

Hosea Prophecy Series I

Chronology of the Prophets & Hosea 1 thru 2:13)

Fred R. Coulter

You're going to have to do quite a bit of ordinary reading that I will refer to, because if we went through trying to read every verse, we would be ten years trying to get through it. There are going to be parts where we will get into it very particularly because of the prophetic message that is there.

There are going to be other aspects of it where we will get back into the New Testament, because I don't want to stay strictly in the Old Testament on a continuous basis, lest we lose perspective, that we are not an Old Testament church, we are a New Testament church and there are reasons for all of these things that have been written. Not only they prophetic for our time, but they are examples for us.

Let's see the purpose for all of these things so that we can understand when we go through them and study them. This is going to require that you do some extra reading so that you can cover all of the material.

1-Cor. tells us why all these things have been written. It talks about the children of Israel. Of course, all of the prophecies in the Old Testament have to do with the children of Israel and the children of Judah. The ten tribes of Israel and the tribe of Judah and some Benjaminites and Levites, commonly called the Jews.

1-Corinthians 10:1: "Now, I do not wish you to be ignorant of *this*, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea. And all were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea. And *they* all ate the same spiritual meat" (vs 1-3).

They did not understand the commandments of God, though God spoke them to them. When the commandments were given to them, what happened when God spoke to them from Mt. Sinai? *They were so terrified and afraid and trembled at it, they wanted some insulation between them and God!* When God got done speaking, they all went up to Moses and said, 'Moses, you go to God and speak to God, and you come and tell us. and we'll do whatever God says.'

So, there was this removal of the relationship with God right at the beginning. They couldn't endure that spiritual meat.

Verse 4: "And *they* all drank of the same spiritual drink; for they drank from *the* spiritual Rock that followed *them*. **And that Rock was**

Christ." This is a direct Scripture showing that the Lord God of the Old Testament was the One Who became Jesus Christ.

As we go through this, we're going to emphasize some of these basic things.

Verse 5: "But with many of them God was not pleased, for their dead bodies were strewn in the wilderness." We can also apply this to the seven churches (Rev. 2; 3). With many in the Churches of God, God is not well-pleased. Didn't He call them all to repent except Smyrna and Philadelphia? *Yes!*

Verse 6: "Now these things became examples for us, so that we might not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be idolaters, as *were* some of them; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.' Neither should we commit sexual immorality, as some of them committed, and twenty-three thousand were destroyed in one day. Neither should we tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted *Him...*" (vs 6-9). Another verse showing that Christ was the One Who was the Lord God of the Old Testament.

"...and were killed by serpents. Neither *should we* complain against *God*, as some of them also complained, and were killed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them *as* examples, and were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages are coming.... [then Paul gives this admonition]: ...Therefore, **let the one who thinks he stands take heed, lest he fall**" (vs 9-12).

We're going to see that when we get into some of the prophecies, there are a lot of warnings that will help us to take heed so that we can stand and not fall. We're going to see that:

- many of the prophecies *were specific for that time*

- some of the prophecies *are dual*

That means there's a first fulfillment and there's a second fulfillment.

- some of the prophecies *are continuous* because of the nature of the children of Israel
- some of the prophecies *are for the end-time* only

As we go through, we will discern those. Plus what we're going to do is we are going to note all the Scriptures that apply to Jesus Christ the Messiah, and we're going to see that most of those come in the book of Isaiah. There are some

few in other parts, but the vast majority of all the prophecies of the Messiah come in the book of Isaiah.

We have two printouts that show all the events in a narration, but especially the things contained in Amos and Hosea.

{transcriber's note: the **Biblical Chronology** chart is found in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*, pg. 1401}

Chronology of the Prophets

Let's just survey this. Carl Franklin has done an excellent job in this. Let's understand that it's almost impossible to go to Adam and start with year zero and go forward.

Bishop Usher was an English bishop who did a chronology beginning with the year zero with Adam, and coming to the end based upon 6,000 years of mankind, based upon where Peter said that a day is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as a day (2-Peter). He came to the year 2004. That's why a lot of people are getting excited toward the end-time, because a lot of people thought it would be in the year 2000. They thought they would have what is called a Y2K problem come up.

Adam—4025_{B.C.}—add 2000, which makes it 6025 years, which would make it the year 2025_{A.D.} This tells us that we don't know the day or the hour. We can get a chronology within a reasonable realm.

I want you to understand that a chronology is only within a reasonable realm of it. The reason being is that we don't know the exact time of the begetting of the new individual in the lifetime of the Father.

Example: Adam was 130-years-old when he begat Seth. Was 130 and a month, in six months or ten months? *We don't know!* So, there is always that difficulty within the chronology. What you do is use these as pretty close approximations within a six-month period. That's about the best you can do.

If that be correct, then we may have more time at the end. However, this also leads us to another thing that Jesus said when we come to the end. If it goes beyond the year 2004 for the return of Christ, what are people going to say? *'Well, all of you 'religionists' are wrong! Christ didn't come in 2000 or 2004 and Usher's chronology is wrong!'*

What are they going to say? *'There is no such thing as a second return of Christ!'* And those who believe in Christ are going to say, 'My Lord delays His coming.'

As I've said before, Christ is not going to delay His coming, it's going to be right on time, whatever time it is that Christ is going to return and that the

Father has set is going to be *right on time*.

We have to understand that some of our understanding in these things is going to be limited. When we get to some of these prophecies, we do not want to be absolutely dogmatic where the Bible does not tell us with absolute dogmatism. Otherwise, we'll end up with the mistake that we had when Worldwide went back to the Seventh Day Adventists. They said it would be in 1844. They said that the temple in heaven had to be cleansed.

- When was it ever that the temple in heaven was filled with sin? *God dwells there!*
- Isn't God righteous?
- How could it be filled with sin that it needed to be cleansed?
- Did God sin?
- Did Christ sin?

NO! Satan sinned, but not right there in the temple! He was cast out from the 'stones of fire' (Ezek. 28).

I have to mention here that there's a false prophet—John Roansbe (sp?)—out there preaching that 'once saved always saved,' and Satan was created as an evil being and all kinds of weird different doctrines. The worst false prophets are going to come who have been long-time members or ministers within the Church of God, because they sound authentic. They're not going to come from Methodists, Presbyterians or Catholics.

Those are false prophets for the world, but false prophets for the Church are going to come from within the Church. I've been listening to some of the sermons by this guy, and I can only listen to it about two or three minutes at a time, because it is so horrendously bad.

We've gone all the way from the year 2000 to the year 2025 as far as written down, the suspected return of Christ. This is why Jesus said:

Matthew 24:42: "Watch, therefore, because you do not know in what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have been watching, and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, you also be ready. For the Son of man is coming at a time that you do not think" (vs 42-44). This has a dual meaning:

- Rev. 2; 3—going to the seven churches

Christ said to the churches, 'If you don't repent, I will come unto you quickly and remove your candlestick and fight against you with the sword of My mouth. And I will kill her children with death. I will spew you out of My mouth.' It's very important.

- Christ can come upon **you** for whatever God's judgment is in your life, **at any time**. Not necessarily relating to the second return of Christ.

Verse 45: "Who then is the faithful and wise servant whom his lord has set over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he comes shall find so doing" (vs 45-46).

- Did God come down and check on Sodom and Gomorrah? *Yes, He did!*
- Does God come down and check on the Church every once in a while? *No question about it, because we have the Spirit of God!*

God's main concern is with the Church.

Verse 47: "Truly I say to you, he will set him over all his property. But if that evil servant shall say in his heart, 'My lord delays *his* coming'" (vs 47-48). There are going to be those who say, 'My Lord delays His coming.'

Verse 49: "And shall begin to beat *his* fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken, the lord of that servant will come in a day that he does not expect, and in an hour that he does not know. And he shall cut him asunder and shall appoint his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (vs 49-51).

Did that not happen to the successor of Herbert W. Armstrong? *He changed all the doctrines and then God came in a day that he look for, and he died!* He died on the Sabbath the day that he hated and was ready to change for Sunday.

That was the very Sabbath I was down in Los Angeles area and I took a stroll on the campus. The very day that he died I walked on the campus of Ambassador College. I was there that morning. It was really quite an emotional event for me to do that and to see how run down it was.

It's kind of like what God said of Israel: *I planted a good vine and here we have wild grapes!* It was, everything was grown over and run down and just terrible. Later they were down there on the Sabbath working to repair the roofs and paint and things like this. God came upon them in an hour when they didn't expect it. Then the ultimate result is that if you commit the unpardonable sin, then 'there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

By the way, John Roansbe says that you cannot go into the Lake of Fire. Well, that's contrary to what all that's in the New Testament.

If you go backward from the birth of Christ, which is a calculable date based upon many different

things—note in the *Faithful Version* Bible, Appendix E: When Was Jesus Christ Born?—then you can go backward and figure the chronology. That's how Franklin came to the year 4025 with Adam.

Referring to chart of historic and prophetic events **from the prophet Jonah to Jesus Christ**: It shows that **Jonah prophesied** of the destruction of Niniveh in 797_{B.C.} Then **Hosea begins prophesying**, then **Amos prophesies**. We have the sun goes down at noon as Amos prophesied, the great earthquake of Uzziah occurs. Jerusalem split open by 2,640-feet, and that is all documented in *Josephus*. He's got a narration to go along with this.

Then we come to the year 739_{B.C.}—**Micah begins prophesying**. We're going to take some of these in the historical prophesying as they occurred. Then Isaiah begins prophesying and we will see how all these things dovetail in.

We're going to see that as long as there was not the canonized Word of God—as we have it today—there was, in nearly all cases, a prophet. It starts with **Moses**, and he **refers to himself as a prophet**. Then we have Joshua and then the judges. At the end of the time of the judges, who do we have as a prophet that God raised up as very young child? **Samuel!** He prophesied all the way down into the life of David.

What I'm going to show is that very rarely was there ever a time before the canonization of the Old Testament Scriptures, by Ezra in 600_{B.C.}, when there was no prophet. There was always a prophet around.

With David we had **Samuel**. After Samuel who do we have? Who went to David to convict him of his sin with Bathsheba? **Nathan!** Then during David's time, we also have mentioned Gad the seer. During the days of Solomon we have another prophet:

1-Kings 11:26: "And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite of Zereda, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, he too lifted up *his* hand against the king. And this *was* the cause that he lifted up *his* hand against the king. Solomon built Millo *and* repaired the breaks of the city of David his father. And the man Jeroboam *was* a mighty man of war. And Solomon, seeing that the young man was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph" (vs 26-28).

He was like a prince over the ten tribes of Israel. The house of Joseph, in many cases, refers to all the ten tribes of Israel, but not necessarily.

Verse 29: "Now, it came to pass at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, **the prophet**

Ahijah from Shiloh found him on the way....”—and Ahijah brings a message from God.

“...And he had clothed himself with a new garment. And the two of them *were* alone in the field. And Ahijah caught hold of the new garment that *was* on him, and tore it *in* twelve pieces. And he said to Jeroboam, ‘Take ten pieces for yourself. For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, “Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you, but he shall have one tribe for My servant David’s sake and for Jerusalem’s sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel because they have forsaken Me, and have worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the goddess of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways, to do *what is right* in My eyes, and to keep My statutes and My judgments, as David his father did. But I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of David My servant, whom I chose because he kept My commandments and My statutes. But I will take the kingdom out of his son’s hand and will give it to you, ten tribes. And to his son I will give one tribe, so that David My servant may have a light always before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Me to put My name there. And I will take you, and you shall reign according to all that your soul desires, and shall be king over Israel”’” (vs 29-37).

What I want you to understand in this is how much latitude that God gives. Just like every one else, He sets before us choices. We are to choose and exercise our free moral agency. Notice how broad this is.

Verse 38: “And if you will hearken to all that I command you and will walk in My ways, and do *what is right* in My sight to keep My statutes and My commandments, as David My servant did, then I will be with you and build you a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you. And for this I will afflict the seed of David, but not forever” (vs 38-39).

So, God gave Ahijah quite a broad mandate! What did he do? *He set up his government with a new religion!* He made two calves—one in Dan and one in Bethel—and changed the Feast from the seventh month to the eighth month. He told the children of Israel that these calves were the gods that brought them out of Egypt (1-Kings 12).

1-Kings 12:30: “And this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one, even to Dan. And he made houses *of worship* on the high places and made priests...” (vs 30-31). He set up his own religion; a full-blown Babylonian system with the king as the representative of God. In this

case he made himself the high priest.

When he did these things, v 32: “And Jeroboam ordered a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast that *is* in Judah. And he offered upon the altar...”

In God’s way the king was to never, *never* to into the temple to make the offerings at the temple. The king could bring an offering to the priest, and then the priest would make the offering. We’re going to see a little later on that in the days of Uzziah he usurped the authority and went into the house of God and resisted the priest—who said not to do it—and he was made a leper that day. That’s when the earthquake took place and split open and moved 2640-feet, moved part of Jerusalem to the west; this is pretty close to a half-mile.

None of us, even here in California, who have been through earthquakes have been through one like that. That’s why when you get to Zech. 14 it talks about the earthquake when Christ returns and ‘the mountain is going to split in two—half to the north and half to the south—and they will flee like they did in the days of the earthquake off Uzziah.’ *That’s how great that earthquake was!*

“...So, he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made...” (v 32). They have a pious, sanctimonious ceremony. I imagine that they had their regal priestly walk, having on all of their robes, all the regalia that they had. I imagine that they had incense and dressed up like a pope, walking down there with the incense and his staff coming up to do the sacrifice. I imagine that they had the singers on the one hand and trumpeters on the other hand. They had the whole chorus of singers, and they had the whole order of their priests.

They should never have been priests, they were not of the sons of Levi. Anyone who wanted to be a priest would come and be a priest.

It seems like that same thing happens in the Church of God. We have so many teachers around; everyone wants to be a teacher. Well, if you’re going to teach, you better teach the Word of God, otherwise you’re going to be a dead duck.

“...And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places, which he had made. And he offered upon the altar, which he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month, which he had devised out of his own heart. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel. And he offered upon the altar and burned incense” (vs 32-33).

Here’s the whole point: *God still had a prophet!* 1-Kings 13:1: “And behold, a man of God came out of Judah by the Word of the Lord, to

Bethel....” Why doesn’t it give his name? *I think it doesn’t give his name because he disobeyed God!* God told him to go up here and cry against it.

Verse 2: “And he cried against the altar by the Word of the Lord and said, ‘O, altar, altar, thus says the LORD. “Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name...””—several hundred years in advance.

We have Rehoboam starting in 970_{B.C.} Then you come all the way down to Josiah in 637_{B.C.}—333 years—he was prophesied by name, 333 years ahead of time. We will see what Josiah did.

“...and upon you he shall offer the priests of the high places who burn incense upon you, and men’s bones shall be burned upon you.” And he gave a sign the same day, saying, ‘This *is* the sign which the LORD has spoken. “Behold, the altar shall be torn apart, and the ashes that *are* upon it shall be poured out.” Then it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God who had cried against the altar in Bethel...” (vs 2-4). *How dare you come up here and do this to our altar! Who gives you the right to come up here and speak against it?*

“...he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, ‘Lay hold on him!’ And his hand, which he put forth against him withered up so that he could not pull it in again to himself. The altar also was split asunder and the ashes poured out from the altar according to the sign which the man of God had given by the Word of the Lord” (vs 4-5).

They’re jus like cowards and crooks; they kill and murder people and when the police get them, ‘Don’t shoot! Don’t shoot!’ So,

Verse 6: “And the king answered and said to the man of God, ‘Seek now the face of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me again.’....” So, he did and it was restored. Then we had false prophet come along,

Verse 7: “And the king said to the man of God, ‘Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward.’....” The king should not have done it! He went and ate and a lion came and ate him on the way.

We have **Ahijah the prophet**, and this was when Rehoboam’s son—Abijah—was sick:

1-Kings 14:4: “And Jeroboam’s wife did so and arose and went to Shiloh....” That’s where the tabernacle was, but this is after Solomon, so what they had in Shiloh was probably a school of the prophets.

“...And she came to the house of Ahijah. And Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were dim

because of his age. And the LORD said to Ahijah, ‘Behold, the wife of Jeroboam comes to ask a thing of you for her son, for he *is* sick....” (vs 4-5). And he was to tell her that her son was going to die.

I want to point out that there was a prophet all the way down through these times.

1-Kings 16:1: “And the Word of the Lord came to **Jehu**... [the prophet] ...the son of Hanani against Baasha, saying.”

Verse 7: “And also by the hand of **the prophet Jehu**...”

1-Kings 17—now we have **Elijah**. There are quite of few chapters devoted to the work of Elijah. First of all he came on the scene and he was sent to the widow and stayed with her for three and a half years. How’s that for a public prophecy?

1-Kings 18:1: “And it came to pass *after* many days the Word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year saying, ‘Go, show yourself to Ahab. And I will send rain upon the earth.’ Then Elijah went to show himself to Ahab...” (vs 1-2).

They had false prophets there, 450 prophets of Baal. Let’s summarize the story: When Elijah came and started his ministry, and to determine who was really God—Baal or the Lord—Elijah came and said, ‘How long halt you between two opinions?’ That means to jump back and forth. This is what people do whoever looks to be on the winning side. That’s what they did with the prophets of Baal.

Remember, during the days of Ahab, who was Ahab’s wife? **Jezebel!** She was the daughter of the priest of Baal from Phoenicia. That’s why there were so many prophets of Baal at that time.

They took to bullock and put them on the altar that they made, and the prophets of Baal cried all morning into about mid-afternoon, even cutting themselves and crying, ‘Oh, Baal! O, Baal! Hear us!’

Elijah mocked them and said, ‘Maybe he’s asleep or on a journey. Cry louder! Jump up and down more!’ That didn’t work, so when that was all done, Elijah straightened up the altar and put his sacrifice on there, filled it up three times with water and prayed a very short prayer.

1-Kings 18:36: “Now, it came to pass at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, ‘LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that You *are* God in Israel, and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your Word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You *are* the LORD God, and that You have turned their heart back again” (vs 36-37).

I don't know how many seconds it took me to read that, but that's not a very long prayer.

Verse 38: "Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the burnt sacrifice and the wood, and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench. And when all the people saw, they fell on their faces. And they said, 'The LORD, He *is* the God! The LORD, He *is* the God!' And Elijah said to them, 'Take the prophets of Baal. Do not let one of them escape.' And they took them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and killed them there" (vs 38-40).

That made Jezebel mad and Elijah got scared and ran on down to the area of the Sinai peninsula and went into Mt. Horeb and stood there in a cave and was afraid.

God didn't speak to him in the wind, the earthquake or in the fire, but He did speak to Elijah and told him in a wee, small voice to go finish doing what he ought to do.

1-Kings 19 was when God was telling Elijah to go, and he was feeling sorry for himself. You've felt sorry for yourself; you're down and out, you've got trials and problems and nothing is working right. Everybody is mad at you: your husband/wife, the dog bites you, the cat scratches you, your car has a dent in it, you forget what you went shopping for, you come out of the store and can't find your car. Then you find your car and the shopping cart made a dent in us.

I remember one time that something like that happened to me when I was going through real severe trial. We had two Isuzu, one white and one red, and one of the kids had borrowed mine, so I took hers and I was kind of wandering around because of the big trial I was going through. I got in the store and forgot what I was going to buy, so I walked around and remembered and just had enough money to pay for it. I went out and went all over that lot looking for *my* car. I couldn't find it. So, I went around the second time and, lo and behold, I discovered my wife's car.

Elijah was feeling that way; 'Oh, I'm the only one, Lord. Why do You put me through this?' Sometimes you feel all alone, that there's nobody! Well, God told Elijah:

1-Kings 19:18: "Yet, I have left seven thousand in Israel *for Me*, all who have not bowed the knees to Baal..." So, there are more than we figure, though we don't know them. Elijah didn't know who they were. We will see that God always has a remnant; He talks about it in the first part of Isaiah. God always has a remnant that is faithful.

"...and every mouth that has not kissed

him" (v 18). So, they had to go up and kiss the statue of Baal.

Verse 19: "And he left there and found **Elisha**..." Now Elisha enters the scene.

(go to the next track)

This shows God's mercy, but it also shows that the prophets have to be flexible:

1-Kings 21:15: "Now, it came to pass when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned... [because he wanted the property] ...and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, 'Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth of Jezreel, which he refused to give you for silver, for Naboth is not alive, but dead.'" He should have still paid the survivors! But this was murder by Jezebel.

Verse 16: "And it came to pass when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth of Jezreel to take possession of it. And the Word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 'Arise, go down to meet Ahab the king of Israel in Samaria. Behold, *he is* in the vineyard of Naboth where he has gone to possess it. And you shall speak to him, saying, "Thus says the LORD, 'Have you killed and also taken possession?'" And you shall speak to him saying, "Thus says the LORD, 'In the place where the dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours.'" And Ahab said to Elijah, 'Have you found me, O my enemy?'...." (vs 16-20).

Isn't that how people treat those who speak the Truth? There was one man in Seattle that told me that he checked with a minister in *his church* and that minister said that 'Fred Coulter is demon possessed.' I said that that didn't surprise me because Jesus said that 'if they call the Lord Beelzebub, will they not also say the same thing of you?' He came from Montana all the way over to Seattle just to check me out, and he found out that I was not demon possessed.

It's just like Ahab; here comes Elijah, who is going to preach the Truth, and says, 'You're my enemy,' because Elijah is not going to tell him what he wants to hear. That's what happens. Prophets are not tell people what they want to hear.

What prophets tell the people what they want to hear? *False prophets!* We will see that.

"...And he answered, 'I have found *you* because you have sold yourself to work evil in the sight of the LORD. "Behold, I will bring evil upon you and will utterly sweep you away, and will cut off from Ahab him who pisses against the wall..." (vs 20-21). That's kind of frank language. That's saying He's going to cut him off, no male descendants.

“...both bond and free in Israel. And I will make your house like the house of **Jeroboam the son of Nebat...**” (vs 21-22). You’ll see that over and over again; Jeroboam was absolutely the worst sinner of all the kings and used as a measuring stick, as to how bad the kings of Israel were.

“...and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the provocation with which you have provoked *Me* to anger, and made Israel to sin.’ And the LORD also spoke of Jezebel saying, ‘The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.... [that did happen a little later] ...He who dies of Ahab in the city, the dogs shall eat....’” (vs 22-24). That’s something! You think about that!

We don’t have that many dogs running around today. I imagine that God would have the angels send the dogs to go eat them, to fulfill His prophecy.

“...And he who dies in the field, the birds of the air shall eat.... [send all the buzzards, vultures and storks] ...But **there was none like Ahab, who sold himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD**, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up. And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites did, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel” (vs 24-26).

I’ll just stop here and mention that the Amorite god was called ‘Yahweh, Yahwah and so forth, and that’s how Yahwah got into those who teach Old Testament things.

Verse 27: “Then it came to pass when Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes...” God is always, *always*, **always** interested in repentance! God is not interested in the death of the wicked, though He pronounces the death of the wicked.

Always remember this: **God has given choice so that IF the person heeds and repents, God will change His judgment!** God is always interested in repentance.

Ezekiel had the toughest prophetic ministry of any of the prophets of God. Most of it was death, doom and gloom. Yet, even in that, God shows that He holds out hope. This is something for us to really understand.

Ezekiel 33:7—one of the missions of the true prophet of God: “And you, son of man, I have set you as watchman to the house of Israel. Therefore, you shall hear the Word from My mouth, **and warn them from Me**. When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked one, you shall surely die’; if you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked one shall die in his iniquity; but I will require his blood at your hand. But, if you warn the

wicked of his way, to turn from it; if he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your soul. And you, son of man, speak to the house of Israel. Thus *shall* you speak, saying, ‘When our transgressions and our sins *are* on us, and we are wasting away in them, how then shall we live?’” (vs 7-10).

In other words, if it be so bad that God says that a curse is coming upon you, how are you going to live?

So, He says, v 11: “Say to them, ‘**As I live,**’ **says the Lord GOD**... All the way through the book of Ezek. He says this. When it gets to this, that is really the strongest message that can come.

“...‘I have no delight in the death of the wicked... [even here at this late date] ...except that the wicked turn from his way, and live. Turn you, turn you from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?’” (v 11). This has always been God’s message to Israel.

But Israel is likened unto a roller-coaster. They serve God for a while on the high end and then they go to the pits of despair and paganism. Then God has to send correction. Then God sends either a king or a judge to help them out the pits of depravity that they have gotten into, or a prophet to warn them and they come out of it.

The whole story of Israel is just like looking at a chart where it goes high and low, *high and low* and **high and low** all the way through the history of Israel down through time. Yet, God is interested in repentance.

Let’s see this with Ahab, because he said, 1-Kings 21:25: “But there was none like Ahab, who sold himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.” I’ve never met anyone who had sold himself to do evil.

Verse 27: “Then it came to pass when Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes... [a sign of repentance] ...put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth and walked softly”—very timidly, rather than being emboldened in false pride because of his wife.

- What happened?
- Did God change his judgment? *He modified it!*

Verse 28: “And the Word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ‘Do you see how Ahab humbles himself before Me? Because he humbles himself before Me, I will not bring the evil in his days. *But* in his son’s days I will bring the evil upon his house’” (vs 28-29). Isn’t that something? He had to turn around and go back and say, ‘Okay!’

Now during the days of Jehoshaphat, Elijah is still there. We're going to see that Elijah is still in the north. Jehoshaphat is king of Judah in the south. He's getting together with the king of Israel Ahab. It just says king of Israel all the way through, but it identifies Ahab (1-Kings 22:40)

1-Kings 22:7: "And Jehoshaphat said, 'Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides that we might inquire of Him?' And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, 'There is still one man, **Micaiah** the son of Imlah, **by whom we may inquire of the LORD**. But I hate him, for he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.'..." (vs 7-8).

If you started walking the streets of San Francisco today saying that in 30 days the city would be below the surface of the ocean, you would have some people who would believe you and start packing up and move away. But you would have all the city officials out there—the Board of Supervisors, the mayor, the sheriff—saying that they speak evil.

Verse 9: "And the king of Israel called an officer and said, 'Hurry and bring Micaiah the son of Imlah.'" They went ahead and brought him forth.

Verse 13: "And the messenger that had gone to call Micaiah spoke to him, saying, 'Behold now, the words of the prophets are good to the king with one mouth... [all the false prophets that Ahab had] ...Please let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak good.' And Micaiah said, 'As the LORD lives, what the LORD says to me, that I will speak'" (vs 13-14). So, Micaiah told Jehoshaphat not to go into league with him.

Now, see what we're doing is more of a survey and I want you to understand that we're showing that God always had His prophets for Israel. They were there to prophesy to the kings, to the leaders, to the people; but mainly to the kings. Why is that? *Because whenever they had a king who was righteous, generally the people that which was good, in the main!* In some cases they didn't, as we will see later on when they became so apostatized.

2-Kings 1—we find that Elijah is still alive. During the days of Elijah we have this other prophet that we found in 1-Kings 22: **Micaiah**.

2-Kings 1:3: "But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, 'Arise! Go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you go to ask of Baal-Zebub the god of Ekron?' And, therefore, thus says the LORD, 'You shall not come from that bed on which you have gone up, but shall surely die.'" And Elijah left. Then the messengers went back to *the king*..." (vs 3-5)—and they were

going to take him by force. What happened? *Fire came down from heaven and devoured them!*

Verse 6: "And they said to him, 'A man came up to meet us and said to us, 'Go, return again to the king who sent you, and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you go to ask of Baal-Zebub the god of Ekron? Therefore, you shall not come down from that bed on which you have gone up, but shall surely die.''" And he said to them, 'What kind of man was he who came up to meet you and told you these words?' And they answered him, 'He was a hairy man and was bound with a girdle of leather around his loins.' And he said, 'He is Elijah the Tishbite'"(vs 6-8).

- Sound a little bit like John the Baptist?
- Was he not gird about with a leather girdle?
- Was he not a hairy man?
- Yes, he was!

Verse 9: "So, he sent to him a commander of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him. Then, behold, he sat on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him, 'Man of God! The king has said, 'Come down.'" And Elijah answered and said to the commander of fifty, 'If I *am* a man of God, then let fire come down from the heavens and burn up you and your fifty.' And there came down fire from the heavens and burned up him and his fifty" (vs 9-10).

Sometimes God wants to give a lesson! We can be thankful that there's a second resurrection. These will come up in the second resurrection for an opportunity. But their last recollection was talking to prophet of God and ZAP! they're burned up!

Verse 11: "So again, also he sent to him another commander of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said to him, 'Man of God! So says the king, 'Come down quickly.'"

What he's saying is, 'Who is this sinful king that I obey him?' In other words, it's the difference between obeying the king or obeying God. That's why this confrontation went on.

Verse 12: "And Elijah answered and said to him, 'If I *am* a man of God, let fire come down from the heavens and burn up you and your fifty.' And the fire of God came down from the heavens and burned up him and his fifty. Finally he sent again a third commander of fifty and his fifty. And the third commander of fifty came up and fell on his knees before Elijah..." (vs 12-13).

Nothing like a little change of attitude; this really changed the circumstances. At least this captain of 50 was smart.

"...and begged him, and said to him, 'Man

of God, I pray you, let my life and the life of these fifty, your servants, be precious in your sight.... [what a change of heart] ...Behold, fire has come down from the heavens and burned up the first two commanders of fifty with their fifties. Therefore, now let my life be precious in your sight.' And the angel of the LORD said to Elijah, 'Go down with him. Do not be afraid of him.' And he arose and went down with him to the king, and said to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Because you have sent messengers to ask of Baal-Zebub the god of Ekron—is it because *there is* no God in Israel to seek His Word?—therefore, you shall not come down off that bed on which you have gone up, but shall surely die.'"" And he died according to the Word of the Lord, which Elijah had spoken. ..." (vs 13-17).

2-Kings 2:1: "And it came to pass when the LORD was about to take **Elijah** up into heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah went with **Elisha** from Gilgal." Here's the whole story of Elijah taken up and moved someplace else on the earth. The point that I want to make now is that you have Elijah and then Elisha; see how the prophets continue on down with Israel.

2-Kings 4:1: "And a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets **cried to Elisha**, saying..."

2-Kings 6:1: "And **the sons of the prophets** said to Elisha..." So, they had a school of prophets. That's what Elijah and Elisha had; so there were many prophets of God during this time.

"... 'Behold now, the place where we live with you *is* too small for us'" (v 1). Then it shows what they were going to do. They went across the Jordan.

2-Kings 7:1: "And Elisha said, 'Hear the Word of the Lord! Thus says the LORD..."

2-Kings 8:1: "And Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, 'Arise..."

2-Kings 9:1: "And Elisha the prophet called one of the sons of the prophets and said to him... [v 2]: And you shall go there, and you shall see there **Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat**..."

2-Kings 13:14: "And Elisha had fallen sick with his illness in which he was to die. And Jehoash the king of Israel came down to him and wept over his face. And he said, 'O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel and the horsemen of it!' And Elisha said to him, 'Take bow and arrows.' And he took bow and arrows to himself. And he said to the king of Israel, 'Put your hand upon the bow.' And he placed his hand upon it, and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands. Then he said, 'Open the window eastward.' And he opened. And Elisha said,

'Shoot!' And he shot. And he said, 'The arrow of the LORD'S deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria, for you shall strike the Syrians in Aphek until *they* are destroyed.' And he said, 'Take the arrows.' And he took *them*. And he said to the king of Israel, 'Strike the ground.' And he struck *it* three times and stopped. And the man of God was angry with him, and said, 'You should have stricken Syria until it was destroyed. But now you shall strike Syria three times.' And Elisha died, and they buried him..." (vs 14-20).

From Elisha we go on through and we find Elisha and the king, and right after that we have Jeroboam II.

2-Kings 14:1: "In the **second year of Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz** king of Israel..." Jehoash reigned from 874-835_{B.C.}—23 years. Elisha died when Jehoash begins, which is 874_{B.C.} He dies 23 years later until 835_{B.C.}

We take and subtract all of this and you find that from the time that Elisha died until we come to the **Prophet Hosea** is 79 years. There's not too big a space of time when there was not a prophet; but what do we have? *We have the school of prophets after Elijah!* How long did they go down with the kings? *We don't know!* But we do know that Hosea begins prophesying in 795_{B.C.} Elisha dies in 874_{B.C.}, and to 795 is 79 years.

There was the school of prophets and those who would and come and study under Elisha. He would teach them, and I imagine that God would use them whenever it was ever necessary to use them. The point I wanted make here is that we have a point of 79 years that there was no major prophet, which when you go through the history of Israel it's not too long a time.

We're not told if there were some of the lesser prophets who were also active at that time; we're just not told. We have something like the preachers who we saw of Israel in the Alps who would teach the younger ones and so forth. In other words the point is that—until the canonization of the Bible—the whole point of this survey is to show that God had a continuous presence with the prophets for Israel and for Judah.

There was never a time when there was not a prophet. We have the 79-year period that we're not sure of, but that's the only time. All the rest! So, Hosea begins prophesying in 795_{B.C.}

HOSEA 1:

If anyone wants to be a prophet, be careful; God may require something of you that you're going

to have to do. We will read a little later what He required of Ezekiel to do.

Here in the book of Hosea, God required to teach a point, to teach a lesson to Hosea and to Israel. We're going to find, as we do the survey in the book of Hosea—we'll stop at certain places as we follow through—there are not very many prophecies of the end-time. However, we're going to see that there are certain sections, which can apply to Israel at anytime in their history because of the record of their behavior. Just the nature of the children of Israel going after Baalim.

Did that not also happen in the Church, that the Church went after Baalim? *Yes! They turned to Sunday services and the whole thing: Christmas, Easter, communion!*

Hosea 1:1: "The Word of the LORD that came to Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah..." You go from Jehoash to Uzziah—795_{B.C.}—just after Uzziah was made king in 808_{B.C.} and he reigned until 756_{B.C.}

"...Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah..." This overlaps with Isaiah. We will see that Isaiah begins in the last days of Uzziah. Nevertheless, the prophecy of Hosea is really quite long.

This becomes important because God identifies when the prophet spoke; Isaiah 1:1: "The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz... [I don't know if that's the son of the prophet Amos] ...which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah."

In this particular case, the prophecies of **Hosea** and **Isaiah** overlap. Also, we'll see that Micah comes in there. So, there was that time when there were three active prophets prophesying to Israel and Judah. God was doing quite a few things at that time, and that's why He had these three different prophets.

Hosea 1:2: "The beginning of the Word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, 'Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms, for the land has utterly committed great whoredoms, departing from the LORD'"

He had to go down to the local brothel and select his wife, just to put it bluntly. God said to do it, because 'I'm going to teach you and children of Israel a lesson.' As it turned out, Hosea really loved his wife, even though she was from the house of whoredoms. That's like God loving Israel, but Israel goes whoring after other gods.

Verse 9: And He said, 'Call his name Lo-

Ammi, for **you are not My people**... [v 10]: Yet, the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea..." In spite of all this, God says that He's no going to destroy them all. He's going to let them continue as a people:

"...which cannot be measured nor numbered. And it shall be in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' there it shall be said to them, 'You are the sons of the living God'" (vs 10-11).

This obviously has to do with the Millennium, the second coming. God is not going to say that of Israel until the second coming of Christ. We'll see that there are certain places here where it eludes to the second coming of Christ.

Verse 11: "Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and shall set over themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land, for great *shall be* the day of Jezreel." That is the battle that God is going to have against the heathen in the Valley of Judgment.

HOSEA 2:

Hos. 2 is an interesting chapter. It has specifically to do with the time of Hosea, but it also can be dual, because it can apply to the children of Israel at anytime in their history, but specifically for the ministry of Hosea.

Hosea 2:1: "Say to your brethren, Ammi, and to your sisters, Ruhamah. Contend! Contend with your mother, for she *is* not My wife, nor am I her husband. Let her, therefore, put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts, lest I strip her naked and set her out as in the day that she was born; and lest I make her as the wilderness, and set her like a dry land, and slay her with thirst. And I will not have mercy on her children, for they *are* the children of whoredoms" (vs 1-4).

There's going to come a time just like it did then. Did God not punish Israel and send them off into captivity? *Yes, He did!* So, there's going to come a time when this could apply to modern Israel today. This is what you can call a *dual prophecy*. But it also can be continuous down through history, because this is what Israel has always done.

Verse 5: "For their mother has prostituted *herself*. She who conceived them has done shamefully, for she said, 'I will go after my lovers who give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.'" Isn't that what we're doing today as a nation? going after the other nations of the world? *Yes!* With world trade organizations, free trade everywhere?

We're not looking to God! What we have in government today shows that no one is looking to God. They have a form of Godliness, but they don't have anything to do with the *true God!* Presidents and politicians may go to church, but that's just politics; likewise with all the other politicians. They're all in bed together.

Verse 6: "Therefore, behold, I will hedge your way with thorns... [troubles and difficulties; *many*] ...and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths."

You can see how this applied to Israel then, just before the captivity. This was quite a few years before the captivity, because they went in 721-718_{B.C.} Hosea starts in 795_{B.C.}—80 years ahead of time Hosea is speaking to them.

Verse 7: "And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them. She shall seek them, but shall not find *them*..." In other words, in the final analysis, all of your allies, friends and nations whom you've made leagues with cannot save you from the judgment of God. They cannot provide for you the things that God can provide for you.

We can learn a lesson with that from the Church. Can any of the 'religions' of the world give us the true understanding of God? *No way!* If we follow after them and go after them, what are we going to end up doing? *Going their ways and doing their things!* It's what is commonly called now *immorality or deviance down to the lowest immoral level.* That always happens.

"...Then she shall say, 'I will go and return to my first husband...'" (v 7). In other words, God is going to use this as a means of repentance. That's what He's showing. Why does God send prophets? *To show the people what is wrong and to bring them to repentance if they choose to do so!* That's why!

"...for then *it was* better with me than now,' for she did not know that I gave her grain, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, *which* they prepared for Baal. So, I will return and take away My grain in its time, and My wine in its season, and will recover My wool and My flax *given* to cover her nakedness. And now I will uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of My hand" (vs 7-10).

So, the time of judgment came upon them. They were warned about 80 years in advance that the time of judgment is coming on the descendants of Israel, of which the United States is a part of. No one is going to deliver them out of the hand of God when that time comes. Just exactly how it's going to come, we have some clues. Watch the movies! It's

called 'marshal law.' Watch where the United Nation's troops in stationed in America, hundreds of bases with thousands of troops ostensibly for training. So, it's all sitting there.

Verse 11: "I will also cause all her joy to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her appointed feasts." These are *not* the Feasts of God. These are the feasts of Baal.

Verse 12: "And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, of which she has said, 'They *are* my rewards that my lovers have given me.' And I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them. And I will visit on her the days of the Baalim..." (vs 12-13).

Tie in v 11 with v 13, and that tells you that 'her feasts, new moons and sabbaths were the days of Baalim. Today, they even call Sunday *the Sabbath.*

When I was Salt Lake City, I was driving down this road and there was a big sign: Remember the Sabbath, to keep it Holy—see you in church on Sunday. Israel has always done that.

"...in which she burned incense to them, and she adorned herself with her nose rings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers and forgot Me,' says the LORD" (v 13).

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) 1 Corinthians 10:1-12
- 2) Matthew 24:42-51
- 3) 1 Kings 11:26-39
- 4) 1 Kings 12:30-33
- 5) 1 Kings 13:1-7
- 6) 1 Kings 14:4-5
- 7) 1 Kings 16:1, 7
- 8) 1 Kings 18:1-2, 36-40
- 9) 1 Kings 19:18-19
- 10) 1 Kings 21:15-27
- 11) Ezekiel 33:7-11
- 12) 1 Kings 21:25, 27-29
- 13) 1 Kings 22:7-9, 13-14
- 14) 2 Kings 1:3-17
- 15) 2 Kings 2:1
- 16) 2 Kings 4:1
- 17) 2 Kings 6:1
- 18) 2 Kings 7:1
- 19) 2 Kings 8:1
- 20) 2 Kings 9:1-2
- 21) 2 Kings 13:14-20
- 22) 2 Kings 14:1
- 23) Hosea 1:1
- 24) Isaiah 1:1
- 25) Hosea 1:2, 9-11

26) Hosea 2:1-13

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 2; 3
- 2 Peter
- Ezekiel 28
- Zechariah 14
- 1 Kings 17; 22:40

Also referenced:

- Appendix E: When Was Jesus Christ Born?—
The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version
- Book: *Josephus*

FRC: bo
Transcribed: 11/24/17

Hosea Prophecy Series II (Hosea 2:13-Hosea 6:6)

Fred R. Coulter

We saw the in the 23rd year of Jehoash that Elisha died. Then there was a period of 79 years where there was not a major prophet listed. But what we find is that Amoziah and Uzziah were both righteous kings, except Uzziah in the last part of his reign when he went into the temple to usurp the authority of the priest.

When there is a righteous king, the king then pretty well sets the standard for the people and helps keep things in line. When you get to the next king, Jotham, beginning with the last of Uzziah's reign, then you're getting into when Isaiah his prophecy. But we have:

- Hosea beginning in 795_{B.C.}
- Amos in 795_{B.C.}
- Isaiah in 756_{B.C.}

Hosea comes down and overlaps Isaiah a little bit. The reason for this is because at that time Israel was becoming very, very corrupt. You can't draw necessarily—as we will see when we get to Hosea—draw the exact parallel to the sins of Israel then and today. They're a bit different today, because we have the Bible. The English-speaking Bible was produced in England beginning with the *Great Bible*, which was done by Coverdale, who was the associate of William Tyndale.

Then we have the *King James Bible* and that was spread around the world. So, with the children of Israel, the ten tribes today—United States, England in the main, with the other English-speaking commonwealth nations such as Canada, Australia and New Zealand and used to be So. Africa—you have something that is unique and different.

While they have moved toward the Word of God in a substantial way, they never did get rid of Sunday when the Reformation took place, and they never did get rid of Christmas and Easter. They used a lot of the Word of God and a lot of the New Testament as a guide. As a matter of fact, the United States was built and educated by the frontiersmen with what we call the *Geneva Bible*.

The *Geneva Bible* was translated into English in Geneva. It's a little bit different than the *King James*, but not too much. Today, even though the Protestants have Christmas, Easter and New Years... Please don't misunderstand, I'm not endorsing what they do, but at least you have enough of the letter of the Law of the Old and New

Testaments that people believe today, howbeit not being called, not being converted, at least it gives us a decent society compared to those societies that do not have it. So, we cannot draw the exact same parallel. Later on when they get rid of more of Christ it may come to that. But you can't draw the exact same parallel that the children of Joseph—basically speaking, the United States, Canada, England, Australia and New Zealand—are into total Baal-worship such as they were when we're reading the book of Hosea. They were into total Baal-worship in a major way.

You could liken that unto getting into what we would call today Hinduism, because it is more of a remnant and carryover of the ancient Baalism. It was modified somewhat with the Babylonians. It was modified somewhat with the Persians. So, there were always modifications going on with it.

In Hosea we have some parallels that apply. I think we need to understand that when we read and study the prophecies of the Old Testament, we need to realize that in the past we have applied too much of it to the end-time, when it was really meant for the time at hand.

So, the way that we're going to be able to understand the difference between the time that was there and the end-time is that there will be verses that which all of a sudden will just stand out and you know that that applies to the end-time. I think what we need to do with that is understand that the prophecies of the New Testament—such as Matt. 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, 2-Thess. 2, other places and especially the book of Revelation—give us the end-time perspective looking back to pick up these Scriptures.

We have an unusual situation today with Israel to where they have the Word of God—a lot of people try to live their lives by it in the letter of the Law: don't lie, don't steal, don't cheat, don't commit adultery and so forth. Granted, we've got more and more people who are violating those laws.

It is meaningful to God when He looks down on society, if there are people who are at least striving to keep some of the precepts of God. I think we need to realize that with the society in which we live.

Ken Starr (former special prosecutor in the Bill Clinton investigation) epitomizes a 'letter of the law' man who, in this society, does desire the truth. God will honor that. He's not called for salvation,

but God will honor that. God says of the judges that they need to have truth, and they need to judge righteous judgment. God will honor that.

I've seen that in the letter of the law there's a distinct difference between the attitude of the Republicans and Democrats. It is really amazing that at least those who want to understand the problem want to get to the truth. Those who believe licentiousness say that 'everybody does it, so if you lie about sex that's okay.' That is setting a tone for a moral breakdown.

We have a lot of crime today, but in the main—as you look at the world from the United States—there are an awful lot of sincere upstanding people in the letter of the law—though they keep Sunday and Easter, etc. and though they do not have knowledge of salvation. Now, some people will think I'm endorsing Protestantism; *I'm not endorsing Protestantism by no stretch of the imagination!*

We will see today that Satan is set on taking away from the Protestants what understanding they had. That will happen. If someone has understanding of God's Word to a certain point, if they do not act upon it then they are going to lose it.

When God looks down on this society, because God is not unrighteous in His judgment of this society and the world, He sees that there are a good number of people who are trying to do things that are correct, even without knowledge. At least their personal lives are not totally corrupted. That's important to understand.

We find in Jer. 5 that the children of Judah were so corrupted, so given over to Baalism, so given over to licentiousness right in Jerusalem where the temple was.

God told Jeremiah, Jeremiah 5:1: "Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in her open places... [go all through Jerusalem] ...if you can find **a** man, if there is one who does justice, who seeks the Truth... [just one man] ...and **I will pardon her.**"

In other words, He would pardon everything that He said He was going to do to Jerusalem because of that one man.

Verse 2: "And though they say, 'As the LORD lives'; surely they swear falsely." There we have a parallel today.

We need to understand that when we go through these prophecies that there are some prophecies that apply directly to that time, and in particular when we come to the prophecies concerning Assyria. The prophecies of Hosea took place 75 years before the captivity of Israel by the

Assyrians, the final captivity. So, it's talking directly about Israel and Assyria because they were neighbors at that time. The Assyrian Empire came down and it's southern and western boarder boarded right upon Syria and Israel.

Granted, there's plenty enough proof in the Bible that Assyria today, most descendants may very well be the Germans. There's plenty enough to prove that. But I don't think we can take every prophecy where it says Assyria and apply it to the end-time. The reason is that because, as we have seen, in the book of Revelation, we are now dealing with a worldwide system, of which the descendants of Israel become part of that prophecy as well as all nations of the world. Also, Assyria becomes part of that prophecy, howbeit, not in the major, keynote way that it was when we're reading the book of Hosea.

HOSEA 2:13: "And I will visit on her... [Israel] ...the days of the Baalim..." These were the raw days of Baalim. Today there is Christmas howbeit renamed with Christian-sounding things on it. It is not the total depths of Baalism that they were in.

We very well may come to a time where it will degenerate into that, and we very well may have certain parts of society, which are like that, like centers in New York and San Francisco, especially on Halloween, where they really get into the full blown type of occult Baalism things if you could.

Even Protestants who try and keep the letter of the Law are appalled at that kind of behavior. See why I say that you can't necessarily draw the exact same parallel, though there are types we can come to.

"...in which she burned incense to them, and she adorned herself with her nose rings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers and forgot Me,' says the LORD" (v 13). You can draw a parallel with that concerning what the United States does with all the foreign nations that they deal with.

But on the other hand, today, the overriding super thing that is coming is the United Nations. We have to be very careful how we handle these prophecies, and not read into them things that don't necessarily apply today.

Prophecy going into the Millennium (vs 14-23).

You will see this as we go through some of these prophecies. It will go along with something current, and then it will jump ahead to something to be fulfilled when the Millennium begins.

Verse 14: "Therefore, behold, I will lure her and bring her into the wilderness, and speak

comfortably to her. And I will give her vineyards to her from there, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope. And she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt. And it shall be in that day,' says the LORD, 'you shall call Me Ishi... [meaning *my Husband*] ...and shall no more call Me Baali... [meaning *my Master or Lord*] ...for I will take away the names of the Baalim out of her mouth, and they will no more be remembered by their name" (vs 14-17). So, they will be.

Again, this can also apply to Israel being taken into captivity then, being in Assyria at that time, later migrating across northwestern Europe and on into England. He did take the names of Baalim out of their mouths when the Word of God was produced in England. Howbeit, they didn't give it all up; they just renamed some of the things. So, there's going to come a time when it will be taken away permanently.

Verse 18: "And in that day I will make a covenant for them, with the beasts of the field..." That has got to be the Millennium, because we read where the wolf is going to lie down with the lamb and the child is going to play at the hold of the asp, and so forth.

"...and with the birds of the heavens, and with the creeping things of the ground. And I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely. And I will betroth you to Me forever. Yea, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving kindness, and in mercies" (vs 18-19). That has yet to be in the future when Israel is restored.

Verse 20: "I will even betroth you to Me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD. And it will be in that day *that* I will answer,' says the LORD. 'I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth, and the earth shall answer with grain and wine and oil. And they shall answer Jezreel. And I will sow her to Me in the earth. And I will have mercy on *her that was shown* no mercy. And I will say to *her that was* not My people, 'You are My people.' And they shall say, 'You are my God'" (vs 20-23).

That is a time yet in the future that is going to happen. We will see when we get to the book of Isaiah that there are many other Scriptures you can tie in with that.

HOSEA 3:

Hos. 3 is quite unusual. God told Hosea, 'I want you to take a woman of whoredoms, in addition to his wife, because his wife had left him to go after other men. He was longing for his wife, but

she didn't return, so God gave him another lesson.

Don't everyone desire to be a prophet; God may require some things of you that you may not like. Ezekiel had to walk naked.

Hosea 3:1: "And the LORD said to me, 'Go again. Love a woman beloved by a friend, yet, an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who turn to other gods, and love raisin cakes.'" This specifically applies to that time.

We will see what much of the professing Christian world is today it's not quite the same as back then. At least they have the Word of God, they're not reading the writings of Baalim in their Protestant churches, though they may misapply some things.

Romans 10:1: "Brethren, the earnest desire of my heart and my supplication to God for Israel is for salvation. For I testify of them that they have a zeal for God, **but not according to knowledge**" (vs 1-2). That applies to the Jews, but more particularly to the ten tribes of Israel that have the Old and New Testament.

Even in the New Testament they have a knowledge of God; they have a zeal of God, but they don't have the correct knowledge.

Verse 3: "For they, being ignorant of the righteousness *that* comes from God, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God." This is precisely where we find the majority of Protestantism today.

They are not quite in the same category as we have back here in Hos. 3 where they're going out to the other gods, knowingly offering to all the different Baalims.

Hosea 3:2: "So, I bought her for fifteen *pieces of silver*, and *for* an homer of barley and a half homer of barley. And I said to her, 'You shall abide with me many days. You shall not play the harlot, nor be with any man. And I also *will be* for you'" (vs 2-3).

It was a lesson. God was telling Israel at that time that 'when you go into captivity if you don't go after other gods and commit adultery any longer then I'm going to be kind to you.'

We see later on in the first part of the book of Jeremiah that even God says that 'backsliding Israel has justified herself. So, when she was in captivity, she learned some lessons.

Verse 4: "For the children of Israel shall live many days *with* no king, and no ruler, and with no

sacrifice, and no pillars, and no ephod, or teraphim. Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. And they shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days” (vs 4-5). This is obviously into the Millennium!

HOSEA 4:

In chapter four I like to say that this is a chapter that applies at all times to the children of Israel. Then, at anytime during its history, and now at the end-time. There are some prophecies that apply at all times because of the meaning of it and the whole complexion of it. This chapter is one of those.

Hosea 4:1: “Hear the Word of the LORD, children of Israel, for the LORD *has* a controversy with the inhabitants of the land...” This happened then. Remember how Israel started out. How did Israel start out with King Jeroboam? What did he do? *He set up his own priesthood:*

- a religious center in Bethel in the south
- a religious center at Dan in the north, which always had a pagan religious center in Israel (see the book of Judges)

He put the golden calves there—didn’t he? Today, we don’t have the Protestant churches with a golden calf in it. So, you see the difference. However, this can also apply at anytime, because of what God says:

“...‘There is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land’” (v 1). You can’t say that totally today, but it is increasingly becoming that way, as they:

- drive God out of the schools
- drive God out of the churches
- drive God out of the political lives of the people

Verse 2: “By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and the committing of adultery they break out; and blood touches blood.” Whenever this happens, they’re going to be dire consequences. Whenever you get a violent society, it’s going to breed more violence. That’s what we’re heading to. I think that it’s interesting that we have more and more barbarian shows on television. I think we’ll degenerate into barbarianism. That’s what this is here when you have the society that way.

Verse 3: “Therefore, shall the land mourn...” Is the land mourning today? *Yes, because of drought, floods, wind and because of crime.* Maybe not to the same degree, but if there’s not a turning to God, it’s going to increase and increase

today. What this does is it shows the mercy of God in using events to try and bring people to repentance toward God, even if it is just for the people of the land in the letter of the Law.

One of the things that is holding back a lot of these things—of course, it’s really not holding it back in the strictest sense—if there are people in the Church of God having the Spirit of God, who love God and are keeping His commandments, God also counts this as a blessing to the whole land so that we may also be able to do what God wants us to do. So, we need factor in all these things as we go along.

“...and everyone who dwells in it shall languish, with the beasts of the field and with the birds of the heavens. Yes, the fish of the sea shall also be taken away” (v 3). That happened then and it’s happening now.

That’s why this is a prophecy is an ongoing one wherever the children of Israel are throughout history, because the children of Israel have something that they should be doing. When, as a nation, we began and then later in the 1800s when we began with the American Bible Society and taking Bibles to the whole world.

There came a point that God had to overlook Sunday; not to endorse it, but overlook it so that He could get the Bibles to the world so that He could call a people. God cannot call a people without Bibles. They have to learn the written Word of God. So, the American Bible Society did act as a priest for God in getting out the Bibles to the world. Almost every motel has a Gideon Bible. That doesn’t mean that they’re called to salvation. God even used carnal people—though they had a zeal for God without total knowledge for salvation—to get the Word of God out to the world.

Now that we have done it, what is happening? We’re beginning to be corrupted, because we’re ignoring it. Here’s what’s going to happen:

Verse 4: “Yet, let no man strive, nor reprove another, for your people *are* as those who strive with the priest. And you shall stumble in the day...” (vs 4-5). Whatever day of judgment may be.

- Did we not have a day of judgment with the Civil War in the United States? *Read some of the things that Abraham Lincoln wrote! You will know that he saw that!*
- How did he get his education? *By reading a Bible by candlelight!*

Though he was not called to salvation, he did remind the people of God, the God of the Bible! Read his Thanksgiving decree, read his prayer that he gave for a day of prayer—of fasting and mourning—that

they could return to the Lord God of heaven. That was a very moving decree. Howbeit in zeal, but not according to total knowledge, at least enough knowledge so that people could come to their senses.

If they don't, then God says, v 5: "And you shall stumble in the day and the prophet also shall stumble with you *in the night*, and I will destroy your mother. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you from being as a priest to Me...." (vs 5-6).

This is also a prophecy at that time, a prophecy at anytime down through the history of Israel. Whenever they reject God then God will reject them. We need to think of this in relationship to the Church today, too. This has a prophecy in there for the Church. The prophecies can have more than one meaning or fulfillment.

Are we not called today *the people of God*? *Yes!* Therefore, we are correctly called *My people* by God; not only Israel but the Church.

- Do we have some people in the Church whose lives are being destroyed because of lack of knowledge? *Yes!*
- Do we have it because they have rejected knowledge? *Yes!*
- Do we have it that God is rejecting them? *Yes!*
- Can they come to repentance later on? *That's their choice to make!*

God will do all they can to help them repent! But in the meantime, He says, "...I will also reject you from being as a priest to Me. Since you have forgotten the Law of your God, I will also forget your children" (v 6). So, Israel goes through this cycle. Down through the history of Israel, you have this continuous cycle going on:

- between having the knowledge of God *and* rejecting God
- between having the blessing of God *and* having the cursing of God

All the way down to the end-time! We see today, right here the thing that is happening.

Verse 7: "As they were increased, so they sinned against Me.... [this is what we are seeing] ...I will change their glory into shame. They eat up the sin of My people, and they set their heart on their iniquity. And it has become, like people, like priest; and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them for their doings, for they shall eat and not have enough. They shall commit whoredom and not increase, because they have stopped taking heed to the LORD" (vs 7-10). Increasingly, today we see that happening.

We have to keep this in mind. Here is another truism that comes down through history of Israel and God's people. Isa. 1 talks about how bad Israel was when Isaiah began his prophecy. Then he comes to what is also important:

Isaiah 1:9: "Except the LORD of hosts had left us a very small remnant, we would have been as Sodom; we would have become like Gomorrah." In other words *destroyed! God always has a remnant!* That can apply to the Church, and that can apply to Israel

- Why do I say that that can apply to Israel, as well?
- Where do you think the 144,000 are going to come from? *From the children of Israel!*

We'll cover that when we get to Hos. 5 & 6! Are they not a remnant that God saves, that are not destroyed. So, you have that mixed in with it as we go down in time. I'm convinced that:

- we're going to a lot of problems
- it's going to bring a lot of false prophecies
- we're going to have difficulties

God always leaves a remnant. I think that the remnant of the 144,000 of the children of Israel are going to be those zealous Protestants who did not have knowledge unto salvation, but believed in the return of Christ. When they see that happen—and the heavens roll back as a scroll (Rev. 6)—they're going to repent. God will open up their minds at that time.

God always has a remnant, because He's merciful. Even though we read these things here and see how bad they are, let's understand that *God is still merciful!* Even in the prophecies of Ezek. 33, God is interested in repentance, and that's the only reason that He does these things.

When you're suffering, in pain and agony, then you are more likely to repent, than when you're fed to the full and everything is just fine and you're laying back and everything is right there at your fingertips.

Hosea 4:9: "And it has become, like people, like priest; and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them for their doings, for they shall eat and not have enough. They shall commit whoredom and not increase..." (vs 9-10)—because with whoredoms comes abortion, which is nothing new; they had means of abortion back then, no question about it.

"...because they have stopped taking heed to the LORD. Whoredom and wine and new wine takes away the heart" (vs 10-11). This is on an individual basis, on a national basis or a group basis. It is a truism that always applies.

What happens when you get out with whoredom and drunkenness and things like that? *You have like we saw with the situation with Bill Clinton!* What they do in their private life doesn't count, but God says that it does. Chances are that those who say that are really those who, at some time in their life, did the same thing that Bill Clinton did. Therefore, since they desire to have that overlooked in their lives, they're willing to overlook it in his life. But it shows that by "whoredom and wine and new wine takes away the heart." Add to that:

- rock music
- rap music
- drugs

You can increase and intensify that! So, that can apply, and here's what the people end up doing:

Verse 12: "My people seek advice from their wooden *idols*... [whatever may be their favorite 'religious' thing] ...and their rod declares to them, for the spirit of whoredoms has caused them to go astray, and they have gone awhoring away from under their God."

Let's see what happens when a people do this. The percentage of sin within the society as a whole is what God uses to judge the society. Even to the extent that God says that if there is one righteous person He will hold it back. But that doesn't mean He'll hold it back forever and ever.

Now, it was really bad during the days of Jeremiah. He was speaking to a people then that had just finished 55 years of Manasseh and two years of Amon before Josiah was able to affect his reform. It was a reform for a while.

Jeremiah 23:9: "As for the prophets my heart within me is broken; all my bones shake...." They had all kinds of false prophets back then.

Read what they said in other cases where during the days of Jehoshaphat, he wanted to know if there was a prophet of God because all of the false prophets up north in the ten tribes were saying, 'Go to war! Go to war!' Jehoshaphat said, 'Is there not one prophet of God here?' So, they got Micaiah, and he said, 'Don't go, you won't prosper.' But he was warned by the false prophets, 'You speak good things to him and tell him what he wants to hear.' He didn't do it. Neither did Jeremiah.

"...I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine has overcome because of the LORD and because of the words of His Holiness" (v 9). In other words, he heard the righteousness of God's words, how great they were. Then he looked out and saw the people, how awful and evil they were. It just put him into a whole 'mental tailspin.' Why?

Verse 10: "For the land is full of adulterers. Because of swearing the land mourns; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and they *wield* power unjustly."

When you reach a certain degree of sin in a society overall, with false prophets mixed in with it, it effects the environment. What has the environment been doing to us? Why does God send hurricanes to poor people, especially Mexico? *What you're dealing with is a major center of drug smuggling!*

(go to the next track)

To the god's of the Aztecs; they are beginning to revive all these old temples. Where were they? *Honduras! The Yucatan Peninsula!* I feel sorry for the people, and I'm glad that the United States is able to help them, but there is a message for us.

Look at what has happened in Texas with hurricanes and floods and all the rain. Granted, it hasn't wiped us out; we're still going, but sooner or later there are going to be so many disasters that are going to happen that FIMA can no longer help.

The general level of disobedience, even in the letter of the Law to the commandments of God, have reached such a record-breaking level that God has to act. Even though God is merciful, He has to act.

Hosea 4:13: "They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms because its shade is good...."

I saw on one of these specials about the revival of witchcraft right over here in the Redwoods, where they have a bonfire and a cauldron, and all the women gather around and they have their witchcraft thing. This is wonderful, wonderful thing! That is increasing, *increasing, increasing!* Back then it was under *every* green tree!

"...So, your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your brides shall commit adultery. Will I not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, or your wives when they commit adultery?...." (vs 13-14).

Yes, because it's a living law! Just put in there venereal diseases. How many are there today? *It's unreal!* You use to hear of two major ones: syphilis and gonorrhea. Now there are about another 30-40 of them, which are worse. It's taking it's toll physically, mentally and emotionally; that's all part of it, ***because God must punish!*** If He's a righteous God, ***He must!*** Even though He's a merciful God, ***He is bound by His Word that He will! He will not lie!***

“...*Even* the men themselves go aside with whores...” (v 14). This is why God said to take this other woman for whoredom; ‘I want you to learn a lesson.’

“...and they sacrifice with temple prostitutes...” (v 14). Sounds like the municipal churches in the whoredom communities of San Francisco, Chicago, New York, and wherever they have those universal churches where homosexuals, lesbians and so forth go. This is what it’s talking about.

“...The people *who* do not understand shall fall. Though you, Israel, play the harlot, yet, do not let Judah become guilty....” (vs 14-15). Judah had not done as badly, yet; here’s a warning the Judah at that time. Israel went into captivity some 120 years before Judah did.

“...And do not come *to* Gilgal, nor go up to Beth Aven... [another name for Bethel] ...nor swear, ‘*As* the LORD lives,’ For Israel slides back like a backsliding heifer. Now shall the LORD feed them as a lamb in a large place? Ephraim *is* joined to idols; let him alone. Their drink is sour; they have committed whoredom continually; her rulers dearly love dishonor” (vs 15-18).

In other words, with the shameless loving that they are doing, let them give themselves unto it. That’s what he’s saying.

Verse 19: “The wind has bound her up in her wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.” So, later on when they come to repentance, then they will.

Let’s see what else happens to a society when it gets that bad. This is when it gets progressively worse than what it is here. We’re going to see that. In other words, what we are dealing with are prophecies that are specific for that time, but prophecies that apply to Israel at anytime in its history when it does those things.

Ezekiel 7:23^[transcriber’s correction]: “Make a chain; for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence.”

Just before the Flood of Noah it got be up to 99.9% evil, and only eight individuals survived. We’re told that in the end it is as the days of Noah. How much of a percentage of evil in the general population are we looking at today? Are we reaching close to the 50% mark? *I don’t know, and we don’t know exactly how God is looking down and judging the whole thing!* That is God’s judgment.

What we need to understand today is that for the Church, we need to realize that God’s judgment is on the Church today. We are judged by the

standards in the New Testament, by the spirit of how we keep the laws and commandments of God. Moreover, how much we love God and serve God.

So, when we read all of these prophecies—which many of them are gloom, doom and destruction—we need not get transfixed in that. That’s why I’m not going to make this series an absolutely ongoing series. Even for me, I can’t take all the death, gloom and doom. Just so we can learn the lesson, and I think we can learn it and hear and fear. Maybe by that to be motivated to help other people turn their lives around in the way that it needs to be.

Verse 23: “Make a chain; for the land is full of bloody crimes... [there are murders and deaths everywhere] ...and the city... [Jerusalem] ...is full of violence.”

What is the percentage? I know that a decade or more ago in Oakland—just in that one city—they had a 148 murders, which is one every three days. You can just plug in there that also will include anything that’s intoxicating like drugs. Wherever drugs go, it’s going to bring adultery, fornication, thievery and murder, as well as death and destruction to those who take it. It will debilitate their bodies and bring on more diseases, etc.

Verse 24: “And I will bring the worst of the heathen... [that’s what God did to Judah; this is to Judah] ...and they shall possess their houses. I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease; and their holy places shall be defiled.” Why? *Because they were ‘holy places’ unto demons, not unto God!*

Verse 25: “Terror comes; and they shall seek peace, but there shall be none.” Again this is a prophecy that can apply at the very end-time, though it applied at that particular time right then.

Verse 26: “Disaster shall come upon disaster, and rumor shall be upon rumor. And they shall seek a vision from the prophet; but the Law shall perish from the priest, and wisdom from the elders.” In other words, they shall have no answer. They won’t know how to stop it.

When you have people so bent on sin, evil, murder and destruction, who knows what’s right?

Verse 27: “The king shall mourn, and the prince shall be clothed with despair, and the hands of the people of the land shall tremble. I will do to them according to their way, and according to their uncleanness I will judge them; and they shall know that I *am* the LORD.” That’s why all of these things take place.

So, the point that I want to make in all of this is that whenever the children of Israel sin,

wherever they are—at whatever point in their history—and they turn themselves away from God, this kind of judgment is going to happen.

When they start coming to their senses and begin repenting, then God will lift those kinds of punishments from them.

HOSEA 5:

Here is another one. We're going to find that most of this will apply to the time then. We might find a verse or two when we get to the end, which has a duality.

Hosea 5:1: "Hear this, O priests, and hearken, O house of Israel. And give ear, O house of the king, for judgment *is* toward you because you have been a snare for Mizpah and a net spread over Tabor." He's warning that you're going to get caught in your own trap.

Verse 2: "And revolvers have gone deep *in* slaughtering, and I chasten all of them." This directly to the religious leaders; you can apply this to any religious leader: to the Protestants, to the Catholic priests. They claim that they represent God, so this would apply.

Verse 3: "I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from me, for now, O Ephraim, you committed whoredom; *and* Israel is defiled. Their doings will not allow *them* to turn to their God; for the spirit of whoredoms *is* in their midst..." (vs 3-4).

What does this tell us? *There comes a time when the people have given themselves so much over to whoredoms that they just don't know how to think straight!* It effects the mind and the body; it effects how to make choices.

Let's see how Paul expressed the same thing. 1-Corinthians 6:13: "Foods *are* for the belly, and the belly *is* for foods... [just the physical things] ...but God will destroy both it and those. Now, the body *is* not for sexual immorality... [whoredoms] ...but for the Lord and the Lord for the body."

That's why God made people, to be a temple for the Holy Spirit of God. In other words, just like Jesus said, 'Lo, it's written of Me in the volume of a book, you have prepared a body for Me' (Heb.)

- it's referring to Christ when He became a human being
- it's referring to Christ for the Church, which is the Body of Christ

But also, it can also refer to each one of us in this way, Paul said, v 19: "WHAT! Don't you know that *your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit...*"—*the temple of God!*

The body is made for the Lord! That's what Paul is telling them. And "...the Lord for the body" (v 13), because He wants to put His Spirit in you.

Verse 14: "And God has also raised the Lord *from the dead*, and will raise us by His *own* power. **Don't you know... [understand] ...that your bodies are members of Christ?** Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? MAY IT NEVER BE!" (vs 14-15). He's emphasizing the remnant here.

Verse 16: "WHAT! Don't you know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body? For He says, 'The two shall be one flesh.'"

This can apply physically and spiritually. He says later on that 'you cannot eat at the table of Lord and the table of demons.' So, it applies both ways.

Verse 17: "But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit." You don't want to break that by adultery, fornication and whoredoms. So, Paul give the 'Joseph advice'—remember what happened to Joseph? *He ran away!—flee fornication!* When you get into situations like that, that's all you can do. That's what you have to do:

- physically get away from it
 - mentally get away from it
- and in some cases*
- turn your head and close your eyes and get out of there

Here's why, v 18: "Flee sexual immorality. **Every sin that a man may commit is outside the body...** [that's important] ...but the one who commits sexual immorality is sinning against his own body"—because of all the uncleanness and disease that goes along with it. The defiling of the body for the purpose for which God never intended.

Verse 19: "WHAT! **Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, which you have within you from God, and you are not your own?—to go commit these kinds of sins!**"

Verse 20: "For you were bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

There is the spiritual lesson for us today. This can apply to the physical act and it can also apply to getting into the religious doctrines of the world, which are false, and bringing them into the Body of Christ. Both can apply.

Hosea 5:6: "They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD; but they shall not find Him..." In other words, you can come with all your physical things that you have. You're committing whoredoms, physically and spiritually,

and you're going to go try and find God. **You won't find Him!** Why? *Because it requires repentance first!* 'Seek ye the Lord while He may be found.'

"...He has withdrawn Himself from them" (v 6). That's really quite a thing. If you ever have it that God withdraws, that is pretty heavy-duty stuff! I think we've seen it happen to one of the major Churches of God (WCG). God withdrew Himself from them, taking their money and their lands. The biggest insult that's going to be is that the pope bought the college land in Big Sandy, Tex. Not personally, but the Jesuits bought it. It's fitting reward for rejecting God. Do you not think? for committing spiritual whoredoms? *Yes!*

Verse 7: "They have acted treacherously against the LORD, for they have begotten strange children. Now, within a month invaders shall devour their land. Blow the ram's horn in Gibeah, and the silver trumpet in Ramah; cry aloud at Beth Aven, 'Behind you, O Benjamin!'" (vs 7-8). So, you've got:

- Benjamin
- Ephraim—includes Joseph and also reflects to Manasseh, because they were brothers

Verse 9: "Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke.... [that's exactly what happened when the Syrians carried them off into captivity] ...Among the tribes of Israel I have made known that which shall surely be." God always makes it known!

This last part—vs 10-15—is a prophecy that can be at anytime that God gives a warning to Israel down through history. We're not living in a vacuum, and that the end-time is the only time that God is working. I got a little booklet at home printed in 1724 showing the Truth of the Sabbath, *back then*. That's why God has even used Sunday-keepers to get the Bible out, because they're the only ones that had the resources to do it. But out of that God could call those people, who then could come to understand the Sabbath, which they couldn't come to understand unless they had the Bible with them.

- we're not the first ones talking about he Sabbath
- we're not the first ones talking about Passover on the 14th

I've got another book that I've read: *The Celtic church in Britain*.

- Do you know that St. Patrick was really not a Catholic?
- Do you know that he taught out of the Scriptures?
- Do you know that he kept the Sabbath?

- Do you know that the Celtic Church kept the Sabbath?
- Do you know that the Celtic Church kept the 14th Passover?

They had some other doctrines that were not correct. So, God has had a witness to Israel wherever they have been. They've had their ups and downs. All of this can apply.

Verse 10: "The rulers of Judah were like *those who* move a border... [changing the boundaries; sneaking, cheating, etc.] ...I will pour out My wrath upon them like water. Ephraim is crushed and broken in judgment **because he willingly walked after vanity**" (vs 10-11)—against the commandments. He willing walked against the commandment. When you have people who do that, that's not in ignorance, that is willingness.

Verse 12: "Therefore, I *am* as a moth to Ephraim, and to the house of Judah as rottenness." Remember, for the house of Israel, what two great prophets did they have who warned them? *Elijah and Elisha!* They knew!

Now, Hosea comes on the scene 75 years before their final captivity, and he's warning them again. Plus, he's also sending a warning to Judah.

Verse 13: "When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then Ephraim went to the Assyrian and sent to King Contentious. Yet, he could not heal you nor cure you of your wound." Why? *Because it was from God!*

We've applied this many times to the end-time about England going to Germany. That may or may not have some validity. I don't see where it has as much validity as we laid on it in the past. But it has direct validity to the time when this was given during Hosea's day. That's what they did; they sent ambassadors, emissaries and tribute money so they could have Assyria to help them, but it didn't.

Verse 14: "For I *will be* to Ephraim as a lion, and as a strong lion to the house of Judah. I, *even* I, will tear and go away. I will take away, and none shall rescue him. I will go; I will return to My place until they confess their guilt..." (vs 14-15).

I've applied this many times to the end-time to the 144,000. We'll look at that and see how that applies.

"...and seek My face; in their affliction they will seek Me earnestly" (v 15). The children of Israel always do that. You look back and WWI, and we can go back to the Civil War, God was always brought into that. When they have the afflictions of war, people will turn to God. I mean, maybe not Holy, maybe not to the point of being called to

salvation, but as a country they turn back to God.

We did it in WWII also, but since then we haven't turned back to God. Not during the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and not during the different police actions, went on in 1990s. That's why when it applies to the end-time it's going to happen.

HOSEA 6:

Hosea 6:1: "Come and let us return to the LORD..." This is what they say when they've been afflicted. Can you imagine? Let's think on this:

The United States is taken down, and I believe it's going to be internally. It's not going to be some great invasion from without. There are enough United Nation bases around in the United States and all they have to do is just quietly supply it with troops. It says that 'the stranger within you will rise up high above you.' I think that's how it's going to happen. When we finally go into captivity, think of all those Protestants who believe in the return of Christ, and there are a lot of them, and they're carried off into captivity.

They have a knowledge of God by their zeal, but not according to the true knowledge unto salvation, because they didn't come to that point of repentance in their Protestantism. So, I think there's going to be a lot of repenting done as they are carried off into captivity.

Verse 1: "Come and let us return to the LORD, for He has torn, and He will heal us... [they'll understand that this is the hand of God] ...He has smitten, and He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us..." (vs 1-2).

What I might direct your attention to is any of the sermons I've done on Pentecost, I go through and explain that a little bit more in detail. A day in prophecy is a year. So, if the Great Tribulation is three and a half years, what are we dealing with?

"...in the third day... [beginning in the third year] ...He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight. Then we shall understand, *if* we follow on to know the LORD. His going out is prepared as the morning; and He shall come to us as the rain, as the latter *and* former rain to the earth" (vs 2-3).

Here is a prophecy at the end-time, and we're doing what we can do with the prophecies to show that you must, for those end-time prophecies, fit them into the overall prophecies in the New Testament to have any understanding of it.

Rev. 6—here we have this great and tremendous event that takes place. I believe this is two years into the three and a half-year Tribulation. Remember that in the beginning of the third day God

will 'raise us up.' After two years He will begin to revive us. I think the sixth seal of Rev. 6 is down two years into the three and a half-year Tribulation.

Imagine yourself a good Sunday-keeping Protestant; you keep the letter of the Law as you find it in the New Testament. You've been so lazy that you haven't studied anything concerning Sunday or Sabbath, so you think that Sunday is okay. Yet, you're going to be carried away captive. When you're in captivity, you're going to begin to understand that God is dealing with you. You're going to see a lot of people killed for their testimony of Christ; that's the fifth seal.

Then the sixth seal happens and here you are, wherever you are in captivity... I know that not all of them are going to repent to this extent, but God is going to specifically select a 144,000. All of a sudden you see this event take place. If you have any fear of God at all, what are you going to do? You're going to know that this is from God! Now you're going to being to think straightly.

Revelation 6:12: "And when He opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake..." The Protestants have read this; they have it in their Bible.

"...and the sun became black as *the* hair of sackcloth, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its untimely figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then *the* heaven departed like a scroll that is being rolled up..." (vs 12-14).

The whole earth is going to see this. Think of the children of Israel in captivity and what's going to happen. This is going to affect them. God is going to deal with them. God is going to open up some minds at that time.

"...and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains... [Isa. 2, a prophecy there] ...and the powerful men, and every bondman, and every free *man* hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, 'Fall on us, and hide us from *the* face of Him Who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, because the great day of His wrath has come, and who has the power to stand?'" (vs 14-17).

Revelation 7:1: "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that the wind might not blow on the earth, or on the sea, or on any tree." That's going to be an awesome day! Stop all the winds on the earth!

Verse 2: "Then I saw another angel

ascending from *the* rising of *the* sun, having *the* seal of *the* living God...” This is a special calling that God is doing for the 144,000; that’s why this ties in with Hos.6 where it says, ‘Come, let us return unto the Lord.’ They’re going to return to the Lord.

“...and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to damage the earth and the sea, saying, ‘Do not damage the earth, or the sea, or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.’ And I heard the number of those who were sealed: one hundred forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of *the* children of Israel” (vs 2-4)—because Israel is in captivity.

Then it starts right out with the tribe of Judah; God fulfills His promise that the tents of Judah shall be saved *first*. Then it lists all 12 tribes, with the exception of Dan. Don’t ask me why Dan is not there, that’s one of the questions we’ll ask Christ when we’re resurrected. We don’t know exactly!

Then there’s a great innumerable multitude. So, there are going to be a lot of people who repent at that time. It’s going to be a tremendous thing! That’s why I believe that Hos. 5:15 thru 6:1-3 apply to the 144,000 directly.

As we go along, we have prophecies that apply right then; all of a sudden here’s a prophecy that ‘sticks out like a sore thumb’ in the flow of it, because it goes to the end-time.

Comments:

The tribe of Levi is also included, and I think that will be a great concentration of Levites over where the temple is going to be built. There may be some Levites who may be the descent of Israel scattered through some of the other tribes, because they were in all the tribes, but most of the Levites were really in the kingdom of Judah. I don’t know the significance of separating Manasseh out separately from Joseph, that is listed later. I couldn’t tell you the reason for it. Joseph, I’m sure, would apply to Ephraim. Manasseh is separate, but I don’t know why it’s listed that way, except that in the end-time—if America is Manasseh, which it looks quite clear that it is—that this is really one of the last countries on the face of the earth that’s really preaching anything to do with the Word of God. The vast majority of Protestants are in America.

It’s often been thought that Dan, early on going clear back the book of Judges, gave itself over to idolatry. Dan is supposed to be part of Ireland, and we know that right now are in the Church who have the Spirit of God and be in the first resurrection who pretty well know that they come from the tribe of Dan. So, God is not excluding Dan totally per se, but at the end-time for the sealing of the 144,000 He

doesn’t mention them. I do not know the reason why. We could speculate all different kinds of ways.

Do we think that in America today we have parts of all the 12 tribes? *I’d have to say yes!* That’s where they might come from, instead of these other nations; could very well be! Think about it, we have those from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, England and Ireland. We have Jews, Levites, Simeonites and those from Issachar. Israel was among the Gentiles for quite a while and then later the ten tribes migrated—different ones at different times—to different locations in Europe. They were given a place there, but then God was also preparing America for another great migration of the tribes of Israel, too.

As a matter of fact, what became the United States—the new world—it was called ‘New Canaan,’ because they had a enough knowledge of the Bible to see that the land of Canaan was where the children of Israel went into. So, they named the new world ‘New Canaan.’ I think they had a little bit more understanding concerning at least who they were than we would give them credit for.

Now, we’re just going to pick up some key verses in Hos. 6. This is one that Christ spoke of many times:

Hosea 6:6: “For I desire mercy and not sacrifice...” That is a whole premise for the New Testament. We could go through and show all the sacrifices, that if your heart isn’t right, you can offer all the sacrifices you want, you can offer all the sacrifices you desire—even in the name of the Lord—but if you have hatred and no mercy, you haven’t even learned the lesson of it. That’s why He says:

Verse 6: “For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.”

Micah 6:6—we’ll see the same principle: “With what shall I come before the LORD, *to* bow myself before God the Most High? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my life?” (vs 6-7). All of this is sacrifice—isn’t it?

Verse 8: “He has shown you, O man, what *is* good. And **what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?**” This is a prophecy showing the type of ministry for the New Testament. But God even desired it then.

Think of it today; let’s look at the Tibetan

religion just for an example. One of the sacrifices that they do is the human sacrificial work of walking to the 'holy mountain.' To walk to the 'holy mountain' you have to have special pads on your hands, knees and elbows, and a special pad on the front of you, because you take two steps and you prostrate yourself down and mumble off a prayer to Buddha. Then you get up and take two more steps and you prostrate yourself on the ground and mutter a prayer. You do this for all the miles going up to this 'holy mountain.' When you get up there, then you have achieved something, which then is a 'religion by works or sacrifice.'

FRC: bo
Transcribed: 11/24/17

Where is the mercy in it? Someone ought to go up to those poor souls and say, 'Look, stop right here and take these things off and turn to the true God for He desires mercy. He's not delighted in all this walking and falling prostrate and all of these prayers to these pagan gods.'

Just an example; that's the key verse we want with Hos. 6.

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Jeremiah 5:1-2
- 2) Hosea 2:13-23
- 3) Hosea 3:1
- 4) Romans 10:1-3
- 5) Hosea 3:2-5
- 6) Hosea 4:1-10
- 7) Isaiah 1:9
- 8) Hosea 4:9-12
- 9) Jeremiah 23:9-10
- 10) Hosea 4:13-19
- 11) Ezekiel 7:23-27
- 12) Hosea 5:1-4
- 13) 1 Corinthians 6:13, 19, 13-20
- 14) Hosea 5:6-15
- 15) Hosea 6:1-3
- 16) Revelation 6:12-17
- 17) Revelation 7:1-4
- 18) Hosea 6:6
- 19) Micah 6:6

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Matthew 24
- Mark 13
- Luke 21
- 2 Thessalonians 2
- Isaiah 11
- Ezekiel 33
- Isaiah 2

Hosea Prophecy Series III (Hosea 7 thru 14)

Fred R. Coulter

The purpose of going through the book of Hosea is to show that he was the first prophet after that 75-year period when there were no known prophets that we know of written in the Bible. He was prophesying about 80-90 years before Israel went into captivity. In going through this, *we need to understand that not all Scripture in the prophets are dual!*

I think that's one mistake that we made in the past. We always said that all prophecy is dual. No!

- some prophecy is specific for that very time
- some of the fulfillments are only for that time
- some prophecies are dual and apply
- some are continuous; they always apply

We found in Hos. 6 that if you're going to be the people of God and forsake the Law of God, God is going to forsake and reject you. That always applies, not just at that particular time. There are those prophecies that can apply all the time, though they apply at a particular set-point.

- there are prophecies that are dual
- there are prophecies that are strictly future, *the second coming of Christ*

Obviously, when we get into those prophecies concerning the Millennium, that is future, yet to come.

HOSEA 7:

Hosea 7:1: "When I would have healed Israel..." this shows God's grace:

- God is willing to be merciful
- God is willing to forgive
- God is willing to overlook

Always remember that God would have spared Sodom for ten righteous people. God would have spared Jerusalem for one person. Always remember in this that ***God is gracious and merciful!*** Though it's not revealed in the way that we have in the New Testament, where we have the blessing and privilege of a direct relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ.

"When I would have healed Israel..." So, God is not anxious to kill and destroy. We need to understand that even in the prophecies here in the

Old Testament, God is not anxious to kill and destroy, though He has to.

"...then the iniquity of Ephraim was uncovered, and the wickedness of Samaria, for they have worked falsehood. And the thief comes in, the troop of robbers plunders outside. And they consider not within their hearts that I remember all their evil. Now their own doings have hemmed them in; they are before My face" (vs 1-2).

Here's a good Scripture showing that 'as you sow, so shall you reap.' But there's always a chance for repentance along the way, remember that.

Verse 3: "They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the rulers with their lies." You can take this one Scripture and you can say that this specifically applies to Israel and the kings that they setup in Samaria at that time. But also it is a principle that can apply to any leader of any country at any time.

So, today you could read this, and you could apply it to some of our Presidents and the men who are around him. God's Word is true and it applies. This is one that is more universal.

Verse 4: "They *are* all adulterers, like an oven heated by the baker; he stops stirring, from kneading the dough, until it is leavened." In other words, they are going about doing things that spoils the product. We'll see that it's talking about how that Ephraim is like an 'unbaked loaf.' Or a cake baked on one side.

With pancakes you pour the batter in the skillet and you wait till the bubbles start coming up and then you turn it. Well, if you just leave it and cook it on one side, all the bubbles pop and you've got holes in it. That's like a cake baked on one side.

Verse 5: "*In* the day of our king, the rulers have sickened themselves *with* the heat of wine.... [physically and spiritually] ...He stretches out his hand with scorners, for they have made ready their hearts like an oven... [burning to do evil] ...while they lie in wait. Their baker sleeps at night... [just the fire going by itself, no one is tending it] ...in the morning it burns like a flaming fire. They are all hot as an oven, and devour their judges. All their kings have fallen; there is none among them who calls to Me" (vs 5-7).

Showing that when you just live a life that is adamantly set to go against God, that things are going to go that way. The children of Israel did that.

There are some people who just adamantly set their way against God!

Verse 8: “Ephraim mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake that is not turned. Strangers have eaten up his strength, and he does not know....”

That happened then. This could be a dual prophecy for Ephraim today, for Israel today. We could look at that and say, yes, this applies to what we see in Britain and America today, no question about it.

“...Yea, gray hairs are here and there on him, yet, he knows it not. And the pride of Israel testifies to his face. And they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek Him in all this” (vs 9-10).

In other words, God is saying that after all this evil, you would think that they would repent. You would think that there would be a heart that they would return to God.

It’s kind of like we would say today: How many times must you shoot yourself in the foot before you feel the pain?

Verse 11: “Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart; they call to Egypt; they go to Assyria.” Egypt at that time that’s what they were doing. Egypt was very close to the Mediterranean and you just got on a ship right there in what we would call Tel Aviv today and you can be down in Egypt the very next day. So, they called to Egypt, and they had these alliances and would go to Assyria. Here’s the biggest Assyrian Empire getting stronger and stronger, and Israel getting weaker and weaker.

What do you do in that case? *Well, instead of turning to God, they turned to Assyria!*

Verse 12: “When they go, I will spread My net upon them; I will bring them down like the birds of heaven; I will chastise them, as their congregation has heard.” God is saying here that He’s going to foil their attempts.

Whenever you try to work it out yourself instead of going to God, it’s not going to work. It will never work! As their congregation has heard, because they were told and they knew:

Verse 13: “Woe to them, for they have fled from Me! Destruction unto them—because they have sinned against Me. Though I have redeemed them... [out of Egypt] ...yet, they have spoken lies against Me. And they have not cried to Me with their heart, when they howled on their beds; they gather themselves for grain and wine, and they rebel against Me. Though I have bound and strengthened their arms, yet, they think evil against Me. They

return, **but not to the Most High**....” (vs 13-16). It’s kind of like the repentance of the world. They return, but not to God.

“...They are like a deceitful bow; their rulers shall fall by the sword from the rage of their tongue. This *shall be* their scorn in the land of Egypt” (v 16).

We’re going see prophecies saying that ‘they shall return to Egypt,’ and there are prophecies saying that ‘they shall not return to Egypt.’ How are we going to figure that out? *This is a contradiction!* Here it is that “...This *shall be* their scorn in the land of Egypt.”

This is when the Egyptians finally see the Israelites finally go into captivity to the Assyrians, the Egyptians are going to be in derision. That is they are going to be happy to see them go, because they look back on the history of what God did to Egypt when He took the children of Israel out. That’s what that has a reference to.

HOSEA 8:

Hosea 8:1: “Put a ram’s horn to your mouth. *He comes* like an eagle against **the house of the LORD**... [Israel] ...because they have **transgressed My covenant** and have **rebelled against My Law**.” That’s important to understand and realize, that there are two things.

When you transgress against the covenant, what are you bringing upon you? Remember what a covenant is; remember Israel at Mt. Sinai (Exo. 24). They said, ‘All that the Lord has said, we will do!’ It was written in the Book of the Covenant and put in the side of the Ark. It was sealed by the sacrifice of animals.

What have we learned concerning the sacrifice of animals in any covenant sacrifice? *When you say yes, you are saying that what will happen to me is what has happened to these animals being killed, because I was unfaithful in the covenant!* That’s what you’re saying.

You need to think on that in baptism, because that’s actually what you have done in baptism. That’s why, when you are buried under the water, it is a symbolic death for you, a covenant death. Christ gives you life! That’s why you come out of it. But you are saying that ‘if I do not become conjoined to Christ, into His death and let that apply to me—the covenant death of Christ—this covenant death in the watery grave of baptism, so likewise will I did.

When you transgress the covenant, that is more fatal than just transgressing laws! I hope you understand the difference. You can sin and

transgress laws, but not transgress the covenant, *if you repent and come back to God*. So, God is indicting them on two accounts. "...have **transgressed My covenant** and have **rebelled against My Law**." He shall come as an eagle.

God gave them a witness of what He would do if they transgressed the covenant; Deuteronomy 28:43: "The stranger *dwelling* among you shall get up above you very high..." This happened to Israel back in the days of Hosea, and it's going to happen to Israel again at the end of the age. Are we not living in the time that is taking place step-by-step? *Yes, it is!*

It says, "...very high..." So, how bad is it going to get? *I don't know, but I don't think we've reached the pinnacle of it, yet!* We see all that happening in front of our eyes where strangers are coming in; strangers within our borders are increasing by leaps and bounds.

I made a statement back in the late 1960s, in going over this—strangers will get very high above you—what would happen if the Latino population in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas reached the majority and they decided and appealed to the United Nations to have a plebiscite to sever those states from the United States and put it into Mexico?

That may sound farfetched, but I look at it now as within striking range. All that used to belong to Mexico. All of that used to be Catholic. That's part of restoring the Catholic Church; to get all of these things back that the Vatican has lost. So, it's possible.

"...and you shall come down very low.... [How low is low? *I don't know!*] ...He shall loan to you, and you shall not loan to him. He shall be the head, and you shall be the tail. And all these curses shall come on you, and shall pursue you and overtake you, until you are destroyed..." (vs 43-45). Kind of like wave after wave.

You can see this within society, within agriculture, and if the population of the United States doubles by 2025, then all the food we're exporting will have to be eaten here in America, just to keep the population in America going. At that point, if it happens according to this, then America will no longer be America as we understand the United States of America, though it may have that as a name.

The whole substance of the nation and the whole custom of the people will be totally changed. This is part of the propaganda that is happening now, that we are called *a pluralistic society!* Whereas, back in the 1900s, even the Supreme Court said that 'we are a Christian nation.'

A *pluralistic society* means that we have temples to every god from every country under heaven. Now they're finding that they need to coordinate more the holiday season, because you need to have Hanukkah, Ramadan, Christmas, the Hindu feast, the Vietnamese feast, the Chinese feast all converging together. How low is it going to get? *I don't know!*

"...**because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God** to keep His commandments and His statutes, which He commanded you. And they shall be on you for a sign and for a wonder, and on your seed forever" (vs 44-46)—*both!* The blessings and commandments on the one hand, and the curses and troubles on the other hand.

When we think of promises of God, we like to think of all the good promises and the blessings. But some of the promises of God have to do with His curses, because He promised it.

Verse 47: "Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and with gladness of heart for the abundance of all *things*."

Look around and, my, we've got abundance of everything! What happens, people are more disgruntled, mentally disturbed, marriages falling apart, etc., etc. Just watch kids in a store. I hate to go to the store when there are little kids in the store. What happens? *They're spoiled brats! Give me this, that, the other thing!*

When that generation grows up, they're going to be such spoiled brats. There's nothing worse than an adult spoiled brat, but that's what's going to happen. That's why we always need to be thankful for what God has given us.

Verse 48: "Therefore, you shall serve your enemies, which the LORD shall send against you in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in the want of all *things*. And he shall put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you. The LORD shall bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth as the eagle flies..." (vs 48-49).

When it talks about the eagle in Hos. 8, that's referring directly to the Assyrians at that time, but this is also referring to a future time in Deut. 28, which is going to come.

"...a nation whose language you shall not understand, a nation fierce of countenance who shall not regard the person of the old, nor show favor to the young" (vs 49-50)—especially if they have it in their heart to avenge against all of these rich people who have had everything all of their lives and 'now we are going to take it from them.'

Verse 51: "And he shall eat the fruit of your

livestock and the fruit of your land, until you are destroyed. He shall not leave you grain, wine, or oil, neither the increase of your livestock, or flocks of your sheep until he has destroyed you. And he shall besiege you within all your gates..." (vs 51-52)—within!

That's why those people who have the maps showing where the various United Nations' troops are stationed in America, understanding some parts of the Bible, are alarmed at the number of UN troops that are there. All you need is a national emergency! All you need is a President who will ask the UN to send in troops. Needs no authorization from the United States at all. They get a Security Council resolution and here they come.

We're sitting in times of a realistic fulfillment of that just down the road in the future. We need to realize that when we're reading some of these things that wherever Israel is, when it comes to a critical time in the history of Israel, God is going to bring that about.

Hosea 8:2: "Israel shall cry to Me, 'My God, we know You.'... [But the truth is, *they didn't!*] ...Israel has thrown off good; the enemy shall pursue him. They have set up kings, but not by Me; they have made princes, and I knew it not. They have made themselves idols *with* their silver and their gold, so that they may be cut off. Your calf, O Samaria..." (vs 2-5).

- Who made the calf?
- Where does that go back to?

That goes back to Jeroboam; he made two calves: one for Dan and one for Bethel. Bethel was the place where Jacob stayed and it was called *the house of God*; that's what Bethel means. But where did the two calves from Jeroboam come from? *They came from the calf of Aaron, which came from Egypt!*

Verse 5: "Your calf, O Samaria, has cast you off..." In other words, their religion with the golden calf cast them off from God. When Jeroboam made those calves, he said to the people, 'Look! These are the gods who brought you out of Egypt, O Israel.' He probably appealed to the history back when Aaron was the high priest and Levite of God made a golden calf. So, because of that:

"...My anger is kindled against them. How long shall they be incapable of innocence?" (v 5). How long is going to take correction, purging, punishment, depravation to get all of these ideas of strange gods and strange religions out of their system? When is it that you're going to come to innocency and really turn to God?

That's why the Church of God needs to have, as far as understanding other religions in the

world, we need to understand it *so that we retain our innocency before God! That we keep the purity before God!*

When we study some of these things, it's not to find out how they do it so that we'll do it the same way, it's how they do it *so that we can avoid doing it the same way!* Entirely different thing.

Verse 6: "For from Israel it *came* also—the craftsman made it, but *it is* not God; for the calf of Samaria shall be broken into shivers. For they sow to the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind..." (vs 6-7). There is a famous Scripture. This applies:

- to any person at anytime in history
- to any nation at anytime in history
- to Israel and later Judah at anytime in their history

That's why the Bible is called the living Word of God. But God, specifically right here, is going to apply it this time to them.

"...It has no stalk; the bud shall yield no meal; but if it does yield, strangers shall swallow it up" (v 7).

Kind of like the cartoon Robin Hood with the sheriff of Nottingham when they finally brought some gold pieces into the church and they put in the little box for the poor. The sheriff of Nottingham came in and he found it and took it. So, even the little bit was taken from them. Then those who had any coins in their pockets or hats—he turned them upside down and shook them out—and thanked them very much for it and walked out the door singing 'tootle-loo I've got all the gold.'

Verse 8: "Israel is swallowed up; now they shall be among the Gentiles..." This is where they lost their identity. After the fall of Jerusalem in 70_{A.D.} the knowledge of where Israel was virtually lost to all historians. You have two elements to lose The ten tribes of Israel:

1. the Gentiles who do not want to acknowledge Israel
2. the Jews who claim that everything of Israel belongs to them

Those two things combined virtually hid the history of where Israel was down in time until later we find from other histories how that Israel migrated into Western Europe and on into Britain.

"...as a vessel in which there is no pleasure; for they have gone up to Assyria, a wild donkey alone by himself. Ephraim has hired lovers" (vs 8-9).

- What happens if you don't turn to God in repentance and you try to work it out your own way? *You hire a lover!*

- What happens when you're committing adultery and fornication? *Your lovers always turn on you!*

That's the whole point that God is making here!

Verse 10: "Yea, though they have hired among the nations, now I will gather them. And they shall sorrow in a little while under the burden of kings and princes. Because Ephraim has multiplied altars to sin, altars shall be to him for sin. I have written to him the great things of My Law, but they were counted as a strange thing" (vs 10-12).

This is also a living principle: ***God has sent His Word to people and there are great things in the Law of God, in the Word of God!*** I just wished I knew Hebrew as well as I know Greek, then I could know a little more. So, I guess that's something if I get time I will try to learn about Biblical Hebrew.

There are great things in the Laws of God; there are marvelous things, and we'll try and understand that when we get into the prophecies of Christ.

Psalms 119:18—David prays: "Open my eyes so that I may behold wondrous things out of Your Law."

- there are great things in the Law of God
- there are wondrous things in the Law of God

That's why we need to study it day and night; let it become a part of us. Let us ***think*** with the Word of God! That way we then develop the mind of Christ.

I don't want anyone to follow me because of me. I want you to follow Christ and God the Father, and the Word of God! That's what's going to bring you eternal life.

In the meantime, if I can do the same thing, which I'm trying to with everything that is in me, and I can teach you things and help you, what I want to do is do as Christ said: ***It's sufficient that the disciple become as the teacher!***

In other words, anyone who is teaching is not to teach from the point of view that 'I have great knowledge and now I'm going to give you a little bit of this so that you must be dependent upon me.' ***NO!*** the teacher is to say, 'Here is what it is, and I want you to learn it so that you can learn as much as you can. We've seen through the years in doing that it gives us a continuous growing cycle.

- we're always growing and learning *more*
- we understand God's Word *more*
- we look at God's Word and see some of the great and wondrous things in the Word of God

It's very inspiring, and this is what God wants it to be. That's the kind of relationship that I want to have with the brethren. I don't want to have people following me because my name is Fred.

- I want them to follow Christ because He's our Savior!
- I want them to have the created relationship that God the Father intended between you and God the Father and Jesus Christ!

That is the important thing; that is where it is at!

Hosea 8:13: "They sacrifice flesh for the sacrifices of My offerings, and eat it..." Instead of going to God, it was a fake sacrifice and they would turn around and eat it.

"...but the LORD does not receive them. Now He will remember their iniquity and punish their sins. They shall return to Egypt" (v 13).

A little later on we will read that they shall not return to Egypt. What is He talking about here? ***They shall return to Egypt! That is spiritually speaking!*** What God is doing is ***sending them back to the religions of Egypt so that they get their absolute fill of it in hopes that they will repent!***

What does it say in Rev. 11 where it describes the city where Christ was crucified? ***It is referred to as Sodom and Egypt!*** I think it's very interesting that in Britain today you have some of the greatest Egyptian museums in the world! So, there's another fulfillment of this. That's how you can ***return to Egypt*** without necessarily going there physically to the land of Egypt.

Isn't it interesting how much of the Egyptian religion now filters in with beliefs that people have today? It doesn't come identified as ancient Egyptian religion, it comes in as spiritual ideas from other people. That's how it's put in there.

Verse 14 confirms it: "For Israel has forgotten his Maker, and builds temples. And Judah has multiplied cities. But I will send a fire on his cities, and it shall burn up her palaces."

HOSEA 9:

Hosea 9:1: "O Israel, rejoice not for joy, like the people, for you have gone whoring away from your God; you have loved a reward upon every grain floor. The threshing floor and the winepress shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail in her" (vs 1-2).

In other words, all the physical things that are going to happen to you when you reject God.

Verse 7: "The days of her judgment have

come; the days of vengeance have come; Israel shall know it. The prophet is a fool, the spiritual man *is* insane because of the multitude of your iniquity and your great hatred.”

They ended up hating God! We have the same thing today! “...the prophet is a fool...” Why? *Because they’re not prophesying according to the Word of God!*

I predict that we’re going to have so many crazy prophecies come along. We’re going to have so many weird things come along it’s unreal!

“...the spiritual man *is* insane...”—mad! They get so involved in spiritualism of the world, they become insane! That’s what it’s talking about. “...because of the multitude of your iniquity and your great hatred.”

Verse 9: “They have deeply corrupted themselves, as *in* days of Gibeah. Therefore, He will remember their iniquity; He will punish *them* for their sins.”

You can read all the verses in between, v 17: “My God shall cast them away because they did not hearken to Him. And they shall be wanderers among the nations.”

Yet, God prophesied that not one seed of Israel would be lost, though they migrated and wandered through the nations.

HOSEA 10:

Hosea 10:1: “Israel was a luxuriant vine...” (*KJV* says *empty vine*). Let’s see the *true vine*. We don’t want to happen to us what happened to Israel. What was the vine to do? *It was to bring forth fruit!* Here is the *spiritual vine*:

John 15:1—Jesus says: “I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman. He takes away every branch in Me *that* does not bear fruit; but He cleanses each one...” (vs 1-2)—*takes is away (KJV)*.

Who makes the final judgment to remove it? *God does!* That’s why when we see some of the things that have transpired within the Church of God, where we see people who have supposedly were following God at one point. We knew them; we thought they were. Or some minister that we thought was. Then, lo and behold, the strangest things come out of their mouths today.

- Who removes them?
- Who makes the final judgment to remove them?

We hope that in being removed that they may repent at the last minute. But why does *God the Father do it? Because it has to do with salvation! No man is*

going to do it! That’s why God the Father does it.

“...but He cleanses each one that bears fruit, in order that it may bear more fruit” (v 2). That’s what you do every year with the vine, you prune it so that it brings forth more fruit. And every year greater and better fruit.

Considering wine: Some of the best wine comes from the oldest trunks of the grapes. The older the trunk for the grape—which has been pruned year after year—brings forth the most mature fruit. Better quality and so forth.

Noah had to plant his vines and wait, and he was over anxious and he drunk the red wine and it wiped him out—the new wine. After being on the ark for a year, I don’t know how much wine they took with them, but apparently he ran out long before the vines produced.

This is important; *no one can take you out of Christ except God the Father!* That’s why it says in John 10 that ‘no one can take them out of My Father’s hand.’ But it does not say that the Father cannot take them out of His hand. It says right here that He can.

Verse 3: “You are already clean through the word that I have spoken to you.... [they had just finished with the Passover] ...Dwell in Me, and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, but only if it remains in the vine, neither *can* you bear fruit unless you are dwelling in Me. I am the vine, *and* you *are* the branches. The one who is dwelling in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; because apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not dwell in Me... [whom the Father removes] ...he is cast out as a branch, and is dried up...” (vs 3-6).

When the withering is complete, because you can revive it for a while. You can take a vine that has been cutoff and if it isn’t withered too much, you can put it in a jar of water and it will sprout and come back again. You can even create a new grape plant that way, because it will sprout roots. But if it’s withered so much that there’s nothing left, it’s just old, crinkly, dry and dead:

“...and men gather them and cast *them* into a fire, and they are burned. If you dwell in Me, and My words dwell in you... [because it’s a living Word of God] ...you shall ask whatever you desire, and it shall come to pass for you” (vs 6-7). Now, compare that with Hos. 10:1; Israel is an empty vine.

Hosea 10:1: “...which produced fruit freely.... [to himself, not to God] ...According to the multitude of his fruit, he has increased the altars. Accordingly, they have made beautiful images after the goodness of his land. Their heart is divided...” (vs 1-2)—claiming God on one hand, but

worshipping idols and pagan gods on the other hand. This is an unstable man. James calls it a 'double-minded' man.

- Isn't that the way Israel is today?
- Isn't that the way the United States is today?

No doubt about it! *They call on God, but their mind is divided!* They call on God on one hand, but they're set to do everything their own way on the other hand.

James 1:2: "Consider *it* all joy, my brethren, when you are beset by various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. But let endurance have *its* perfect work..." (vs 2-4)—complete.

In other words, when you're going through a trial, understand that while you're in the midst of the trial you may not understand it. But look to God 'knowing that all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose' so that you may be perfect. That's why we go through these things.

"...so that you may be perfect and complete, not lacking in anything. However, if anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, Who gives to everyone freely and does not reproach *the one who asks*; and it shall be given to him. But let him ask in faith, not doubting at all because the one who doubts is like a wave of *the sea* that is driven by the wind and tossed *to and fro*" (vs 4-6). Water is so unstable.

(go to the next track)

When I do my water therapy, I get into the water where it's at my shoulders and I bring my arms forward and back and the water is just like waves. Water is unstable if the wind blows or an earthquake takes place. It's just unstable, it goes wherever. It has no form, no shape, just wherever the wind would blow it or circumstances will take it.

Verse 7: "Do not let that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord. **He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways**" (vs 7-8). That's true and a living principle.

When Hosea talks about his mind and heart is divided, this is what we are talking about. He mouths God out of one side of his mouth and worships Satan out of the other side of his mouth. We could use the two extremes.

Hosea 10:2: "Their heart is divided; now they shall be guilty.... [doesn't that sound like James 1; double-minded] ...He shall break down their altars, and He shall spoil their images, for now they shall say, 'We have no king because we did not fear the LORD; what then should a king do to us?' They

have spoken words, **swearing falsely in making a covenant**. Thus judgment springs up like hemlock in the furrows of the field" (vs 2-4).

Hemlock is deadly poison. "...**swearing falsely in making a covenant**...." That's what they were doing with these gods.

Verse 5: "Because of the calves of Beth Aven, the people of Samaria shall fear, for its people shall mourn over it, as well as its idolatrous priests who rejoiced over it for its glory, because its *glory* has departed from it."

It's amazing how they make these temples and pagan things just beautiful, gorgeous, great art work and all that sort of thing. All the artwork that is in the Vatican, as far as artistically, people say that it's beautiful. Well, God is going to destroy all of that. That's what it's talking about here.

Verse 6: "It shall also be carried to Assyria for a present to King Contentious.... [taken as spoil] ...Ephraim shall receive shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his own counsel."

Verse 12: "Sow to yourselves in righteousness... [rather than all this foolishness you've been doing] ...reap in mercy... [a call to repentance] ...break up your fallow ground, for *it is* time to seek the LORD, until He comes and rains righteousness on you. You have plowed wickedness; you have reaped iniquity; you have eaten the fruit of lies because you trusted in your way, in the multitude of your mighty men. Therefore, a tumult shall arise among your people, and all your fortresses shall be spoiled... [God is going to take them all down] ...as the ruin *of* Beth Arbel by Shalman in the day of battle. The mother was dashed in pieces with *her* children. Thus He does to you, Bethel, because of your great wickedness. In a morning the king of Israel shall be utterly cut off" (vs 12-15).

A prophecy of it begin taken away right there when they were taken off into captivity.

HOSEA 11:

This is true, too. Think of it in relation to families, children, mothers and fathers.

Hosea 11:1: "When Israel *was* a child, then I loved him and called My son out of Egypt. The more they called them, the more they went from them. They *continued* to sacrifice to the Baalim, and burn incense to graven images. I also taught Ephraim to walk; I took them on My arm. But they did not know that I healed them. I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love; and I was to them as those who take off the yoke on their jaws, and I gently gave food to him. He shall not return to the land of Egypt,

but the Assyrian *shall be* his king...” (vs 1-5).

So, on the one hand we saw how that spiritually they returned to Egypt through the golden calf. Physically now they’re going to be removed into Assyria, which happened.

I imagine that when Adolph Hitler was born, his mother loved him. I can’t imagine otherwise. All mothers love their children. But when he grew up and came what he became, if she were living do you suppose she would have loved him for all the evil and hatred that he brought upon the world? We could take that and apply that to Stalin, Mao tse Tung, Manson who is in prison, any of those people who gives himself over to evil.

Everyone who gives himself over to evil was born a little infant and was loved. God is saying the same way with Israel. When Israel was young and depended on God, followed God, then He did good things for them. But they turned and went their own way. Now they’re going to go into the land of the Assyrians.

“...**because they refused to return to Me**” (v 5). That implies repentance, to come back to God. There’s always a great penalty in going through all of these things. But there’s one thing that we can really learn: **God is interested in repentance, and through all of it, He wants repentance!**

So, in our own lives, when we come up to obstacles or sins that we need to overcome, **God wants repentance! He’ll be merciful, kind and gracious!**

But if you refuse to return, v 6: “And the sword shall remain on his cities, and shall destroy his branches, and devour them because of their own counsels. And My people are bent on backsliding from Me...” (vs 6-7). That’s the nature of Israel. Isn’t that one of the famous things that Protestants get into? They’re all backsliding.

I think that if you want to see a good example of taking the name of God on one hand, and following through all the pagan things on the other hand, you can watch some of these ‘gospel sing-a-longs’ on TNN. You get some of these country singers, ‘Yes, we’re with the Lord,’ and they turn around and walk out do their own thing.

That’s the way Israel is, backsliding, but calling on the name of the Lord. Calling on the name of the Lord, not to repent, but to give endorsement to what they are doing.

“...Though they called to the Most High, none would at all exalt *Him*. How shall I give you up, Ephraim? How shall I deliver you, Israel?...” (vs 7-8). God is lamenting what to do. He doesn’t

want to.

“...How shall I make you like Admah? How shall I set you as Zeboiim? My heart is turned within Me; My compassions are kindled together” (v 8).

In other words, God is saying that He’s grieved at heart. ‘I love you so much I don’t know what to do. But you keep provoking Me. Every time I think I’m going to give you correction, I repent of it and don’t do it. Now all of My repenting that I have done are burning me up within. What shall I do?’ God says.

Verse 9: “I will not carry out the heat of My anger; I will not return to destroy Ephraim, for I *am* God and not man... [even in His correction He holds back His hand] ...the Holy One in your midst; and I will not enter into the city. They shall walk after the LORD; He shall roar like a lion. When He shall roar, then the children shall tremble from the west” (vs 9-10). He’s getting into a prophecy when He’s going to redeem them.

Verse 11: “They shall tremble like a bird out of Egypt, and like a dove out of the land of Assyria. And I will place them in their houses,’ says the LORD.” Right there in the midst of it, you’ve got a prophecy into the Millennium, just two verses.

Then it drops back to the current situation. This is what is so critical in going through the prophecies of the Old Testament. It will talk about current conditions and then it will shoot forward to something way in the future. Then the next verse will come back to what is currently taking place. Then the next verse will go forward to a fulfillment in the next year or two that’s going to happen, then come back and talk about something in the future. That’s what’s happening here.

Verse 12: “Ephraim circles around Me with lying, and the house of Israel with deceit. And Judah is still wayward toward God... [has not yet sinned enough to be gotten rid of] ...and toward the Holy One, Who is faithful.”

HOSEA 12:

Hosea 12:1: “Ephraim feeds on wind and follows after the east wind...” What happens when you feed on wind?

Try this some time: When you get real hungry take a deep breath and tell me how much nourishment you have. Does it get rid of your hunger? *No!*

“...follows after the east wind...” I find that interesting if you apply that to all the Eastern religions as it’s happening now. They had Eastern religions then. No doubt about it.

“...He daily multiplies lies and desolation. And they make a covenant with the Assyrians, and oil is carried into Egypt” (v 1).

This could be a prophecy of Britain today. It's been taken that way many times. It's very possible. Instead of making a covenant with God, they made a covenant with the Assyrians.

Verse 2: “The LORD also has a quarrel with Judah and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings He will repay him. He took his brother by the heel... [Jacob] ...in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God” (vs 2-3).

It's starting by going back to Jacob. Look at where you started from with your father, look what he did with God. That's what it's referring to.

Verse 4: “Yes, he wept and cried to Him, and he had struggled with the Angel...”—when Jacob wrestled with God all night; the One Who became Christ. What did He do? Just to show that God has all power, He took Jacob's knee out of the socket so He could get away.

“...and he prevailed. He found him in Bethel, and there He spoke with us...” (v 5). That's where Jacob took the stone, laid the stone down and it became the pillar stone and he saw the stairway going up to God and he called it *the house of God*.

“...even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD is His name. Therefore, return to your God; keep mercy and judgment, and wait for your God continually” (vs 5-6).

So, right in the midst of all these things, what does God do? *He goes back and reminds them where they came from, who their forefather was and how Jacob had standing with God and this is what He wants with them.* But they won't do it.

Verse 7: “He [Ephraim] is a merchant; the balances of deceit are in his hand; he loves to oppress. And Ephraim said, ‘Yet, I have become rich, I have found much wealth for myself. In all my labors they shall find in me no iniquity that is sin’” (vs 7-8)—total self-righteousness. So, instead of being like Jacob, Ephraim is acting like the fool!

Verse 9: “And I the LORD, who have been your God from the land of Egypt, will yet make you to dwell in tents as in the days of the appointed feast.” Right smack in the middle of it is a prophecy going to the Millennium.

Verse 10: “I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions and have used parables by the hand of the prophets.”

This is really telling us that all during the

period that we have no history recorded in the Bible of different prophets, what do we have? *God is saying that He had prophets all the time! Never without a witness!* That's really something to understand that God never leaves His people without a witness of some kind.

Verse 11: “*Is there iniquity in Gilead? Surely they are altogether vanity; they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal. Yea, their altars are as heaps in the furrows of the fields. And Jacob fled into the country of Syria, and Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he kept sheep*” (vs 11-12).

This is talking about when Jacob went in and got his wife. He had bargained for Rachel and got Leah. In the morning he says, ‘You tricked me, Laban.’ *I knew that! If you will labor for another seven years you can have Rachel!* So, Jacob had work 14 years for Laban, and in spite of everything, God blessed Jacob.

You can read the account about he sheep and the goats, the ring-tailed and he spotted, and how God caused everything to come out the way that He wanted it.

Verse 13: “And by a prophet... [Moses] ...the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt...” Moses said of Christ: *The Lord will raise up a Prophet from your brethren like unto me!* Moses was referring to Christ.

“...and by a prophet he was kept. ‘Ephraim provoked Me to anger most bitterly; therefore, his blood shall be cast upon him, and his Lord shall return his reproach unto him’” (vs 13-14). In other words, God is going to give back to them exactly as they treated Him.

I think it's very interesting how many times you go through these prophecies and right in the middle of it, God goes back to the beginning, back to when Moses brought Israel out, when Jacob was called, to remind them what they need to be doing and where they came from.

With an overview this is not meant to be an in-depth study.

HOSEA 13:

Hosea 13:1: “When Ephraim spoke there was trembling. He exalted himself in Israel; but when he offended in Baal worship, he died.”

What does this mean? *There was chance with Jeroboam!* When Ephraim spoke in trembling, ‘We'll separate from Rehoboam and all of the oppression. There was a chance right then! Jeroboam was told. When the prophet took the twelve pieces of cloth and gave ten to Jeroboam and said that these

are the ten tribes:

‘If you will listen unto Me and keep My commandments and do all that I command you, then I shall make you a house like unto David.’

In other words, he would have given a guaranteed throne to the descendants of Jeroboam just like He gave a guaranteed throne to the house of David. They didn’t do it. But when Jeroboam offended in Bethel by making the two calves, he died! It sealed his fate. *The wages of sin is death!* It was talking about that Ephraim did not literally die, but he died before God because of sin.

Verse 2: “And now they sin more and more, and have made themselves a molten image of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen. They say of them, ‘Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves.’”

Like kissing the toe of the supposed statue of St. Peter in the Basilica. It’s actually a statue of Jupiter, not Peter in black marble. All the faithful Catholics, when they go there, kiss the toe. Over the years it has been worn down because of the kissing of the toe. Saliva works slowly but surely. *I wonder how many cases of flu were transmitted!* Kiss the calves! Can you imagine going up to an idol of a calf and kissing it and saying, ‘This is my god’?

If you think about India today, their gods are cows, and their dung is ‘holy,’ and their urine is ‘holy water.’ Think of the big bull—the statue—on Wall Street. All of the Wall Street traders love the bull and kiss the bull when the market is going up. They literally have the running of the bulls, a takeoff of what they have in Spain before the bullfight. That’s amazing! That fits in!

Verse 3: “Therefore, they shall be as the morning cloud and as the early dew that passes away, as the chaff storm driven from a threshing floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney.” Just like a passing phenomena.

Verse 4: “Yet, I *am* the LORD your God from the land of Egypt, and you shall know no God but Me, for there is no Savior besides Me.” That’s the lesson that He’s going to teach them:

- to send them off into captivity
- to give them over to their evil until they repent

Verse 5: “I have known you in the wilderness, in the land of great dryness. When they were fed, they became full. They were filled and their heart was exalted. Therefore, they have forgotten Me” (vs 5-6). Isn’t that true whenever luxury comes along?

You can put there the Laodiceans (Rev. 3:14-21)—seven perfect verses saying what the Laodiceans... Laodiceans were not invented with the Laodicean Church. Backsliding Israel always finds itself falling into a Laodicean way with God.

“...Therefore, they have forgotten Me” (v 6). Isn’t that true when you get so many things going, so much being done, so many activities taking place, *you forget God!*

Now you know why when they want to subvert a church they up all the activities to take you away from God. They don’t tell you that, but that’s what happens.

“...for there is no Savior besides Me” (v 6) applies to Christ Who was going to come as the only Savior. It also applies to God Who would save them in their circumstances at that time, if they would turn to Him instead of their lovers. They were turning to their lovers, turning to other people.

- there’s a time when you need to turn to God, not to other people
- there’s a time when you need to really come to God

That’s what He’s showing here.

Verse 7: “Therefore, I will be as a lion to them; as a leopard by the way I will watch... [prowling and stalking, watching their sin] ...I will meet them like a bear that is bereaved of her cubs, and will tear open their chests. And there I will devour them like a lion—as the wild beast would tear them. O Israel, you have destroyed yourself; **but in Me is your help**” (vs 7-9).

The Millennium, v 10: “Where *is* your king now, that he may save you in all your cities; and your judges of whom you said, ‘Give me a king and princes’?” In other words, they’re finally going to come to the point that they realize that:

- politics isn’t going to save them
- other people won’t save them
- false religions won’t save them
- **only God will**

But God will give them over to their own devices, turn them over to sin and iniquity so they can learn. That may sound like a cruel thing to some people who want everything to go well in life.

What God is aiming for is that they would repent. So, if you’re sinning, God says, ‘All right, I’m going to turn you over and let you sin worse, so that you are going to find that the wages of sin is death, and the only hope is in Me.’

Verse 11: “I gave you a king in My anger, and took *him* away in My wrath.” Quite a statement!

All right you can have your king! Then He had to remove him; go back and read the story of Jeroboam. He was angry with Solomon, split the kingdom and gave them Jeroboam; gave them a chance. Then Jeroboam became the epitome of evil! Jeroboam the Son of Nebat, king of Israel. ‘Took him away in My wrath.’

Verse 12: “The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin *is* hidden. The pains of a woman in travail shall come upon him. He *is* an unwise son; for he should not delay long at the time of the breaking forth of children” (vs 12-13). I don’t know how that works out exactly.

Second resurrection (note: Ezek. 37); v 14: “I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O Death, where *are* your plagues? O Grave, I will be your destruction! And compassion shall be hidden from My eyes.”

In other words, He’s not going to repent of doing away with death; He’s not going to repent of destroying the grave or destroying death.

Verse 15: “Though he is fruitful among his brothers, an east wind shall come....” Notice how these prophecies mixed in and out of present and future. Here’s part of it here, a future time in v 14, then we’re talking about the present time.

“...The wind of the LORD shall come up from the wilderness, and his spring shall become dry, and his fountain shall be dried up.... [that’s just cutting off all life] ...He shall plunder the treasure of all desirable vessels. Samaria shall become desolate, for she has rebelled against her God. They shall fall by the sword. Their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their pregnant women shall be ripped up” (vs 15-16). That’s pretty vicious correction.

If there weren’t the second resurrection to solve these problems then that really would, indeed, be evil. But God is going to undo all of that; we need to realize that.

HOSEA 14—the final plea to Israel:

Hosea 14:1: “O Israel, return to the LORD your God...” All the way through, God loves Israel, God loves Ephraim, but why do they make themselves the enemies of God over and over again with their backsliding?

“...for you have fallen because of your iniquity. Take with you words, and return to the LORD....” (vs 1-2). I’m sure this has to do with the words of God.

“...Say to Him, ‘Take away all *our* iniquity, and receive *us* graciously, that we may repay *with* the sacrifices of our lips.... [the worship of our lips;

they’re now going to worship God with their lips] (here is their confession): ...Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses. Nor shall we say any more to the work of our hands, “Our gods”—for in You the fatherless finds mercy.”” (vs 2-3). This is the kind of repentance that God wants. It didn’t happen then, and it hasn’t happened, yet. This is a future prophecy.

God says, v 4: “I will heal their backslidings; I will love them freely... [future Millennial] ...for My anger has turned away from him. I will be as the dew to Israel; he shall blossom as the lily and cast out his roots like Lebanon. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon. Those who dwell under his shadow shall return...” (vs 4-7).

This means that Ephraim is going to be instrumental in bringing people to God during the Millennium.

“...they shall revive like the grain, and grow like the vine. Their scent *shall be* as the wine of Lebanon. Ephraim *shall say*, ‘What *have* I to do any more with idols?’ I have heard *him* and watched him; I *am* like a leafy cypress tree. Your fruit is found from Me.” (vs 7-8).

Verse 9: “**Who is wise? He shall understand these things. Who has understanding?** He shall know them, for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them; but transgressors shall fall in them.”

It’s quite a plea to God, and I think what is really interesting and profound is the love of God is demonstrated all the way through. So, when we get excited about things happening at the end and God is going to punish, God doesn’t want us to stand up and wield the punishment mallet over people’s heads and joy in the destruction that God is going to bring.

No! He wants us to be sorrowful, and help those, if we can, who are going to be subjected to this, that they could repent.

It’s quite a story in the book of Hosea, and I’m sure here’s a lot more in there. But, with an overview, this gives us a good indication of what God was doing.

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Hosea 7:1-16
- 2) Hosea 8:1
- 3) Deuteronomy 28:43-52
- 4) Hosea 8:2-12
- 5) Psalm 119:18

- 6) Hosea 8:13-14
- 7) Hosea 9:1-2, 7, 9, 17
- 8) Hosea 10:1
- 9) John 15:1-7
- 10) Hosea 10:1-2
- 11) James 1:2-8
- 12) Hosea 10:2-6, 12-15
- 13) Hosea 11:1-12
- 14) Hosea 12:1-14
- 15) Hosea 13:1-16
- 16) Hosea 14:1-9

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Exodus 24
- Revelation 11
- John 10
- Revelation 3:7-21
- Ezekiel 37

FRC: bo
Transcribed: 11/24/17