### Hosea

## Chapter 14

1[And Hosea continues:]  
  
 ‘O IsraEl,  
  
 ‘Return to Jehovah, your God!  
 For because of your sins, you’ve become weak.  
 2Follow your own [good advice]  
 And then turn back to Jehovah!  
  
 ‘Just ask Him to please overlook  
 All of your unrighteous ways  
 So that you can receive what’s good  
 And be repaid for the fruit of your lips.  
  
 3[‘For God says:]  
  
 ‘Assyria won’t be your savior,  
 And upon their war horses, you’ll never ride.  
 So stop calling those hand-made things gods,  
 And start showing mercy to orphans!  
 4Then I’ll repair all your homes;  
 I’ll turn back my rage;  
 And I’ll confess that I love you!  
  
 5‘To IsraEl, once more, I’ll become  
 Like dew that arrives in the morning;  
 Then, like a lily, he’ll blossom again  
 And grow roots like Lebanon’s [trees].’  
  
 6‘Yes his branches will grow very full;  
 And like olive trees, he’ll bear so much fruit  
 That to Lebanon, its scent will be carried.  
  
 7‘Then, they’ll all be returned,  
 And in His protection, they’ll sit.  
 They’ll live amidst plenty of grain,  
 And like grapevines, they’ll blossom…  
 They’ll be remembered like Lebanon’s wines.  
  
 8[‘For God says:]  
  
 ‘O ‘O <span class="placename">Ephraim‘O <span class="placename">Ephraim</span>,  
  
 ‘What good are all of your idols?  
 Am I not the One who is humbling you  
 And the One who can make you strong once again?  
 For I’m a dense juniper tree,  
 And it’s only by Me that you can bear fruit!’  
  
 9‘So, who among you is wise,  
 And who understands all these things…  
 Who among you can recognize them?  
 For the ways of Jehovah are straight,  
 And the righteous will live by these ways  
 While the irreverent will stumble and fall.’

# Joel

Joel is the record of a late 7th Century BCE prophecy given to Prophet Joel.  
  
It dates from before Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians, and concerns the city’s destruction and later restoration. In the book of Acts, Peter quotes part of this prophecy when explaining how some of these words were fulfilled in JeruSalem on the Day of Pentecost in 33 CE.  
  
  
Most of this book is poetry  
  
Something that only a Bible translator would notice is when words are in the form of Hebrew poetry. There’s a definite cadence that can be seen in the original language. Therefore, because this is the chosen style of God, we’ve tried to recreate it as it was originally intended: in poetic verse.  
  
  
Why use poetry?  
  
Poetry must conform to a certain rhythm and style. These act as memory aids, helping you to recall the words, making it easier for messages to be spread via the most common communication method of the time: song.  
  
  
Who was talking?  
  
When translating the words of the Prophets, you can’t help but notice the constant changing personal pronouns (I, you, he, they, etc.) used in the text. It makes it very confusing to figure out exactly who’s talking.  
  
However, we now realize one reason for the confusion that’s usually overlooked: God didn’t speak to the Prophets personally. Rather, He sent His messages through a mediator, either referred to as a messenger (an angel), or sometimes as ‘The Word’ (which some interpret to mean Jesus).  
  
So there are actually three voices speaking:  
  
 1. That of the Prophet, who sometimes quotes himself,  
  
 2. That of the angelic messenger who’s bringing the message from God,  
  
 3. The words of God Himself (which we put in italics).  
  
  
How can we tell the difference? From the context, the pronouns, and the tenses:  
  
 1. When the Prophet speaks, he’s either clearly reporting what he said or did, or is simply saying what was happening.  
  
 2. When the angelic messenger speaks, he talks about God in the third person.  
  
 3 When God is speaking, all references to God are naturally spoken in the first person.  
  
  
Did we get it all right? Probably not, but it has been an honest attempt at doing so. If you think you’ve spotted a place where our choice is incorrect, please let us know and we’ll reconsider it.