### Hosea

## Chapter 6

1‘But, when they’re oppressed, they’ll rise early;  
 And then, about Jehovah, they’ll say:  
  
 ‘We should return to our God;  
 For He’ll snatch us away and then heal us.  
 He’ll attack them and then dress our wounds…  
 2Yes, after two days, He’ll restore us;  
 Then, by the third day, we’ll be alive  
 And we’ll be standing before Him!  
  
 3‘Knowledge of Him, we’ll know and pursue…  
 We’ll find Him at the first crack of dawn.  
 Then like morning rain, He will arrive…  
 Yes, like evening rain on the ground.’  
  
 4‘[But right now God says:]  
  
 ‘O Ephraim, what must I do?  
 And Judah, what must I do?  
 For your mercy is like morning fog,  
 Which like the dew, fades away.  
  
 5‘So, by the Prophets, I’ve mowed you down,  
 And I’ve killed you with words from My mouth…  
 My judgments upon you have gone forth like light.  
  
 6‘What I want is mercy, not sacrifice…  
 Higher knowledge instead of burnt-offerings!  
 7But you’ve broken your Sacred Agreement with Me,  
 And you’ve shown Me your hatred.  
  
 8‘GileAd is a city of wasted deeds…  
 One which muddies the water.  
 9For her strength now comes from her thieves,  
 And her priests also murder from ambush.  
  
 ‘So, SheChem has committed unrighteous acts  
 Against the house of IsraEl,  
 10And causes for shuddering, I’ve seen there;  
 So because of Ephraim’s whoring,  
 Both IsraEl and Judah have now been defiled.  
 11Thus they’ll reap [from the vine] of rebellion  
 Until I bring back My people.’