### Hosea

## Chapter 8

1‘Yes their land is in [Egypt’s hands],  
 And against them, an eagle now flies,  
 Because they’ve broken [God’s] Sacred Agreement,  
 And they’ve disregarded His Laws.  
  
 2‘However, before Him, they cry out:  
  
 ‘O God, Aren’t we the same ones who’ve known You?’  
  
 3‘But they threw away the good things He sent  
 And turned to His enemies for aid.’  
  
 4[‘For God said:]  
  
 ‘By themselves, they chose their own rulers  
 (No, they didn’t ask Me),  
 And when these men started to rule,  
 They saw no reason to tell Me.  
 Then with silver and gold they made idols…  
 So now, they must be wiped away!  
  
 5‘O Samaria; get rid of your calves,  
 Because they provoke Me to rage…  
 How much longer will IsraEl stay dirty?  
 6For [your calves] are just things that you’ve made [with your hands]…  
 No, they aren’t really gods!  
 And Samaria; you’ve strayed because of your calves!  
  
 7‘Yes, the seeds of destruction, you’ve sown to the wind,  
 And now your end is searching for you.  
 You’re a stalk of grain too weak to give flour,  
 And if you could give just a little,  
 It would be eaten by strangers.  
  
 8‘So IsraEl will be swallowed down,  
 And they won’t be a power among other nations.  
 9For, up to Assyria she traveled,  
 And as Ephraim so loves to do,  
 She offered them bribes [for their aid].  
  
 10‘So among the nations, they’ll be scattered  
 And there, they’ll just be too weak  
 To again anoint rulers and kings for themselves.  
  
 11‘Ephraim has built many altars,  
 And these alters that she loves are the [roots] of her sins.  
 12So for them, I’ll write extra laws,  
 Because she loves those strange altars.’  
  
13[And Hosea comments:]  
  
 ‘But if they place their sacrifices on them,  
 And if they thereafter eat all the meat;  
 [God] still won’t receive them in favor.  
  
 ‘For, their unrighteous ways are what He’ll recall…  
 And for their sins, He’ll send vengeance upon them.  
 Yes, they’ve turned back to Egypt,  
 14And forgotten the One by whom they were made.  
  
 [‘For God says:]  
  
 ‘Sacred precincts have also been established  
 Within the walls of the cities of Judah.  
 So, I’ll send fire to their cities  
 And burn them to their foundations.’