

## HOSEA

### Conversational Yahveh Covenant

**1:1** Messages from Yahveh to Hosea Ben-Beerī  
at the Time of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, Kings of Judah,  
and Jeroboam Ben-Joash/*Jehoash*, King of Israel

#### Hosea's Wife and Children

<sup>2</sup>When Yahveh spoke the first time through Hosea, he said, *"Marry a prostitute and have children, because the land is committing flagrant prostitution by abandoning me."* <sup>3</sup>So he married Gomer Bat Diblaim, and she had a son. <sup>4</sup>Yahveh said,

*"Name him Jezreel. Soon I'll punish Jehu's dynasty for the bloodshed in Jezreel, and put an end to Israel. <sup>5</sup>At that time, I'll break Israel's military strength in the Valley of 'Jezreel.'"*

**Hos 1:1-5**

<sup>6</sup>Then she had a daughter. Yahveh told him,

*"Name her Lo-ruhamah. I 'won't have mercy' any more on Israel by forgiving them. <sup>7</sup>But I will have mercy on Judah and deliver them, but not by bow, sword, battle, horses, or horsemen."*

<sup>8</sup>When she'd weaned Lo-ruhamah, she had another son. <sup>9</sup>Yahveh said, *"Name him Lo-ammi. You're 'not my people' and I'm not your God."*

<sup>10</sup>*Yet the number of Israelites  
will be like sand by the sea,  
that you can't measure or count.  
Where I said, 'You're not my people,'  
I'll say, 'You're children of the living God.'*

<sup>11</sup>*Then Judah and Israel will unite  
and appoint one leader.  
They'll return from the exile together  
because the day of Jezreel [sowing] will be great."* **Hos 1:6-11**

#### Israel's Unfaithfulness Punished

**2:1** *"In that day, you will call your brothers 'Ammi' [my people]  
and your sisters 'Ruhamah' [the ones loved]."*

<sup>2</sup>*But for now, bring charges against your mother Israel  
because she's not my wife  
and I'm not her husband.  
Let her put away her prostitution,*

- the adultery from between her breasts.*
- <sup>3</sup>*Otherwise, I'll strip her naked  
and expose her like the day she was born.  
I'll make her like a wilderness, like a desert;  
she'll die of thirst.*
- <sup>4</sup>*I won't have mercy on her children;  
they're children from prostitution.* **Hos 2:1-4**
- <sup>5</sup>*Their mother was a prostitute;  
it was a shame the way she acted.  
She said, 'I'll go after my lovers  
that gave me bread and water,  
wool and linen, olive oil and drink.'*
- <sup>6</sup>*So I'll plant thornbushes along the sides of her road  
and build a wall across her path  
so she can't get to where she wants to go.*
- <sup>7</sup>*She'll chase after her lovers, but not catch them;  
she'll look for them, but not find them.  
So she'll say, 'I'll go back to my first husband,  
because it was better for me then than now!'*
- <sup>8</sup>*She doesn't know I was the one  
that gave her grain, new wine, and olive oil;  
and lavished on her silver and gold—  
which she used for Baal.* **Hos 2:5-8**
- <sup>9</sup>*So I'll take back my grain at harvest time  
and my new wine when it's due.  
I'll take away the wool and linen  
I gave her to cover her nakedness.*
- <sup>10</sup>*I'll uncover her lewdness  
in front of her lovers,  
and nobody will rescue her from me.*
- <sup>11</sup>*I'll put an end to her gaiety,  
her festivals, new moons, Sabbaths,  
and festive assemblies.*
- <sup>12</sup>*I'll destroy her grapevines and fig trees  
that she claimed were  
the pay her lovers gave her.  
I'll make them a thicket  
where only wild animals can eat.*
- <sup>13</sup>*I'll punish her for the times when she was*

*offering sacrifices to the images of Baal,  
adorning herself with earrings and jewelry,  
following her lovers,  
and forgetting about me,”* Yahveh says.

**Hos 2:9-13**

### **Yahveh’s Mercy on Israel**

<sup>14</sup>*“So I’ll win her back,  
bring her into the desert,  
and speak graciously to her.*

<sup>15</sup>*I’ll give her vineyards there  
and the Valley of Achor as a gateway to hope.  
She’ll sing there like she did when she was young,  
when she first came up from Egypt.*

<sup>16</sup>*She’ll call me ‘Ishi’ [my husband], not ‘Baali’ [my lord].’*

<sup>17</sup>*I’ll take the many names of Baal out of her mouth;  
she won’t mention them anymore.*

**Hos 2:14-17**

<sup>18</sup>*I’ll make a treaty for her with the animals in the field,  
the birds in the sky, and what crawls on the ground.  
I’ll banish bow, sword, and war from the land  
so she can lie down in safety.*

<sup>19</sup>*I’ll engage her to me permanently  
in goodness, justice, and <sup>20</sup>faithfulness.  
Then she’ll know Yahveh.*

<sup>21</sup>*At that time, I’ll answer the sky  
that pleads for rain,  
that will answer the earth,*

<sup>22</sup>*that will answer the grain, new wine, and olive oil  
that will answer, ‘God has sown’ [Jezreel].*

<sup>23</sup>*I’ll sow her for myself in the land  
and have mercy on her that hadn’t received mercy.*

*I’ll say to those who weren’t my people,  
‘You’re my people [Ammi]!’  
and they’ll say, ‘You’re my God [Elohai]!’”*

**Hos 2:18-23**

### **Hosea’s Wife Redeemed**

<sup>3:1</sup>Then Yahveh told me, “Go love your wife again even though she’s an adulteress—like I love Israel though it turns to other gods and loves raisin cakes.” <sup>2</sup>So I bought her for 6 oz <sup>15</sup> shekels of silver and 5 bushels <sup>a lethek</sup> of barley. <sup>3</sup>I told her, “You’ll have to stay with me a long time.

*You won't carry on prostitution or belong to another man. I'll be that way with you too.*" <sup>4</sup>That's because the people in Israel will go a long time without king or prince, sacrifice or sacred pillar, ephod or household idols. <sup>5</sup>Then they'll come back and rely on Yahveh their God and David their king. They'll come cringing to Yahveh and to his goodness in the end. **Hos 3:1-5**

### **Yahveh Accuses Israel**

**4:**<sup>1</sup>Israel, listen to Yahveh's message;  
he's filing charges against you:

*"There's no faithfulness, kindness,  
or awareness of God there.*

<sup>2</sup>*There's swearing, deception, murder, stealing, and adultery;  
they use violence, so there's murder after murder.*

<sup>3</sup>*So the land is in mourning.*

*Everybody that lives in it is wasting away,  
along with the animals in the field  
and the birds in the sky;  
even the fish are disappearing."*

**Hos 4:1-3**

<sup>4</sup>*"But don't anybody point a finger at somebody else;  
I'm suing you priests.*

<sup>5</sup>*You'll stumble in the daytime;  
prophets will stumble with you at night;  
I'll destroy your mother Israel.*

<sup>6</sup>*My people are getting destroyed because they don't know me.  
Since you priests have refused to know me,  
I'll refuse to acknowledge you as my priests.  
Since you've forgotten about my Law,  
I'll forget about your children.*

<sup>7</sup>*The more priests there are, the more they sin against me;  
I'll turn their honor into shame.*

**Hos 4:4-7**

<sup>8</sup>*"They feed on my people's sin  
because their sacrifices for it  
mean more food for the priests!*

<sup>9</sup>*It will be, like people like priest;  
I'll punish them for their ways,  
repay them for their deeds.*

<sup>10</sup>*They'll eat, but not have enough;  
they'll carry on prostitution, but won't gain anything by it,  
because they've stopped listening to Yahveh.*

<sup>11</sup>*Prostitution, wine, and new wine  
have robbed my people of understanding.*

**Hos 4:8-11**

<sup>12</sup>*"My people consult their wooden idols;  
their fortunetellers toss sticks to give them oracles.  
A spirit of prostitution has led them astray;  
they've carried on prostitution by leaving their God.*

<sup>13</sup>*They offer sacrifices to idols on mountaintops  
and burn incense on hills  
under oaks, poplars, and terebinth trees,  
because they make pleasant shade.  
That's why your daughters become prostitutes  
and your brides commit adultery.*

<sup>14</sup>*I won't punish their daughters when they carry on prostitution  
or their brides when they commit adultery,  
because you men visit prostitutes  
and offer sacrifices with temple prostitutes;  
so you foolish people will be ruined.*

**Hos 4:12-14**

<sup>15</sup>*"Though you carry on prostitution, Israel,  
don't draw Judah into your guilt.  
Don't go to Gilgal or up to Beth-aven [Bethel];  
don't swear, 'As sure as Yahveh lives!'*

<sup>16</sup>*Israel is like a stubborn heifer;  
so how can Yahveh feed it like a lamb in the pasture?*

<sup>17</sup>*Leave Ephraim alone  
because she carries on idolatry.*

<sup>18</sup>*When their rulers are done drinking,  
they go visit prostitutes;  
they have no shame whatsoever.*

<sup>19</sup>*The wind will carry them off;  
their altars will bring them disgrace.*

**Hos 4:15-19**

### **Judgment Against Israel's Leaders**

**5:**<sup>1</sup>*"Hear this, priests!  
Pay attention, Israel!*

- Listen, family of the king!  
Your idolatry at Mizpah has set a trap  
and cast a net on Tabor.*
- <sup>2</sup>*You rebels have gone deep in slaughter,  
but I'll punish you all for it.*
- <sup>3</sup>*I know what you're doing, Ephraim;  
you can't hide from me, Israel.  
Ephraim, you've left me like a prostitute;  
Israel, you've defiled yourself.*
- <sup>4</sup>*Your deeds keep you from coming back to me.  
You're totally a prostitute;  
you don't know Yahveh.* **Hos 5:1-4**
- <sup>5</sup>*"Israel's arrogance testifies against him;  
Israel and Ephraim stumble under the weight of their guilt;  
Judah stumbles with them.*
- <sup>6</sup>*They'll go with their flocks and herds  
to seek Yahveh, but they won't find him;  
he's withdrawn from them.*
- <sup>7</sup>*They've dealt deviously with Yahveh  
because they've borne illegitimate children.  
Now the new moon will devour them along with their fields.* **Hos 5:5-7**
- <sup>8</sup>*"Blow the ram's horn in Gibeah;  
blow the bugle in Ramah.  
Sound an alarm at Beth-aven:  
cringe, Benjamin!*
- <sup>9</sup>*Ephraim will become a pile of rubble when he's rebuked;  
that's for certain.*
- <sup>10</sup>*Judah's officials are like people that remove landmarks;  
I'll pour out my anger on them like a waterfall.*
- <sup>11</sup>*Ephraim will be oppressed, crushed in condemnation,  
because he was determined to follow vanity.*
- <sup>12</sup>*So I'll be like a moth in Ephraim,  
like rot in Judah.*
- <sup>13</sup>*"When Ephraim saw his sickness  
and Judah saw his wound,  
Ephraim went to Assyria;*

*he sent for King Jareb.  
 But he can't heal you  
 or cure you from your wound.*  
<sup>14</sup>*I'll be like a lion to Ephraim,  
 like a young lion to Judah.  
 I'll tear them to pieces  
 and take them away;  
 nobody will rescue them.*  
<sup>15</sup>*I'll go back to my place  
 till they admit their guilt and turn to me;  
 when trouble comes,  
 they'll earnestly rely on me."*

**Hos 5:8-15**

### **Israel and Judah Unrepentant**

<sup>6:1</sup>*"They'll say, 'Let's return to Yahveh.  
 He has torn us, but he'll heal us;  
 he has wounded us, but he'll bandage us up.*  
<sup>2</sup>*He'll revive us in two days,  
 and raise us up the third,  
 so we can live in his presence.*  
<sup>3</sup>*So let's press on to know Yahveh.  
 He'll respond to us as sure as dawn comes;  
 he'll come to us like rain,  
 like the spring rain that waters the ground.'*

**Hos 6:1-3**

<sup>4</sup>*"What am I going to do with you, Ephraim,  
 or with you, Judah?  
 Your loyalty is like a morning cloud,  
 like dew that evaporates early.*  
<sup>5</sup>*I've cut both of you up in pieces by the prophets;  
 I've slain you with my words;  
 the condemnations on you are as inescapable as light.*  
<sup>6</sup>*I delight in loyalty more than sacrifice,  
 in knowing me more than in burnt offerings.*  
<sup>7</sup>*Like Adam you've broken covenant  
 and dealt deceitfully with me.*  
<sup>8</sup>*"Gilead is a city of sinners,  
 tracked with bloody footprints.*

<sup>9</sup>*Like raiders waiting for victims,  
a band of priests commits murder on the way to Shechem;  
and every shameful crime imaginable.*

<sup>10</sup>*I've seen a horrible thing in Israel:  
Ephraim's prostitution, Israel's self-defilement.*

<sup>11</sup>*Judah, I've appointed a harvest time for you  
when I restore my people's fortunes.*

**Hos 6:4-11**

<sup>7:1</sup>*"When I would heal Israel,  
Ephraim's sin gets uncovered,  
Samaria's evil deeds as well,  
because they're devious.  
Thieves go inside;  
bandits raid outside.  
<sup>2</sup>They don't realize  
that I remember their sinfulness.  
Their deeds are all around them;  
they're right in front of me.*

**Hos 7:1-2**

<sup>3</sup>*"They entertain the king with their sinfulness,  
and the officials laugh at their lies.*

<sup>4</sup>*They're adulterers,  
like an oven heated by bakers  
that keep the fire going  
from the kneading of the dough till it's risen.*

<sup>5</sup>*On our king's holidays, the officials get sick with the heat of wine,  
he joins in with the ones who mock him.*

<sup>6</sup>*Their hearts are like an oven  
that burns with intrigue.  
Their anger smolders all night  
and breaks out in the morning like a blazing fire.*

<sup>7</sup>*They're all hot like an oven  
and consume their leaders.  
They kill their kings;  
yet none of them cries out to me for help.*

**Hos 7:3-7**

<sup>8</sup>*"Ephraim mixes in with foreigners;  
he's like a half-baked cake that doesn't get turned over.*



<sup>9</sup>*Worshipping foreign gods is sapping his strength,  
but he doesn't even realize it.*

*Gray hairs are peppering his head,  
but he doesn't notice it.*

<sup>10</sup>*Though Israel's pride testifies against him,  
he doesn't come back to Yahveh his God  
or rely on him.*

<sup>11</sup>*"So Ephraim has become a silly pigeon  
that coos to Egypt and flies to Assyria.*

<sup>12</sup>*As he goes, I'll cast my net over him,  
bring him down like a bird from the sky,  
and punish him in proportion to his sinfulness.*

**Hos 7:8-12**

<sup>13</sup>*"Misfortune awaits him  
for straying from me!  
Destruction is in store for him  
for rebelling against me!  
I would have redeemed him,  
but he slandered me.*

<sup>14</sup>*He doesn't call out to me sincerely,  
but wails on his bed.  
He gashes himself for grain and new wine,  
turning away from me to foreign gods.  
Although I trained him and made him strong,  
he still plots against me.*

<sup>16</sup>*He turns, but not upward;  
he's like a crooked bow;  
his officers will die by the sword  
because of their insolence toward me.  
Egypt will laugh at them.*

**Hos 7:13-16**

### **Israel Will Reap the Whirlwind**

<sup>8:1</sup>*"Put the bugle to your lips!  
A vulture is swooping down on Yahveh's Temple  
because my people have broken my covenant  
and disobeyed my Law.*

<sup>2</sup>*Israel pleads with me,  
'We know you; you're our God!'*

<sup>3</sup>*Israel has rejected what's good;  
so his enemies will chase him.*

<sup>4</sup>*He's set up kings, but not by me;  
he's appointed officials, but I didn't know it.  
By making idols out of his silver and gold,  
he's gotten himself destroyed.*

<sup>5</sup>*"I've rejected your calf, Samaria, and said,  
'My anger burns against you!  
How long will you not be capable of innocence?*

<sup>6</sup>*Even that calf originated from Israel!  
A workman made it, so it's not God;  
Samaria's calf will certainly be smashed.*

**Hos 8:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>*"You've sown the wind;  
you'll reap the whirlwind.  
Your standing grain has no heads;  
it won't yield any grain.  
If it did, foreigners would eat it.*

<sup>8</sup>*Israel has been swallowed up;  
among the nations  
he's like a pot nobody cares about.*

<sup>9</sup>*He's gone up to Assyria  
like a wild donkey all alone;  
Ephraim has hired lovers.*

<sup>10</sup>*Even though he's hired other nations as allies,  
I'll gather him up for judgment.  
He won't be appointing  
his own kings and officials for a while.*

**Hos 8:7-10**

<sup>11</sup>*"Ephraim has multiplied altars to remove sin,  
but they're altars for him to sin with.*

<sup>12</sup>*Though I wrote 10,000 laws for him,  
he considers them something foreign.*

<sup>13</sup>*The people offer the meat of my sacrifices and eat it,  
but Yahveh doesn't delight in them.*

*He'll remember their iniquity  
and punish them for their sins.  
They'll go back to Egypt.*

<sup>14</sup>*Israel has forgotten his Maker and built palaces;  
Judah has multiplied fortified towns.  
But I'll set their towns afire  
and burn their fortresses."*

**Hos 8:11-14**

### **Hosea Announces Israel's Punishment**

<sup>9:1</sup>Israel, don't celebrate like other nations;  
you've carried on prostitution by leaving your God.  
You've loved prostitutes' earnings on every threshing floor.  
<sup>2</sup>Threshing floor and winepress won't feed you;  
you won't have any new wine.  
<sup>3</sup>You won't remain in Yahveh's land;  
you'll return to Egypt  
and eat unclean food in Assyria.  
<sup>4</sup>You won't be pouring out  
liquid offerings of wine to Yahveh there;  
your sacrifices won't please him.  
Your bread will be *unclean* like mourners' bread;  
everybody that eats it will be defiled  
because it will only be for your hunger;  
you can't bring it to Yahveh's Temple.  
<sup>5</sup>What will you do on stated festival days,  
Yahveh's festival days?  
<sup>6</sup>Even if you escape being destroyed *by Assyria*,  
Egypt will round you up,  
and Memphis will bury you.  
Weeds will take over your silver troves;  
thorns will invade your tents.

**Hos 9:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>The time for punishment has come;  
the time for retribution is here.  
Let Israel know that!  
Because of how gross your sin is,  
how great your hostility is, *you say*,  
*"Prophets are fools;  
inspired men are crazy."*  
<sup>8</sup>Prophets are watchmen for my God over Ephraim;  
but bird catchers' snares lie on all their paths;  
there's hatred for them in the temple of their God.

<sup>9</sup>The people have made themselves as depraved  
as they were at Gibeah long ago.  
He'll remember their iniquity  
and punish their sins.

**Hos 9:7-9**

<sup>10</sup>Yahveh says,  
*"At first, finding Israel was like finding grapes in the desert;  
I saw their ancestors like the first fruit on a fig tree's first season.  
But they came to Baal-peor  
and devoted themselves to their shameful idol;  
they became as detestable as the idol they loved.*

<sup>11</sup>*Ephraim's glory will soon fly off like a bird  
because there'll be no conception, no pregnancy, no birth!*

<sup>12</sup>*Even if they do raise children,  
I'll take them away till there aren't any left.  
Misfortune awaits them when I leave them!*

<sup>13</sup>*Ephraim is planted in a pleasant meadow like Tyre,  
but he'll bring out his children for slaughter."*

<sup>14</sup>Give them, Yahveh—what will I say to give them?  
Give them miscarrying wombs and dry breasts.

**Hos 9:10-14**

<sup>15</sup>Yahveh says, *"Their sins began in Gilgal;  
I started to despise them there!  
Because of their sinful deeds,  
I'll drive them out of my house!  
I won't love them anymore;  
their officials are rebels.*

<sup>16</sup>*The people of Ephraim are stricken,  
their root has dried up,  
they won't bear any more children.  
If they do,  
I'll kill their precious ones at birth."*

<sup>17</sup>My God will expel them  
because they've ignored him.  
So they'll wander *without progeny* among the nations.

**Hos 9:15-17**

**10:1** Israel is a luxurious vine

that grows his own fruit.  
 The more his fruit,  
     the more altars he makes;  
 the better his land,  
     the better the *sacred* pillars he sets up.

<sup>2</sup>He's been unfaithful;  
     now he must pay for his guilt.  
 Yahveh is going to tear down his altars  
     and pull over his *sacred* pillars.

**Hos 10:1-2**

<sup>3</sup>Then they'll say, "*We don't have a king  
     because we didn't respect Yahveh;  
     even if we had one,  
     what could he do for us?*"

<sup>4</sup>They just talk;  
     they make treaties they don't intend to keep,  
     so condemnations sprout up like noxious weeds  
     in the ditches in their fields.

<sup>5</sup>The residents in Samaria will fear  
     for the calf idol at Beth-aven [*Bethel*].  
 Its people will mourn for it;  
     its idolatrous priests will cry  
     over its departed beauty.

<sup>6</sup>The idol itself they will carry off to Assyria  
     as tribute to their great king;  
     Ephraim will be disgraced for depending on it.

<sup>7</sup>Samaria and its king will float away  
     like driftwood on the ocean tide.

<sup>8</sup>The high places of *Beth-aven*, the place of Israel's sin,  
     will fall into ruin;  
 thorns and thistles will grow up around their altars.  
     Then they'll call to the mountains, "*Cover us!*"  
     and to the hills, "*Fall on us!*"

**Hos 10:3-8**

<sup>9</sup>Yahveh says, "*Ever since Gibeah,  
     they've just kept on sinning!*  
*Wasn't it right for war to break out against them?*"

<sup>10</sup>*When I so desire,  
     I'll attack those sinners;*

*I'll gather the nations' armies against them  
to punish them for their extreme guilt.*

**Hos 10:9-10**

<sup>11</sup>*"Ephraim is a trained heifer that loves to tread out grain,  
and I used to spare her fair neck.  
But I'll put a yoke on Ephraim;  
I'll make Judah plow  
and Jacob harrow by himself.*

<sup>12</sup>*Sow seeds of goodness;  
harvest a crop of lasting love.  
Break up your heart's hardened, fallow ground;  
it's time to look to Yahveh  
so he'll come to shower goodness on you.*

<sup>13</sup>*"You've cultivated sinfulness and harvested injustice;  
you've eaten the produce of lies  
because you've trusted in going it on your own  
with your big army.*

<sup>14</sup>*So the loud noise of war will arise among your people  
and destroy your fortresses  
the way Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel in battle,  
and mothers were dashed to pieces with their children.*

<sup>15</sup>*That's what's going to happen to you, too, Bethel,  
because of your extreme sinfulness.  
Israel's king will be killed at dawn.*

**Hos 10:11-15**

### **Yahveh's Love for Israel**

<sup>11:1</sup>*"When Israel was young, I loved him  
and called my son out of Egypt.*

<sup>2</sup>*The more I called him,  
the more he withdrew from me.  
He kept sacrificing to images of Baal  
and burning incense to idols.*

<sup>3</sup>*But I was the One that taught Ephraim to walk,  
leading him by the hand;  
but he didn't know I was the One that healed him.*

<sup>4</sup>*I led him with the leashes of mercy and bonds of love;  
I became like One that eased the bridle from his jaws  
and bent over to feed him.*

**Hos 11:1-4**

<sup>5</sup>“My people won’t go back to Egypt;  
*Assyria will be their king*  
*because they refused to come back to me.*

<sup>6</sup>*The sword will rage against their towns;*  
*their enemies will break through their gate bars*  
*and destroy them for their evil intentions.*

<sup>7</sup>*So my people are intent on turning away from me;*  
*though the prophets call them to me,*  
*none of them honors me.*

**Hos 11:5-7**

<sup>8</sup>“How can I give up on you, Ephraim?  
*How can I let you go, Israel?*  
*How can I make you like Admah*  
*or treat you like Zeboiim?*  
*My heart shrinks back within me;*  
*my compassion wells up.*

<sup>9</sup>*I won’t act on my fierce anger*  
*or destroy Ephraim again,*  
*because I’m divine, not mortal,*  
*the Holy One among you;*  
*I won’t come in anger.*

<sup>10</sup>*They’ll follow me;*  
*I’ll roar like a lion,*  
*and my people will come cringing from the west.*

<sup>11</sup>*They’ll come fluttering like birds from Egypt,*  
*like pigeons from Assyria;*  
*I’ll settle them in their houses,” Yahveh declares.*

<sup>12</sup>“Ephraim surrounds me with lies,  
*and the House of Israel with deceit.*  
*Judah also rebels against me,*  
*against the Holy One that’s faithful.”*

**Hos 11:8-12**

**12:<sup>1</sup>**Ephraim feeds on wind,  
 and constantly chases after the east wind;  
 he piles up lies and violence;  
 he even makes an alliance with Assyria  
 while he’s carrying olive oil to Egypt to buy help.

## Yahveh's Indictment Against Israel and Judah

<sup>2</sup>Yahveh has a dispute with Judah too;

he'll punish Jacob  
in proportion to his "deceit."

<sup>3</sup>In the womb he grabbed his brother's heel;  
when he grew up, he even wrestled with God.

<sup>4</sup>He wrestled with an angel and prevailed;  
he cried and begged for his blessing.

He found him at Bethel  
and spoke to him there—

<sup>5</sup>Yahveh God of Hosts,  
Yahveh is his name.

**Hos 12:1-5**

<sup>6</sup>So come back to your God,  
observe kindness and justice;  
depend on him always.

<sup>7</sup>But he's become a shrewd businessman with false balances  
who loves to oppress.

<sup>8</sup>Ephraim has said, "*I got rich;  
I made myself wealthy.  
Nobody caught me being dishonest;  
that would have made it illegal!*"

<sup>9</sup>*"I've been Yahveh your God since Egypt;  
I'll make you live in tents again  
as at the Festival of Booths.*

<sup>10</sup>*I've spoken to the prophets  
and given them lots of visions;  
I've delivered parables through them."*

**Hos 12:6-10**

<sup>11</sup>But there's sinfulness in Gilead,  
worthless *people*.

They sacrifice bulls in Gilgal too;  
their altars are like rock piles  
along a plowed field.

<sup>12</sup>Jacob fled to the land of Aram  
and kept sheep to get a wife.

<sup>13</sup>Then Yahveh brought his descendants



out of Egypt by a prophet  
and protected them by him.  
<sup>14</sup>But they've made *Yahveh* bitterly angry;  
so he's sentenced them to death  
in payment for their disgrace.

Hos 12:11-14

### Yahveh's Anger at Israel

<sup>13</sup><sup>1</sup>When Ephraim spoke, people cringed;  
he made himself important in Israel,  
but because of Baal he became guilty and died.  
<sup>2</sup>Now his people sin more and more  
and make molten images,  
idols skillfully formed from silver,  
all made by craftsmen.  
They say, "*Sacrifice to them,  
kiss the calf idols!*"  
<sup>3</sup>So they'll be like morning mist,  
like dew that dries off soon,  
like chaff blown from a threshing floor,  
like smoke from a chimney.

Hos 13:1-3

<sup>4</sup>"*Yet I've been Yahveh your God since Egypt;  
you weren't to know any God but me  
because there is no savior but me.*  
<sup>5</sup>*I took care of you in the desert,  
in a land of drought.*  
<sup>6</sup>*But when you got to pasture,  
fed to the full and satisfied,  
you got independent and forgot about me.*  
<sup>7</sup>*So I'll be like a lion to you  
and lie in wait by the road like a leopard.*  
<sup>8</sup>*I'll attack you like a bear robbed of her cubs  
and tear your chests open.  
I'll devour you like a lioness  
and maul you like a wild animal.*

Hos 13:4-8

<sup>9</sup>"*It's to your destruction, Israel,  
that you're against me, your help.*  
<sup>10</sup>*Where's your king*

*that's going to save you in all your towns?  
Where are the officials you requested,  
'Give me a king and officials'?*

<sup>11</sup>*I gave you a king in my anger  
and took him away in my wrath.*

<sup>12</sup>*"The iniquity of Ephraim has been collected  
and stored up for retribution.*

<sup>13</sup>*The pains of childbirth have come on him;  
he's not a very smart son;  
it's too late to keep from being born.*

**Hos 13:9-13**

<sup>14</sup>*"Should I ransom him from Sheol?  
Should I redeem him from death?  
No, I won't show him mercy; so  
Death, where are your thorns?  
Death, where is your sting?  
Bring it.*

<sup>15</sup>*Though he's flourishing like a reed,  
an east wind will come—  
Yahveh's wind from the desert—  
and dry up his fountain;  
his spring will go dry.  
It will 'blow away' every precious article in his treasury.*

<sup>16</sup>*Samaria will bear the consequences of his guilt  
because he rebelled against his God:  
his residents will fall by the sword;  
his little ones will be dashed to pieces;  
his pregnant women will be ripped open."*

**Hos 13:14-16**

### **Healing for the Repentant**

<sup>14:1</sup>*Israel, come back to Yahveh your God;  
you've stumbled because you sinned.*

<sup>2</sup>*Come back to Yahveh  
and bring your confession with you.*

Say, *"Take away our sin;  
receive us graciously  
so we can offer our praises to you.*

<sup>3</sup>*Assyria can't save us;*

*neither can our warhorses.  
We won't say 'our god' anymore  
to something we've made;  
only from you can we orphans receive mercy."* **Hos 14:1-3**

<sup>4</sup>Yahveh says,  
    *"I'll heal your apostasy  
    and love you freely  
        because my anger will be gone.*  
<sup>5</sup>*I'll be like dew to you;  
        you'll blossom like a lily.*  
<sup>6</sup>*Your roots will spread out like the cedars in Lebanon.*  
<sup>7</sup>*Your people that live in your shade,  
        will raise grain again,  
        and blossom like grapevines.*  
    *You'll be as fragrant as Lebanon's wine.* **Hos 14:4-7**  
<sup>8</sup>*"Ephraim, I don't have any connection with idols.  
        I directly am the One that answers your prayers  
        and takes care of you.  
I'm like a green cypress;  
        your fruit all comes from me."*

<sup>9</sup>Whoever is wise, understand—  
whoever perceives, be aware:  
    the Lord's way is the right way;  
    good people follow it,  
    but sinners trip over it. **Hos 14:8-9**