### Hosea

## Chapter 11

1[And God continues:]  
  
 ‘It was early on when they were disowned,  
 And IsraEl’s kings were also disowned.  
 But as an infant, IsraEl was so deeply loved,  
 So I called his children from Egypt.  
 2But, as I was calling them back,  
 They started turning from Me…  
 To BaAl Im they brought sacrifices,  
 And burned incense before the idols they carved.  
  
 3‘I once held Ephraim [tight] in my arms…  
 And when he didn’t know Me, I healed him.  
 4While he was in the corrupt state of men,  
 I wrapped him in the bonds of My love.  
  
 ‘To him, I became like a [father]…  
 One who disciplines him…  
 So I’ll watch over him and I’ll win!  
  
 5‘But to the land of Egypt, he won’t return,  
 For Assyria’s king will now rule him  
 Because he refused to turn from [bad ways].  
  
 6‘So, swords will rage in their cities  
 And they’ll consume the bars on their gates…  
 For their bad decisions, they’ll be destroyed!  
  
 7‘Their people have clung to the things in their homes,  
 And I’m enraged by the things they hold dear.  
 So as a result, I won’t bless them.  
  
 8‘How should I treat you, O Ephraim…  
 How can I shield you, O IsraEl?  
 Should I treat you the same as I’ve treated AdMah?  
 Will I appoint you as I did to Zeboim?  
  
 ‘Will My heart be changed in such matters…  
 Shouldn’t such things upset Me…  
 Yes, shouldn’t such deeds make Me sad?  
  
 9‘But no way will I send all My rage upon you…  
 No way will I wipe Ephraim away.  
 For, I am your God (not a man)…  
 I’m the Holy One in your midst,  
 So I won’t enter your cities!’  
  
10[And Hosea pleads:]  
  
 ‘But now, you must [return to] Jehovah;  
 Or He will roar like a lion  
 And startle your young by the sea in the west.  
  
 [‘For God says:]  
  
 11‘They’ll be startled like a bird out of Egypt,  
 And like Assyrian doves;  
 Then I’ll bring them back to their homes,’ says Jehovah.  
 12‘By Ephraim, I was circled with lies…  
 By the irreverence of the houses of IsraEl and Judah.’  
  
 ‘But Jehovah will know them once more  
 And call them The Holy People of God.’