Israel can stop being the "Israel of God" by unbelief, but we can never, never become "the Israel of God".

   The remnant, or the little flock (Luke 12:32) was the Israel of God when they were on the earth, but there is no Israel of God today. Every Cult today claims to be the Israel of God. Believing Israel was the Israel of God. So what did that make unbelieving Israel? They were no better than the Gentiles they looked down upon. There will be an Israel of God once again when Israelites in the Tribulation Period start believing on Christ.

   There is no Jew and Gentile today in the body of Christ period! Stop trying to be something that God is not doing today.

   You cannot become a spiritual Jew today and become the Israel of God because that classification only existed when Israel was still his people, but after they became Loammi (not my people) God had a new organism that is called the one new man and in it there are no distinctions.

   The Israel of God existed simultaneously with the body of Christ only for a short while in the book of Acts. When the remnant of kingdom saints under the leadership of Peter and the other apostles died out, the Israel of God ceased to be and today there is only the body of Christ.﻿

**11 Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel.**

The day of Jezreel is a future day when Israel is gathered from the four corners of the earth and are born again as a nation in a day and returns with David once again as king. Jesus will sit as King of kings over all the earth as well. See Jeremiah

**Jeremiah 30:9 But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.**﻿

**Chapter Two**

**The Children of Whoredoms**

**1 Say ye unto your brethren, Ammi; and to your sisters, Ruhamah. 2 Plead with your mother, plead: for she is not my wife, neither am I her husband: let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts;**

   Now we see what appears to be Hosea talking to Jezreel and telling him to tell his brethren and sisters to plead with their mother to put away her whoredoms.

   In all actuality God is speaking to Jezreel and he is telling him to speak unto his brethren (plural) and sisters (also plural) which represent the children of Israel, Jezreel included.

   God has given Israel a writing of divorcement for her whoredoms (spiritual adultery) with the gods of the heathens. This began with Jeroboam the 1st when he returned from exile in Egypt and began to reign over the ten tribes of the north.

   He set up images in Bethel and Gilgal, so the people would not go down to the southern kingdom in Jerusalem to worship and so their hearts would not go back to unite with the southern kingdom. 1 Kings 11:26 - 12:33

   Isaiah, who was a contemporary with Hosea, prophesied the same thing when he prophesied about this very same time when God would divorce Israel for her playing the harlot with other gods, but he also would buy her back (redeems her):

**Isaiah 50:1 Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away. 2 Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem?**

   Israel was not too far gone that the LORD could not redeem her, and he will, but not before she goes through the time of Jacob's trouble.**﻿**﻿

   There will be some in those days that will plead with Israel to put away her whoredoms, and adulteries, and believe on the LORD and he will restore her unto him.﻿﻿

**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 slay her with thirst.**

Israel was born as a nation in the wilderness as the children of Israel became the nation of Israel. She was begotten in the wilderness and now she had forgotten the Rock that begot her.

   Remember that the Rock that begat her was Christ and it was the very same Rock that gave Israel water to drink so she would not be slayed by thirst. 1st Corinthians 10:4

   In the tribulation period, Israel will flee into the wilderness after the abomination of desolation is set up in the temple in Jerusalem and she will be taken care of by God. He will redeem those that come unto him, but those who refuse he will strip them naked in the wilderness and they will die of thirst in the dry wilderness.

**4 And I will not have mercy upon her children; for they be the children of whoredoms. 5 For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink.**

Gomer's lovers are symbolic of the false god's that Israel chased after and served. She was deceived into thinking that they were giving her bread and water when it really was God.

   Those who continue in their spiritual adultery during those days he will not have mercy on, and he will actually harden their hearts, but on those who believe the message of the two witnesses and the preaching of the 144,000 he will redeem back unto himself and annul their writing of divorcement

**6 Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths. 7 And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now. 8 For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal.**

 God says here through Hosea that he will punish Israel in the time of Jacob's trouble to the point that they will return to their first husband, which is God.

   Gomer does return to Hosea but only after she repeatedly plays the harlot. God tells Hosea to redeem her and to take her back and he takes her back but only after she has been humbled by her nakedness and hunger.

**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. 10 And now will I discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of mine hand. 11 I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts. 12 And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, whereof she hath 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, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgat me, saith the LORD.**

   God will visit Israel by bringing upon her the days of Baalim, Baal was a pagan god, and Baalim is its plural, so God is going to punish Israel because of her spiritual whoredoms with the gods of this world and he will cause her to realize that they are not God.

**14 Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her. 15 And I will give her her vineyards from thence, 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.**

The valley of Achor is the valley were Achan was stoned. Isaiah 65:10 says it is going to be a place where Israel's herds would lie down if they sought after him. This is a prophecy of the time just at the onset of the kingdom when Christ returns and brings those in Petra (the wilderness) back into the land to begin his reign.

   He will lead them along the same path that Joshua (Jesus in the Greek) led them as they came into the land the first time and they will enter Israel through the door of hope, the valley of Achor.

   They will sing on this great day as they did back when they came out of Egypt, and they will come to a land that God will bless with them with the vineyards that once belonged to her when she first entered the land.

**16 And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali. 17 For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name.**

 Ishi means my husband, while Baali means, my Baal. In the kingdom, God will wipe away all remembrance of the names of Israel's pagan gods that appear everywhere in Israel still today.

**18 And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.**

The covenant he makes with the beasts of the field is that the lion will lay down with the lamb. Animals will all chew the cud in those days, and they will be no danger to mankind ever again:

**Isaiah 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; 3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: 4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. 5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. 6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. 10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. 11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. 12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.**

   What a beautiful prophecy of Hosea's contemporary, which served to back up the prophecies of Hosea even though they both prophesied to the two separate kingdoms.

    God's word has perfect harmony between its writers, and there are no contradictions between Isaiah and Hosea because neither of them were the authors of the books they wrote, God was the author of both books, and they were just the penman.

**19 And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. 20 I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.**

This is in the kingdom when the new covenant will be written on their hearts, and they will know to choose good and not evil. What an amazing, loving, and forgiving God our God is that he would betroth Israel back to him, who like Gomer played the harlot.

**21 And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the LORD, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth; 22 And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel. 23 And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.**

    God uses all three of Gomer's children's names in verse twenty-two and twenty-three to prophesy to Israel concerning her future kingdom and their total restoration under the Messiah. Jezreel which is the eldest is mentioned first in the end of verse twenty-two and means God will sow Israel in the earth as the head nation above all nations.

    In verse twenty-three God says he will have mercy on Israel who did not obtain mercy under the law and instead rebelled and found his wrath. He goes on and says he will in the latter days be their God and they shall be his people. This will be in the kingdom which is still in the future.

**Deuteronomy 28:13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: 14 And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. ﻿**

**Chapter Three**

**The Latter Days**

**1 Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.**

  Hosea is told here to take Gomer back unto him his adulterous wife, and not only that, but he is to love her as well, the one who has been unfaithful to him, while he was never untrue to her**.**

   This speaks of God taking Israel back to him in the later days even though she was unfaithful to him. Hosea was to do to Gomer as God was going to do unto Israel. They do not yet recognize Jesus as their Messiah, so they are going after other gods today. Most of Israel today is atheistic and worship money and prestige.

**2 So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley: 3 And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee.**

Israel is still playing the harlot today, but the day is fast approaching that Israel's Messiah will return and they will recognize him and will be faithful unto him as they never were before. Israel is the treasure hid in the field in Matthew 13:44.

  Israel was redeemed 2,000 years ago, but they have yet to accept the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ. The day is coming however, when all of Israel shall be saved. She was not purchased or redeemed with silver or barley as Gomer was, but with the precious blood of Christ.

   Notice the prophecy below towards Israel, which tells them at the time of the kings, that they shall be without a king for many days, and without the sacrificial system or priestly equipment meant to cleanse Israel because that is exactly what has happened for 2,000 years.

**4 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim:**

The prince spoken of here is speaking about Michael the prince, who was Israel's guardian angel, but now Israel has no prince protecting it until the Tribulation Period arrives after the dispensation of grace, then Israel's Prince will fight on Israel's behalf. Daniel 10:13, 21 & 12:1

  Israel has not had animal sacrifices, nor has it been able to determine who among them can be priest until only recently in 2015 when through DNA testing, they have been able to determine who is from the tribe of Levi.

   They do not have their ark of the covenant yet, but the other things mentioned have all been reproduced in the last few years by a group known as the temple institute in Jerusalem.

**5 Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.**

After the tribulation period is over and Christ sets up his kingdom he will rule as King of kings with a rod of iron over the nations.

   Israel will once again have David as their king, but they will have to share King Jesus with all the nations. Israel will fear the LORD when God resurrects them into their kingdom as promised in all the writings of the prophets.

**Chapter Four**

**Blood toucheth Blood**

**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. 2 By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.**

   The phrase, “Blood toucheth blood” means simply that before the blood of one violent act dries up another bloody act takes place in the same place and the blood of one murder mixes with the blood of another.

   One abortion after another happens in Israel at a rate that would boggle the mind and Israel doesn't even shed a tear over it. Life is precious to God.

   God gave man life, and it was his intention that man live forever with him but man in his fallen condition since Cain slew Abel has shook his fist at God in every way imaginable even in Israel and God has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land and he is going to rectify that very soon.

   Lying is seen as a shrewd way to move up the corporate ladder today, not just in Israel, but all over the world unfortunately.

   Lawyers have no mercy on those they go after seeking unjust settlements from people who cannot afford to pay them. Adultery and theft are rampant in Israel today just as this verse states.

**3 Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.**

   One-third of the seas will turn to blood during the latter days as well as the rivers and Israel will begin to cry out to their God for deliverance when they have suffered as they have never before.

**4 Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people are as they that strive with the priest. 5 Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy thy mother.**

   The Lord has said in his word that he is a Jealous God and that if Israel would turn away from following him and serve other gods then he would destroy that generation from off the earth.

   When he says such a thing, he does not mean all of Israel, just that wicked generation in order to send a message to the following generations to serve him with all their heart. Deuteronomy 7:4

**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.**

   Israel was told that one day if she would serve the LORD that she would be a peculiar treasure unto him and a kingdom of priests, an holy nation in Exodus 19:5 & 6.

  They are not destroyed today because they are ignorant of God's wisdom, they are ignorant of God's wisdom today because they have rejected it 2,000 years ago, and that has caused them to lose the protection and provision of God in this dispensation.

**7 As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame. 8 They eat up the sin of my people, and they set their heart on their iniquity. 9 And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings. 10 For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the LORD. 11 Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.**

   None of these things satisfy the soul, and so they continue their search in all the wrong places. The religious leaders in Israel are no better for they elevate the teachings of the Rabbi's and not the word of the LORD, and the people who are searching just keep on searching because they know the religious in Israel do not have the answers.

**12 My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God. 13 They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof is good: therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery.**

    Israel today is not worshipping other gods as they did in the days of old, but they are still worshipping other gods. Fortune telling (prophesying) happens all the time today in Israel by the religious.

   They read palms and tea leaves, they use tarot cards, automatic hand writing (letting spirits control their hand to write a message from their god, not the God of Israel). They use divination, numerology and talk with the dead at a much higher rate than in the USA. God will eradicate all of this when he returns.

**14 I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots: therefore the people that doth not understand shall fall.**

   Israel is ignorant of God's word because the religious are the main ones committing spiritual adultery today with their enchantments (witchcraft). The Kabbalah is nothing more that witchcraft disguised as Judaism, and it is not even a good disguise. The religious today in Israel are blind leaders of the blind.

**15 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. 16 For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer: now the LORD will feed them as a lamb in a large place.**

   So many groups claiming to be Judah today because "they alone have the truth" are not Judah at all, nor are they Jews. We who have trusted in Jesus are not spiritual Jews! I have seen a motorcycle group that rides around called the tribe of Judah. Judah is playing the harlot today just as Israel is.

**17 Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone. 18 Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers with shame do love, Give ye. 19 The wind hath bound her up in her wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.**

Ephraim is the second son of Joseph. Israel began to be called Ephraim after it separated from Judah in the days of Jeroboam who made Israel to sin because of the Idols that Jeroboam set up in Dan and in Bethel.

**Chapter Five**

**The Spirit of Whoredoms**

**1 Hear ye this, O priests; and hearken, ye house of Israel; and give ye ear, O house of the king; for judgment is toward you, because ye have been a snare on Mizpah, and a net spread upon Tabor.**

   God speaks judgment to three groups of leaders in Israel, and lays the blame for Israel's condition squarely at their feet. Mizpah is a mountain near mount Hermon and Tabor is at the southern end of the sea of Galilee.

    These three groups were snaring the unsuspecting Israelites who did not know any better. The children of Israel were not as literate as they are today and therefore, they are more accountable today to the word of the LORD because if they really wanted to, they could read his word for themselves.

**2 And the revolters are profound to make slaughter, though I have been a rebuker of them all. 3 I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled. 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. 5 And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them. 6 They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD; but they shall not find him; he hath withdrawn himself from them. 7 They have dealt treacherously against the LORD: for they have begotten strange children: now shall a month devour them with their portions. 8 Blow ye the cornet in Gibeah, and the trumpet in Ramah: cry aloud at Bethaven, after thee, O Benjamin. 9 Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke: among the tribes of Israel have I made known that which shall surely be.**

   Israel is often called Israel in the Bible so don't let that confuse you. God is speaking Israel and about Israel when he refers to Ephraim. Ephraim was the largest tribe in the north and was situated around the city of Samaria and therefore they prospered because the capital prospered, so as Ephraim went, so went Israel.

**10 The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound: therefore I will pour out my wrath upon them like water. 11 Ephraim is oppressed and broken in judgment, because he willingly walked after the commandment. 12 Therefore will I be unto Ephraim as a moth, and to the house of Judah as rottenness. 13 When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound. 14 For I will be unto 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 none shall rescue him.**

   Judah saw the wickedness of Israel and what God did in allowing them to be taken into Assyrian captivity and Judah did not mourn for their brothers but instead thought to take from them their land and to enlarge their bounds (boundary).

**15 I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.**

   When will Israel and Judah seek the LORD? Early in their affliction! Early in the time of Jacob's trouble (Israel's Affliction) when the two witnesses and the 144,000 Jewish servants go out and preach the gospel of the kingdom to them. Matthew 24:14

  Chapters six verses 1-3 complete the prophecy of chapter five and should be read in one sitting. To separate the next three verses from their context will leave you not understanding fully either chapter. Remember chapter divisions did not exist until they were added for our convenience many centuries later.

**Chapter Six**

**After Two Days?**

**1 Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. 2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. 3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.**

   These verses speak of Israel being smitten (killed) and then raised up to live "in his sight". This is speaking of the long awaited kingdom when their Messiah will dwell with them. Immanuel: God with us.

   Does the two days speak of two thousand years? I hope so, because that time is almost upon us as a day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as a day. It has been almost 2,000 years already since the Lord ascended into heaven.

   If that is what that verse means coupled with 2 Peter 3:8 then you should take a much closer look at it, because it does not predict that Jesus would return and revive Israel 2000 years after his birth or resurrection, but after two days, or after 2000 years if that is how we are to look at this verse.

   I am not convinced that is what it means, but I give it to you because there are many that believe just that, and you should be informed. Then it goes on to say in the third day he will raise us (Israel) up. It does not say on minute one of the third day he will raise them (Israel) up but rather "in" the third day.

   I know this will cause some to begin date setting, but don't! No one has ever gotten it right before, and you will just embarrass yourself and join that long list of fools.

   I do believe that this is an exciting time to be alive and a great time to teach people how to rightly divide the word of truth, so let's get busy with what the Lord is doing now, and not what we can profit off of.

   Yes, prophecy preachers make a big name for themselves and a bunch of money. Too bad they never give us a refund when they are wrong. Shame on them.

**4 O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away. 5Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth. 6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. 7 But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me.**

   The priests were good for nothing like a morning cloud or the morning dew because it is gone away as soon as the sun comes up. The priests should be there for Israel at all times not just when there was something in it for them.

    Many times when Israel was suffering people would want to be put into the priesthood, just so they could get a piece of bread and some food. Hirelings are of no help to anyone.

**8 Gilead is a city of them that work iniquity, 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: for they commit lewdness. 10 I have seen an horrible thing in the house of Israel: there is the whoredom of Ephraim, Israel is defiled. 11 Also, O Judah, he hath set an harvest for thee, when I returned the captivity of my people.**

   The priest murder by consent. They don't say anything when they see wickedness. What good is a watchmen that doesn't warn the people when he sees the enemy approaching? That was the priest in that day and it will be the same in the time of Jacob's trouble. No good to the people.

**Chapter Seven**

**The Similitudes of Ephraim**

   This is a unique chapter in that the LORD uses similitudes to describe Israel and Ephraim. A similitude is a word used to describe another word. As, and like, are often used when comparing something that acts, or looks similar in some way to what the writer or speaker is trying to describe.

   Instead of just saying Israel or Ephraim is wicked, the LORD uses similitudes to drive home to the reader, or hearer, what it is he is trying to get across. It is an effective way of burning the thought into the mind of those involved.

**1 When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood; and the thief cometh in, and the troop of robbers spoileth without. 2 And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness: now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face. 3 They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies.**

   The original iniquity of Ephraim was Jeroboam causing Israel to sin, but that particular sin of Jeroboam is usually accredited to Israel not Ephraim. Unfortunately, Ephraim fell far from the tree of Joseph his father. Chapter four and verse seventeen tells you exactly what the iniquity of Ephraim is.

**They are as an Oven**

**4 They are all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, who ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be 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 For they have made ready their heart like an oven, whiles they lie in wait: their baker sleepeth all the night; in the morning it burneth as a flaming fire. 7 They are all hot as an oven, and have devoured their judges; all their kings are fallen: there is none among them that calleth unto me.**

**Ephraim is a cake not turned**

**8 Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned. 9 Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not. 10 And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all this.**

**Ephraim is like a Silly Dove**

**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 fowls of the heaven; I will chastise them, as their congregation hath heard. 13 Woe unto them! for they have fled from me: destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me. 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. 15 Though I have bound and strengthened their arms, yet do they imagine mischief against me.**

**They are like a deceitful bow:**

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

**Chapter Eight**

**Judgment is Coming**

**Israel hath forgotten his Maker**

**1 Set the trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law. 2 Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee. 3 Israel hath cast off the thing that is good: the enemy shall pursue him.**

    The enemy (Assyria) shall come as an eagle swooping down on them and catching them off guard. They pursued Israel and captured her, all because they transgressed his covenant and his law.

**4 They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off. 5 Thy calf, O Samaria, hath cast thee off; mine anger is kindled against them: how long will it be ere they attain to innocency? 6 For from Israel was it also: the workman made it; therefore it is not God: but the calf of Samaria shall be broken in pieces.**

   While God did rend ten tribes out of the nation which became known as Israel, he did not set up many of their kings. God had intended for David's descendants to be king but because of Israel's sins that quickly fell apart.

   Many became king in Israel, but not by God's decree. They kept their throne as long as they could as others would try to assassinate them to set themselves up as king. This happened a lot in those days.

**7 For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up. 8 Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the Gentiles as a vessel wherein is no pleasure. 9 For they are gone up to Assyria, a wild ass alone by himself: Ephraim hath hired lovers. 10 Yea, though they have hired among the nations, now will I gather them, and they shall sorrow a little for the burden of the king of princes.**

   Israel trusted in the arm of the flesh to get victories over their enemies, but it didn't always work. They made leagues with other nations, but they did not go into a contract with God.

**11 Because Ephraim hath made many altars to sin, altars shall be unto 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 flesh for the sacrifices of mine offerings, and eat it; but the LORD accepteth them not; now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins: they shall return to Egypt. 14 For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof.**

   Sacrifices were going on as usual in Samaria although that was not the place for Israel to sacrifice. God had ordained that all sacrifices be done in Jerusalem, but Jeroboam had caused Israel to sin by setting up a golden calf in Samaria and told the people that this is your God that brought you up out of Egypt.

   The statement that Jeroboam made Israel to sin, is mentioned nineteen times in First and Second Kings alone.

**Chapter Nine**

**Wanderers among the Nations**

**1 Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as other people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor. 2 The floor and the winepress shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail in her.**

   Israel's whoredoms where not isolated, they stretched all over the land, upon every cornfloor it says. It was not just the priests and the kings that were involved in idolatry, but the whole nation, and as a nation he would punish them.

   Chapters eight through ten cover the LORD'S judgement upon Israel for breaking his covenant and these three chapters tell how they have moved from chastisement of God to the punishment of God upon Israel.

**3 They shall not dwell in the LORD'S land; but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean things in Assyria.**

  They would be scattered in different directions just as Leviticus 26 said the LORD would do to them if they broke the covenant they made with the LORD at Sinai.

**4 They shall not offer wine offerings to the LORD, neither shall they be pleasing unto him: their sacrifices shall be unto them as the bread of mourners; all that eat thereof shall be polluted: for their bread for their soul shall not come into the house of the LORD.**

    The people who were his people would not be his people.

**5 What will ye do in the solemn day, and in the day of the feast of the LORD? 6 For, lo, they are gone because of destruction: Egypt shall gather them up, Memphis shall bury them: the pleasant places for their silver, nettles shall possess them: thorns shall be in their tabernacles.**

    Their tabernacles are their former dwelling places. This happened before, and it will happen again during the tribulation period.

**7 The days of visitation are come, the days of recompence are come; Israel shall know it: the prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad, for the multitude of thine iniquity, and the great hatred. 8 The watchman of Ephraim was with my God: but the prophet is a snare of a fowler in all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God.**

  The days of visitation is mentioned in Isaiah 10:3, Jeremiah 46:21, 50:27, Micah 7:4, and by the apostle Peter as a day that was still yet in the future.

**1st Peter 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.**

   So, while Israel was visited when they were dispersed into all the nations, they according to 1st Peter 2:12 will be revisited in the last days. In the time of Jacob's trouble.﻿

**9 They have deeply corrupted themselves, as in the days of Gibeah: therefore he will remember their iniquity, he will visit their sins.**

   The days of Gibeah were when the Benjamites in Judges 19 protected with the Sodomites (the sons of Belial) who had raped and killed the Levites concubine. The scripture records that there had not been so wicked of a deed done in all of Israel since the days they left Egypt.

**Judges 19:30 And 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.**﻿

   They had become so corrupt that the event in Gibeah was now common place in Israel.

**10 I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstripe in the fig tree at her first time: but they went to Baalpeor, and separated themselves unto that shame; and their abominations were according as they loved.**

    Israel at the beginning of their becoming a nation in the wilderness were like when a man would find grapes that would refresh him. He goes on and compares Israel to the firstripe in the fig tree in her early days as a nation before she began to play the harlot.

   Baalpeor is a reference to the time mentioned in Numbers 25:1-3 when Israel joined themselves to Baalpeor and committed whoredoms with the daughters of Moab and they ate with them at their sacrifices unto their pagan gods and did bow down to their god's.

   For this sin, the LORD brought a plague upon Israel and twenty-four thousand died. See Judges 25:9﻿

**11 As for Ephraim, their glory shall fly away like a bird, from the birth, and from the womb, and from the conception. 12 Though they bring up their children, yet will I bereave them, that there shall not be a man left: yea, woe also to them when I depart from them!**

   Ephraim is Israel. Ephraim is the name of Joseph's youngest son who received the blessing of the firstborn instead of his older brother Manasseh.

   Ephraim became the most powerful tribe in the north and inherited the land around the city of Samaria, which would one day serve as the capital of the northern kingdom which went quickly into idolatry. See Isaiah 7:9

**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: what wilt thou give? give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.**

   Again, Israel has a great start, and she is beloved of the LORD, but when she plays the harlot, and forgets the poor, and when she becomes unjust the LORD gives her over to her lovers and she becomes their captives, just like sin does to us today.

**15 All their wickedness is in Gilgal: for there I hated them: for the wickedness of their doings I will drive them out of mine house, I will love them no more: all their princes are revolters.**

   Gilgal is where Saul was made king of Israel because the people wanted to be like the other nations. God had been their King, but they chose to be like the Gentiles on that day.

   Saul also offered a sacrifice at Gilgal, which was forbidden for a king to do in those days because only the Messiah would be prophet, priest and king, Saul should have waited for the prophet Samuel on that day, but he did not.

**16 Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit: yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay even the beloved fruit of their womb. 17 My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations.**

    Israel is still wanderers among the nations today because they did not hearken unto God. While it sounds pretty gloomy for Israel (Ephraim), that will not be how it ends for them.

**Chapter Ten**

**Israel's Judgement**

**1 Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images.**

   Israel was compared to a vine numerous times in scripture (see Isaiah 5) and they were to produce fruits of righteousness which they would have if Israel would have remained obedient to the covenant which they made with the LORD, but instead they were an empty vine.

   Israel did produce fruit, a lot of it, but it was not the fruits of righteousness. Your sin is fruit, but it is not the fruit that the LORD accepts. Israel was producing a lot of actual fruit, and she was bring the fruit unto herself and she was rich for a while in the eyes of others, but not before God.

**2 Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images.**

   They were double minded. They adapted the customs of the pagans and blended them into Judaism. The priests would claim to be worshippers of the LORD when what they were really doing was worshipping Baal and the queen of heaven, and other false gods.

   Notice it says that they shall be found faulty, that should remind you of a verse in Hebrews:

**Hebrews 8:8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:**

   They were found faulty because their hearts were divided. Where is your heart today? Is it chasing after the world and all of its allurements, money, and success?

**3 For now they shall say, We have no king, because we feared not the LORD; what then should a king do to us?**

    Israel would not have a king again, but would be ruled by Gentile nations, as the time of the Gentiles had come in because of Israel's sins.

**4 They have spoken words, swearing falsely in making a covenant: thus judgment springeth up as hemlock in the furrows of the field.**

   Israel made a covenant with God at mount Sinai, and they broke it. God kept the covenant made with Israel which required that he punish them for their idolatry, which he did.

   Israel's sin was like poisonous hemlock which would spring up in the field and affect all who came into contact with it. Just like our sin does today.

**5 The inhabitants of Samaria shall fear because of the calves of Bethaven: for the people thereof shall mourn over it, and the priests thereof that rejoiced on it, for the glory thereof, because it is departed from it. 6 It shall be also carried unto Assyria for a present to king Jareb: Ephraim shall receive shame, and Israel shall 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, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us.**

   Bethaven and Aven speak of the same place next to Bethel (the house of God). It was the other place of idol worship besides Gilgal where false idols were set up to keep the people of Israel from going down to Jerusalem to worship, which was now a part of the southern kingdom.

   It boggles my mind that there are many churches and colleges that call themselves Bethaven still today. Bethaven means the house of idols. The book of the revelation of Jesus Christ talks about a future time as well when the unbelievers will cry out for mountains to cover them:

**Revelation 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:**

   This happened to Israel when Assyria came and took northern Israel into captivity, and it will happen ultimately in the time of Jacob’s Trouble that is to come upon them after the rapture of the body of Christ.

**9 O Israel, thou hast sinned from the days of Gibeah: there they stood: the battle in Gibeah against the children of iniquity did not overtake them. 10 It is in my desire that I should chastise them; and the people shall be gathered against them, when they shall bind themselves in their two furrows. 11 And Ephraim is as an heifer that is taught, and loveth to tread out the corn; but I passed over upon her fair neck: I will make Ephraim to ride; Judah shall plow, and Jacob shall break his clods. 12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you. 13 Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men. 14 Therefore shall a tumult arise among thy people, and all thy fortresses shall be spoiled, as Shalman spoiled Betharbel in the day of battle: the mother was dashed in pieces upon her children. 15 So shall Bethel do unto you because of your great wickedness: in a morning shall the king of Israel utterly be cut off.**

    Hosea didn't mince any words concerning the judgment that was to come upon Israel for her idolatry.

**Chapter Eleven**

**God called his son out of Egypt**

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

   When God called Israel out of Egypt, he said he called his son out of Egypt, because God begat Israel as a nation and that nation must one day be born again, and it will, remember what Jesus told Nicodemus concerning Israel. Ye must be born again. John 3:7.

**Deuteronomy 32:18 Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.**

**1 Corinthians 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.**

   Matthew under the inspiration of the holy Spirit tells us that when Joseph and Mary went down to Egypt until the death of king Herod that an angel told them to go back to Israel because Herod was dead.

   Then Matthew quotes that story of the nation coming out of Egypt and associates it with him calling his own Son out of Egypt many years later. Israel is a type of God's Son, in that he begat them as a nation, and nurtured them as a son.﻿﻿

**3 I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them. 4 I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them.**

   God took Israel his son by his arms and healed them, but they didn't realize it was their father who had done this and attributed it to the pagan gods. He sustained them, and they knew it not.

**5 He shall not return into the land of Egypt, but the Assyrian shall be his king, because they refused to return. 6 And the sword shall abide on his cities, and shall 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, none at all would exalt him.**

   Though the prophets came and prophesied unto Israel to return unto their maker they refused and became like a dried up tree unto him and the nations around them and they were good for nothing but to be cut down and that is where they are today. They are broken off the olive tree because of unbelief.

**8 How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? how shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? how shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together. 9 I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: for I am God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee: and I will not enter into the city.**

   God looks upon Israel as a son and loves him even though he is disobedient he is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

   Because he is God, he can have compassion but only because his justice has been met by his own Son taking their sins upon him and dying the death they deserved. All they need to do today is to simply trust in the finished work on the cross for their sin.

**10 They shall walk after the LORD: he shall roar like a lion: when he shall roar, then the children shall tremble from the west. 11 They shall 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, saith the LORD. 12 Ephraim compasseth me about with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit: but Judah yet ruleth with God, and is faithful with the saints.**

   At the time of these prophecies Israel was past the point of no return as a nation, but not for the individuals in Israel. They still had a chance, but the nation as a whole did not turn back and they were taken captive just as the LORD said they would be by the Assyrians.

**Chapter Twelve**

**A Controversy with Jacob**

**1 Ephraim feedeth on wind, and followeth after the east wind: he daily increaseth lies and desolation; and they do make a covenant with the Assyrians, and oil is carried into Egypt.**

   Ephraim was trusting their own resourcefulness to get them out of trouble by looking to their neighbors for food and protection, but that did not work because they had previously contracted with the LORD and broke that covenant with him, and their captivity would be the consequences for that sin.

**2 The LORD hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him.**

     Just because Israel was going into captivity for their rebellion against the LORD was no reason for Judah to get excited, but they did. They thought this would be a good opportunity to get their land instead of lamenting the captivity of their brothers and sisters.

**3 He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God: 4 Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us; 5 Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD is his memorial. 6 Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.**

    Jacob is the father of the nation of Israel, and he serves as a type of the nation in that in its early days, as a child, Israel had power with God and wanted God's blessings as Jacob did, but after a while Israel forgot its Maker and became like the nations around it.

   How did Jacob have power over the angel? By any strength he possessed of his own? No! He prevailed because he wept and made supplication unto the angel.

**7 He is a merchant, the balances of deceit are in his hand: he loveth to oppress. 8 And Ephraim said, Yet I am become rich, I have found me out substance: in all my labours they shall find none iniquity in me that were sin. 9 And I that am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt will yet make thee to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast. 10 I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.**

  God says to Israel and Judah; “Do you think you are without sins because I don't destroy you right when you sin?” God is long suffering not willing that any should perish and so he has sent prophets unto them to turn them back to God.

    Those prophets have indeed spoken unto them just as Hosea was speaking to them all throughout this book in similitudes and in visions. Yet they continued in their sin, but one day, Israel will repent and turn to the LORD in their affliction (the great tribulation period).

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

   Gilead was the place where there was great iniquity in Benjamin for the men of Gilead had wanted to have Sodomite sex with a Levite that had stopped in their city to rest, and all the tribes vowed to not give any of their daughters to the Benjamites because of this great wickedness in Benjamin.

   The worst part about this terrible sin is that only a few committed the sin but the whole tribe protected them instead of delivering them up for punishment.

   They even went so far as to go to war against all the other tribes to protect these Sodomites and killed many in Israel and most of their own people over the sin of a few. They condone their sin. This is a reference to Jacob fleeing from the wrath of his brother Esau who wanted to kill him for stealing his birthright.

   He fled to Syria because his mother knew of Esau's hatred for him, and she talked Isaac into sending Jacob to Syria to their kinfolks to find a wife from among their own people and not some Canaanite in the land they were in.

**13 And by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved. 14 Ephraim provoked him to anger most bitterly: therefore shall he leave his blood upon him, and his reproach shall his Lord return unto him.**

  Moses was the prophet that God used to bring Israel out of Egypt who preserved them in the wilderness by his many intercessions in their behalf.

**Chapter Thirteen**

**Kiss the Calves**

**1 When Ephraim spake 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 that sacrifice kiss the calves. 3 Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew that passeth 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 thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no saviour beside me. 5 I did know thee 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 have they forgotten me. 7 Therefore I will be unto them as a lion: as a leopard by the way will I observe them:  8 I will meet them as a bear that is bereaved of her whelps, and will rend the caul of their heart, and there will I devour them like a lion: the wild beast shall tear them.**

 Two she bears literally tore up forty-two of Israel’s youth for mocking God’s messenger in 2nd Kings 2:24.

**9 O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help. 10 I will be thy king: where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities? and thy judges of whom thou saidst, Give me a king and princes? 11 I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath.**

 This is speaking of God giving Israel Saul to be their king and then taking him away for their sins, as well as for Saul’s sins in listening to Israel.

**12 The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is hid. 13 The sorrows of a travailing woman shall come upon him: he is an unwise son; for he should not stay long in the place of the breaking forth of children. 14 I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes. 15 Though he be fruitful among his brethren, an east wind shall come, the wind of the LORD shall come up from the wilderness, and his spring shall become dry, and his fountain shall be dried up: he shall spoil the treasure of all pleasant vessels. 16 Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up.**

**﻿Chapter Fourteen**

**Who is Wise?**

**1 O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. 2 Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.**

   Israel could become wise and prudent in God's eyes again if they would take the words of Hosea to heart and repent of their unbelief. The calves of our lips is an old, old saying, that meant they would render to God the thanks giving of their lips.

**3 Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.**

   That day is coming, but it is not here yet when Israel will say these things. God will be merciful to those who call upon him in that great and dreadful day known as the great tribulation period.

**4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him. 5 I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon. 6 His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon. 7 They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon. 8 Ephraim shall 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 is thy fruit found.**

    Israel will be like a green fir tree and not a dry dead tree whose branches have all dried up and are good for nothing but to be burned as fuel. Israel's tree will bud again, and the natural branches that have been broken off will be grafted back in again by faith in the LORD.

**9 Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.**

   What does this last verse teach us today? That if we understand the book of Hosea and the message in it of Israel and her being "cut off" as God's people temporarily because of her sin of unbelief then we shall be wise and prudent and know the right ways of the LORD.

   So many people want to be Israel today when God is not blessing Israel today because she is in unbelief. So many denominations and cults today all get most of their doctrine from Israel's prophecy program which was under the Law and therefore teach some form of works salvation.

   We are not Israel, those who think they are, have transgressed, and have fallen from grace. We are saved today by grace through faith. Ephesians 2:8 & 9

**The End**

**Hosea Tests 3.5 Credit hours**

**Chapter One Test**

1. What did the LORD tell Hosea to marry?

2.What was Gomer a picture of?

3. What were the name of Gomer's three children and what did the last ones names mean?

4. What does the LORD announce concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah?

5. When are verses ten and eleven for prophetically?

**Chapter Two Test**

1. Why are Ammi, and Ruhamah spoken about as brethren, and sisters (in the plural form)?

2. Who was it that gave Israel her corn, her wine and her oil?

3. What will the LORD do to Israel to humble her?

4. Where will the LORD allure Israel back to himself in the time of Jacob’s trouble?

5. What will the LORD say unto the people which were not my people?

6. What names will the LORD take away from Israel?

7. What will the LORD make for Israel in the latter days?

8. Who will the LORD betroth unto him in the latter days?

9. What will the LORD say unto the people that are not his people?

**Chapter Three Test**

 1. What does the LORD tell Hosea to do that is a picture of what the LORD does to Israel one day?

2. When does verse four happen?

3. Who is Israel's prince that she will do without for a while?

4. When does verse five take place?

**Chapter Four Test**

1. What is meant by blood touching blood?

2. What did Israel do with the knowledge she received from the LORD?

3. What is the main sin that Israel is guilty of in this chapter?

**Chapter Five Test**

1. What spirit does Israel and Ephraim have in this chapter?

2. What will Israel be in before they seek the LORD early?

**Chapter Six Test**

1. When will Israel return unto the LORD according to verse 2?

2. What two things does the LORD desire?

**Chapter Seven Test**

1. What analogy does the LORD use to describe Israel in this chapter?

2. What analogy does the LORD use to describe Ephraim in this chapter?

**Chapter Eight Test**

1. Why was Syria able to come upon Israel according to verse one?

2. What was meant by Israel had set up kings but not by him?

3. What was Jeroboam's sin that had caused Israel to sin?

**Chapter Nine Test**

1. What are the days of visitation and recompense a reference to?

2. What are the days of Gibeah a reference to?

3. What was meant by Israel being like grapes in the wilderness and the first rip fig?

4. What will the LORD give Ephraim?

5. What will the LORD God do to them because they did not hearken unto him? v:17

**Chapter Ten Test**

1. How was Israel and empty vine when she brought forth fruit?

2. What does the book of Hebrews tell us about God finding fault with Israel?

3. Did Israel ever have another king after Assyrian took them into captivity?

4. Who did Israel sware falsely to when they made a covenant?

5. What are the calves of Bethaven

6. What does Bethaven mean?

7. What was carried away by Assyria as a present for king Jareb?

8. What does verse eight say that is mentioned in the book of the Revelation?

9. What do the days of Gibeah refer to?

10. Type out what the LORD tells Israel to do in verse 12 to remedy her situation?

**Chapter Eleven Test**

1. How is Israel a type of God's son?

2. Who called Israel to the Most High?

3. How does the LORD show the love of a Father in verse nine?

**Chapter Twelve Test**

1. Who did Israel make a covenant with instead of the LORD?

2. Who did the LORD have a controversy with?

3. What was the remedy for Judah in verse six?

4. What three ways has the LORD used the prophets to speak to Israel?

5. Who is the prophet mentioned in verse thirteen?

**Chapter Thirteen Test**

1. What did the men that sacrificed to their images also have to do? V:2

2. What saviour is beside the LORD God? V:4

3. What two things does the LORD say about giving Israel a king?

4. What does the LORD say about death in this chapter? v:14

**Chapter Fourteen Test**

1. What did the LORD through Hosea tell Israel to take unto themselves?

2. Who were Israel's gods according to verse three?

3. What will Israel be compared to in the latter days when she turns to the LORD?

4. What must Israel walk in to be wise and prudent?

   To submit your test simply copy the test and paste it **with the answers typed in bold font** and send it and send it for grading to: www.dofgbi.org