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## Hosea

The book of Hosea is one of the 12 Minor Prophets in the Old Testament section of the Christian Bible. It is named after the prophet Hosea who lived in the Northern Kingdom of Israel during the reigns of Jeroboam II and his successors, about 750-715 BC.

The book is a collection of prophetic messages and narratives that express Hosea's message to the people of Israel, calling them to repentance and warning them of the impending judgment of God. The book is structured in three main parts:

1. Hosea's marriage to Gomer (Chapters 1-3): In this section, Hosea is commanded by God to marry a woman named Gomer who is unfaithful to him. This is used as a metaphor for God's relationship with Israel, who has been unfaithful to Him by worshipping other gods.
2. God's indictment of Israel (Chapters 4-13): This section includes a series of indictments against the people of Israel for their idolatry, social injustice, and moral decay. The judgment of God is imminent unless the people repent and turn back to Him.
3. God's mercy and restoration of Israel (Chapter 14): The final chapter of the book is a call to repentance and a promise of restoration for Israel if they return to God.

In summary, the book of Hosea is a powerful prophetic message calling the people of Israel to repentance and warning them of the judgment to come. Hosea's marriage to Gomer serves as a metaphor for God's relationship with Israel, and the book highlights the mercy and faithfulness of God even in the midst of judgment.

Here is a brief description of each chapter in the book of Hosea:

Chapter 1: Hosea is commanded to marry Gomer, who is unfaithful to him. This serves as a metaphor for God's relationship with Israel, who has been unfaithful by worshipping other gods.

Chapter 2: God's judgment is pronounced against Israel for their unfaithfulness, but there is also a promise of restoration if they repent.

Chapter 3: Hosea is commanded to love and redeem Gomer, again serving as a metaphor for God's love and redemption of Israel.

Chapter 4: A series of indictments against the people of Israel for their idolatry, social injustice, and moral decay.

Chapter 5: God's judgment is imminent because of Israel's unfaithfulness and failure to seek Him. The priests and leaders are also rebuked for their corruption.

Chapter 6: A call to repentance and a promise of restoration if the people of Israel return to God.

Chapter 7: Israel's sin is compared to a baking oven and a cake that is not fully cooked, emphasizing their lack of wisdom and discernment.

Chapter 8: The people of Israel have rejected God's law and turned to idols, and will suffer the consequences of their actions.

Chapter 9: God's judgment is described as a harvest, where the people of Israel will reap what they have sown.

Chapter 10: Israel is compared to a vine that has produced only worthless fruit, and judgment is pronounced against their kings and leaders.

Chapter 11: God's love and compassion for Israel are described, despite their unfaithfulness.

Chapter 12: Israel's history is reviewed, and they are called to return to God and practice righteousness.

Chapter 13: God's judgment is described as a lion, and Israel is warned of their impending destruction if they do not repent.

Chapter 14: A call to repentance and a promise of restoration if the people of Israel return to God. God's love and mercy are emphasized, even in the midst of judgment.

## Hosea 1

### New International Version

1 The word of the Lord that came to Hosea son of Beeri during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the reign of Jeroboam son of Jehoash[a] king of Israel:

### Hosea's Wife and Children

2 When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, "Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord." 3 So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

4 Then the Lord said to Hosea, "Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel. 5 In that day I will break Israel's bow in the Valley of Jezreel."

6 Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the Lord said to Hosea, "Call her Lo-Ruhamah (which means "not loved"), for I will no longer show love to Israel, that I should at all forgive them. 7 Yet I will show love to Judah; and I will save them—not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but I, the Lord their God, will save them."

8 After she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, Gomer had another son. 9 Then the Lord said, "Call him Lo-Ammi (which means "not my people"), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.[b]

10 "Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'children of the living God.' 11 The people of Judah and the people of Israel will come together; they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel.[c]

#### Footnotes

Hosea 1:1 Hebrew Joash, a variant of Jehoash

Hosea 1:9 Or your I am

Hosea 1:11 In Hebrew texts 1:10,11 is numbered 2:1,2.

Here is a full description of chapter 1 of the book of Hosea:

Chapter 1 begins with God commanding the prophet Hosea to marry a woman named Gomer, who is described as a promiscuous woman. Hosea obeys God's command, and they have three children together. However, God reveals to Hosea that these children have symbolic names that represent God's judgment on the people of Israel.

The first child is named Jezreel, which means "God scatters." This name symbolizes God's judgment on the house of Jehu for the massacre of Jezreel. The second child is named Lo-Ruhamah, which means "not loved" or "no mercy." This name symbolizes God's judgment on Israel, who has been unfaithful to Him. The third child is named Lo-Ammi, which means "not my people." This name symbolizes God's rejection of Israel as His people because of their unfaithfulness.

After the birth of these children, Gomer leaves Hosea and becomes a prostitute. This is used as a metaphor for Israel's unfaithfulness to God by worshiping other gods. However, despite Gomer's unfaithfulness, Hosea is commanded by God to redeem her and bring her back home. This is used as a metaphor for God's love and redemption of Israel, despite their unfaithfulness.

Chapter 1 sets the stage for the rest of the book, as Hosea's marriage to Gomer is used as a powerful metaphor for God's relationship with Israel. The chapter emphasizes God's judgment on Israel for their unfaithfulness, but also highlights His love and mercy in redeeming them despite their sin.

Here are some important verses from the first chapter of the book of Hosea, along with brief explanations and references:

1. "The word of the Lord that came to Hosea son of Beeri during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the reign of Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel" (Hosea 1:1) - This verse provides the background for the book of Hosea, specifying the time period during which the prophet Hosea prophesied. The reference to multiple kings reflects the political turmoil and division of the time.
2. "The beginning of the word of the Lord by Hosea. And the Lord said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the Lord." (Hosea 1:2) - In this verse, God commands Hosea to marry a woman who is unfaithful, as a symbol of

Israel's unfaithfulness to God. The theme of unfaithfulness and infidelity is central to the book of Hosea.

3. "Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God." (Hosea 1:10) - This verse contains a message of hope and restoration, in which God promises to redeem and restore Israel despite their unfaithfulness. The reference to the "sons of the living God" is significant, as it suggests a close and personal relationship between God and his people.
4. "Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God." (Hosea 1:9) - This verse is part of a symbolic act in which Hosea names his son "Loammi", meaning "not my people", as a sign of God's rejection of Israel. The verse emphasizes the severity of God's judgment on Israel, and sets the stage for the message of repentance and restoration that is to follow in the book of Hosea.

The book of Hosea in the Old Testament of the Bible is a prophetic book that contains important theological thoughts and influences. Here are some key aspects:

#### 1. Theological Thought:

**Covenant Relationship:** One of the central theological themes in the book of Hosea is the concept of the covenant between God and Israel. Hosea's personal experience of his unfaithful wife, Gomer, is used as a metaphor for Israel's unfaithfulness to God. This theme underscores the idea that God's relationship with Israel is like a marriage covenant, and Israel's idolatry and unfaithfulness are seen as spiritual adultery.

**Divine Love and Compassion:** Despite Israel's unfaithfulness, Hosea emphasizes God's enduring love and compassion. The prophet portrays God as a loving and compassionate husband who seeks to win back his wayward spouse, Israel. This reflects a profound theological message about God's mercy and grace even in the face of human sin.

**Judgment and Restoration:** Hosea also speaks of the judgment that will come upon Israel due to their sins. This judgment is portrayed as a form of tough love designed to bring Israel to repentance. However, the book doesn't end with judgment; it also emphasizes God's desire for restoration and reconciliation with His people. This offers hope and redemption as important theological themes.

#### 2. Theological Influence:

Hosea's theological ideas have had a lasting influence on both Jewish and Christian thought. The metaphor of the covenant relationship between God and His people, as well as the idea of God's steadfast love and willingness to forgive, has been woven into the theological fabric of both traditions.

Hosea's prophetic message of judgment and restoration has been cited and referenced by later prophets and theologians, including Jesus Christ in the New Testament. The idea of repentance and returning to God is a common theme throughout the Bible, and Hosea's message contributes to this theological framework.

The book of Hosea has also influenced Christian theologians and thinkers throughout history, who have drawn on its themes of love, mercy, and covenant to develop their understanding of God's nature and His relationship with humanity.

In summary, the book of Hosea in the Old Testament contains significant theological thoughts related to the covenant relationship between God and Israel, God's love and compassion, judgment and restoration. These theological ideas have had a lasting influence on both Jewish and Christian thought, shaping the understanding of God's nature and His relationship with His people.

Hosea 2

New International Version

2 [a]“Say of your brothers, ‘My people,’ and of your sisters, ‘My loved one.’

Israel Punished and Restored

2 “Rebuke your mother, rebuke her,  
for she is not my wife,  
and I am not her husband.

Let her remove the adulterous look from her face  
and the unfaithfulness from between her breasts.

3 Otherwise I will strip her naked  
and make her as bare as on the day she was born;

I will make her like a desert,  
turn her into a parched land,  
and slay her with thirst.

4 I will not show my love to her children,  
because they are the children of adultery.

5 Their mother has been unfaithful  
and has conceived them in disgrace.

She said, ‘I will go after my lovers,  
who give me my food and my water,  
my wool and my linen, my olive oil and my drink.’

6 Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes;  
I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way.

7 She will chase after her lovers but not catch them;  
she will look for them but not find them.

Then she will say,  
‘I will go back to my husband as at first,  
for then I was better off than now.’

8 She has not acknowledged that I was the one

who gave her the grain, the new wine and oil,  
who lavished on her the silver and gold—  
which they used for Baal.

9 “Therefore I will take away my grain when it ripens,  
and my new wine when it is ready.  
I will take back my wool and my linen,  
intended to cover her naked body.  
10 So now I will expose her lewdness  
before the eyes of her lovers;  
no one will take her out of my hands.  
11 I will stop all her celebrations:  
her yearly festivals, her New Moons,  
her Sabbath days—all her appointed festivals.  
12 I will ruin her vines and her fig trees,  
which she said were her pay from her lovers;  
I will make them a thicket,  
and wild animals will devour them.  
13 I will punish her for the days  
she burned incense to the Baals;  
she decked herself with rings and jewelry,  
and went after her lovers,  
but me she forgot,”  
declares the Lord.

14 “Therefore I am now going to allure her;  
I will lead her into the wilderness  
and speak tenderly to her.  
15 There I will give her back her vineyards,  
and will make the Valley of Achor[b] a door of hope.  
There she will respond[c] as in the days of her youth,  
as in the day she came up out of Egypt.

16 “In that day,” declares the Lord,  
“you will call me ‘my husband’;  
you will no longer call me ‘my master.[d]’  
17 I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips;  
no longer will their names be invoked.  
18 In that day I will make a covenant for them  
with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky  
and the creatures that move along the ground.  
Bow and sword and battle  
I will abolish from the land,  
so that all may lie down in safety.  
19 I will betroth you to me forever;  
I will betroth you in[e] righteousness and justice,

in[f] love and compassion.  
20 I will betroth you in[g] faithfulness,  
and you will acknowledge the Lord.

21 “In that day I will respond,”  
declares the Lord—

“I will respond to the skies,  
and they will respond to the earth;  
22 and the earth will respond to the grain,  
the new wine and the olive oil,  
and they will respond to Jezreel.[h]

23 I will plant her for myself in the land;  
I will show my love to the one I called ‘Not my loved one.[i]’  
I will say to those called ‘Not my people,[j]’ ‘You are my people’;  
and they will say, ‘You are my God.’”

#### Footnotes

Hosea 2:1 In Hebrew texts 2:1-23 is numbered 2:3-25.

Hosea 2:15 Achor means trouble.

Hosea 2:15 Or sing

Hosea 2:16 Hebrew baal

Hosea 2:19 Or with

Hosea 2:19 Or with

Hosea 2:20 Or with

Hosea 2:22 Jezreel means God plants.

Hosea 2:23 Hebrew Lo-Ruhamah (see 1:6)

Hosea 2:23 Hebrew Lo-Ammi (see 1:9)

Here is a full description of chapter 2 of the book of Hosea:

Chapter 2 begins with a plea for Israel to repent and return to the Lord, or face judgment. The chapter uses imagery from Hosea's personal life, specifically his relationship with his unfaithful wife Gomer, to illustrate God's relationship with Israel. Gomer's unfaithfulness is used as a metaphor for Israel's idolatry and unfaithfulness to God.

The chapter then describes God's judgment on Israel for their unfaithfulness, including taking away their blessings and protection, exposing their shame, and causing their land to become barren. However, the chapter also contains a promise of restoration if Israel repents and returns to the Lord. God promises to betroth Israel to Himself forever and show them love, mercy, and faithfulness.

The chapter then goes on to describe how God will remove the names of the false gods that Israel has worshiped from their lips and their memory. God promises to make a covenant with Israel and provide them with all the blessings that they have lost. The chapter concludes with an exhortation to Israel to return to the Lord and acknowledge that He is the true God.

Overall, chapter 2 of Hosea contains a message of both judgment and hope. While God's judgment on Israel for their unfaithfulness is severe, there is also a promise of restoration and redemption if they repent and return to the Lord. The chapter emphasizes God's

desire for a faithful relationship with His people, and the consequences of turning away from Him.

Here are some important verses from chapter 2 of the book of Hosea, along with brief explanations and references:

1. "Say ye unto your brethren, Ammi; and to your sisters, Ruhamah." (Hosea 2:1) - In this verse, God instructs the prophet Hosea to call his people "Ammi" (meaning "my people") and "Ruhamah" (meaning "beloved") as a sign of his intention to restore his relationship with them. This marks a shift from the judgment and condemnation of chapter 1 to a message of hope and redemption.
2. "She shall pursue her lovers, but not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now." (Hosea 2:7) - This verse uses the metaphor of an unfaithful wife to describe Israel's spiritual adultery and idolatry. The phrase "return to my first husband" suggests that Israel will repent and turn back to God.
3. "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her." (Hosea 2:14) - In this verse, God promises to woo Israel back to himself through loving and tender care. The metaphor of the wilderness suggests a time of testing and purification, but also of intimacy and closeness with God.
4. "And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies." (Hosea 2:19) - This verse contains a powerful promise of covenant renewal, in which God pledges to establish a lasting and faithful relationship with his people. The language of righteousness, judgment, lovingkindness, and mercies highlights the fullness and richness of God's commitment to his people.

Hosea chapter 2 continues the prophetic message of Hosea, and it contains important theological thoughts and influences:

#### 1. Theological Thought:

**The Consequences of Idolatry:** Hosea chapter 2 begins with a vivid depiction of Israel's unfaithfulness to God through idolatry. The theological thought here is that idolatry has severe consequences. Israel is portrayed as an unfaithful wife who has gone after other lovers (idols), and this unfaithfulness leads to hardship and suffering.

**Divine Discipline and Restoration:** Despite Israel's unfaithfulness and the pronouncement of judgment, Hosea also conveys the theological idea of God's discipline with the intention of restoration. God's punishment is seen as a way to bring Israel back into a right relationship with Him. There is a message of hope that God will eventually woo Israel back and restore the covenant relationship.

**The Marriage Covenant:** The imagery of marriage and covenant is continued in Hosea 2. The theological thought here is that God's relationship with Israel is likened to a marriage



covenant. Even though Israel has broken this covenant, God is portrayed as willing to renew it and love Israel as His bride once again.

## 2. Theological Influence:

Hosea's theological message in chapter 2 reinforces the themes of covenant, unfaithfulness, discipline, and restoration that are present throughout the entire book of Hosea. These themes have had a lasting influence on theological reflection in both Jewish and Christian traditions.

The metaphor of God as a faithful husband and Israel as an unfaithful wife is a powerful image that has been referenced and expanded upon by later biblical authors, including the New Testament writers. It has been used to illustrate the concept of the church as the bride of Christ in Christian theology.

Hosea's emphasis on the consequences of idolatry and the need for repentance and restoration has resonated with theologians and preachers throughout history. It serves as a reminder of the importance of faithfulness to God and the possibility of reconciliation through repentance.

In summary, Hosea chapter 2 continues to explore theological themes of covenant, unfaithfulness, discipline, and restoration. It uses vivid imagery of a marriage relationship to convey these ideas, and these themes have had a significant influence on both Jewish and Christian theological thought and reflection.

### Hosea 2

New International Version

2 [a]“Say of your brothers, ‘My people,’ and of your sisters, ‘My loved one.’

#### Israel Punished and Restored

2 “Rebuke your mother, rebuke her,  
for she is not my wife,  
and I am not her husband.

Let her remove the adulterous look from her face  
and the unfaithfulness from between her breasts.

3 Otherwise I will strip her naked  
and make her as bare as on the day she was born;  
I will make her like a desert,  
turn her into a parched land,  
and slay her with thirst.

4 I will not show my love to her children,  
because they are the children of adultery.

5 Their mother has been unfaithful  
and has conceived them in disgrace.

She said, ‘I will go after my lovers,  
who give me my food and my water,

my wool and my linen, my olive oil and my drink.’  
6 Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes;  
I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way.  
7 She will chase after her lovers but not catch them;  
she will look for them but not find them.

Then she will say,

‘I will go back to my husband as at first,  
for then I was better off than now.’

8 She has not acknowledged that I was the one  
who gave her the grain, the new wine and oil,  
who lavished on her the silver and gold—  
which they used for Baal.

9 “Therefore I will take away my grain when it ripens,  
and my new wine when it is ready.

I will take back my wool and my linen,  
intended to cover her naked body.

10 So now I will expose her lewdness  
before the eyes of her lovers;  
no one will take her out of my hands.

11 I will stop all her celebrations:  
her yearly festivals, her New Moons,  
her Sabbath days—all her appointed festivals.

12 I will ruin her vines and her fig trees,  
which she said were her pay from her lovers;  
I will make them a thicket,  
and wild animals will devour them.

13 I will punish her for the days  
she burned incense to the Baals;  
she decked herself with rings and jewelry,  
and went after her lovers,  
but me she forgot,”  
declares the Lord.

14 “Therefore I am now going to allure her;  
I will lead her into the wilderness  
and speak tenderly to her.

15 There I will give her back her vineyards,  
and will make the Valley of Achor[b] a door of hope.  
There she will respond[c] as in the days of her youth,  
as in the day she came up out of Egypt.

16 “In that day,” declares the Lord,  
“you will call me ‘my husband’;  
you will no longer call me ‘my master.[d]’

17 I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips;

no longer will their names be invoked.  
18 In that day I will make a covenant for them  
with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky  
and the creatures that move along the ground.  
Bow and sword and battle  
I will abolish from the land,  
so that all may lie down in safety.  
19 I will betroth you to me forever;  
I will betroth you in[e] righteousness and justice,  
in[f] love and compassion.  
20 I will betroth you in[g] faithfulness,  
and you will acknowledge the Lord.  
  
21 “In that day I will respond,”  
declares the Lord—  
“I will respond to the skies,  
and they will respond to the earth;  
22 and the earth will respond to the grain,  
the new wine and the olive oil,  
and they will respond to Jezreel.[h]  
23 I will plant her for myself in the land;  
I will show my love to the one I called ‘Not my loved one.[i]’  
I will say to those called ‘Not my people,[j]’ ‘You are my people’;  
and they will say, ‘You are my God.’”

#### Footnotes

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Hosea 2:16 Hebrew baal

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Hosea 2:20 Or with

Hosea 2:22 Jezreel means God plants.

Hosea 2:23 Hebrew Lo-Ruhamah (see 1:6)

Hosea 2:23 Hebrew Lo-Ammi (see 1:9)

Here is a full description of chapter 3 of the book of Hosea:

Chapter 3 begins with God commanding Hosea to love his wife Gomer again, even though she is an adulteress and has left him. Hosea obeys God and buys Gomer back from her lovers for a price of fifteen shekels of silver and some barley.

This act of redemption is used as a metaphor for God's love and redemption of Israel, who has been unfaithful to Him. Just as Hosea bought back his unfaithful wife, God promises to buy back Israel from their slavery and sin and restore their relationship with Him.

The chapter then goes on to describe the period of time that Israel will spend without a king, without sacrifice, without idols, and without an ephod or household gods. This is a period of purification, where Israel will be stripped of everything that they have relied on for security and forced to turn back to the Lord.

The chapter concludes with a promise of restoration and a renewed covenant between God and Israel. God promises that in the last days, Israel will return to Him and seek His face. They will acknowledge that He is their true God, and He will respond with love and compassion.

Overall, chapter 3 of Hosea emphasizes the themes of redemption, purification, and restoration. Hosea's redemption of Gomer is used as a powerful metaphor for God's redemption of Israel, and the chapter highlights the need for Israel to turn back to the Lord and seek His forgiveness and restoration.

Here are some important verses from chapter 3 of the book of Hosea, along with brief explanations and references:

1. "Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine." (Hosea 3:1) - In this verse, God commands Hosea to love and redeem his unfaithful wife as a symbolic representation of God's own love for the unfaithful people of Israel. The phrase "who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine" emphasizes Israel's idolatry and spiritual adultery.
2. "So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley." (Hosea 3:2) - This verse describes Hosea's obedient response to God's command, as he buys back his wife from a life of prostitution for a modest sum. The act of redemption here foreshadows the greater redemption that God will provide for his people.
3. "For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim." (Hosea 3:4) - This verse prophesies a time of spiritual and political turmoil for Israel, characterized by a lack of leadership and religious practice. The absence of a king and a prince points to a time of exile and foreign domination, while the absence of sacrifice and religious objects suggests a time of spiritual emptiness and alienation.

Hosea chapter 3 is a short but powerful chapter that conveys important theological thoughts and influences:

#### 1. Theological Thought:

**The Redemption of Gomer:** In this chapter, the focus shifts to Hosea's personal life as a prophet. Hosea is commanded by God to redeem his wife, Gomer, who had become involved in prostitution and was in a state of moral and physical degradation. The theological thought here is a powerful metaphor for God's redemptive love and grace.

Hosea's act of redeeming Gomer despite her unfaithfulness mirrors God's willingness to redeem Israel, despite their waywardness and idolatry.

**The High Cost of Redemption:** Hosea's redemption of Gomer required him to pay a price, possibly 15 shekels of silver and a measure of barley. This cost serves as a theological thought, emphasizing that redemption is not without a cost. Similarly, God's redemption of humanity, as later understood in Christian theology through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, also came at a great cost.

**The Call to Repentance:** Hosea chapter 3 reinforces the call to repentance and return to God. Gomer, who had been unfaithful, is told to live with Hosea and abstain from her previous lifestyle, symbolizing a turning away from sin. This call to repentance and restoration is a recurring theme in Hosea's prophecies and is a central aspect of Old Testament theology.

## 2. Theological Influence:

Hosea chapter 3 contributes to the broader theological theme of redemption and God's redemptive love found throughout the Bible. It serves as a powerful illustration of God's willingness to redeem and restore those who have strayed, emphasizing the need for repentance and the cost of redemption.

The metaphor of Hosea's relationship with Gomer continues to be used in Christian theology to illustrate the relationship between Christ and the Church. Christ is often seen as the loving Redeemer who pays the price for the Church's redemption, despite its shortcomings.

The call to repentance and the theme of redemption in Hosea chapter 3 have influenced Christian preaching and theology, emphasizing the need for individuals and communities to turn away from sin and be reconciled with God through His redemptive grace.

In summary, Hosea chapter 3 highlights the theological thoughts of redemption, the high cost of redemption, and the call to repentance. It has had a lasting influence on Christian theology, particularly in understanding the redemptive work of Christ and the call for individuals to turn away from sin and be reconciled with God.

## Hosea 4

### New International Version

#### The Charge Against Israel

4 Hear the word of the Lord, you Israelites,  
because the Lord has a charge to bring  
against you who live in the land:

“There is no faithfulness, no love,  
no acknowledgment of God in the land.

2 There is only cursing,[a] lying and murder,  
stealing and adultery;

they break all bounds,  
and bloodshed follows bloodshed.  
3 Because of this the land dries up,  
and all who live in it waste away;  
the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky  
and the fish in the sea are swept away.

4 “But let no one bring a charge,  
let no one accuse another,  
for your people are like those  
who bring charges against a priest.  
5 You stumble day and night,  
and the prophets stumble with you.  
So I will destroy your mother—  
6 my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.

“Because you have rejected knowledge,  
I also reject you as my priests;  
because you have ignored the law of your God,  
I also will ignore your children.  
7 The more priests there were,  
the more they sinned against me;  
they exchanged their glorious God[b] for something disgraceful.  
8 They feed on the sins of my people  
and relish their wickedness.  
9 And it will be: Like people, like priests.  
I will punish both of them for their ways  
and repay them for their deeds.

10 “They will eat but not have enough;  
they will engage in prostitution but not flourish,  
because they have deserted the Lord  
to give themselves 11 to prostitution;  
old wine and new wine  
take away their understanding.  
12 My people consult a wooden idol,  
and a diviner’s rod speaks to them.  
A spirit of prostitution leads them astray;  
they are unfaithful to their God.  
13 They sacrifice on the mountaintops  
and burn offerings on the hills,  
under oak, poplar and terebinth,  
where the shade is pleasant.  
Therefore your daughters turn to prostitution  
and your daughters-in-law to adultery.

14 “I will not punish your daughters  
when they turn to prostitution,  
nor your daughters-in-law  
when they commit adultery,  
because the men themselves consort with harlots  
and sacrifice with shrine prostitutes—  
a people without understanding will come to ruin!

15 “Though you, Israel, commit adultery,  
do not let Judah become guilty.

“Do not go to Gilgal;  
do not go up to Beth Aven.[c]  
And do not swear, ‘As surely as the Lord lives!’

16 The Israelites are stubborn,  
like a stubborn heifer.

How then can the Lord pasture them  
like lambs in a meadow?

17 Ephraim is joined to idols;  
leave him alone!

18 Even when their drinks are gone,  
they continue their prostitution;  
their rulers dearly love shameful ways.

19 A whirlwind will sweep them away,  
and their sacrifices will bring them shame.

#### Footnotes

Hosea 4:2 That is, to pronounce a curse on

Hosea 4:7 Syriac (see also an ancient Hebrew scribal tradition); Masoretic Text me; / I  
will exchange their glory

Hosea 4:15 Beth Aven means house of wickedness (a derogatory name for Bethel, which  
means house of God).

Here is a full description of chapter 4 of the book of Hosea:

Chapter 4 begins with a rebuke from God against the priests and people of Israel for their unfaithfulness and lack of knowledge. The chapter accuses the priests of leading the people astray with their false teaching and accuses the people of rejecting knowledge and truth.

The chapter then goes on to describe the sins of Israel, including idolatry, adultery, and murder. The people are accused of worshiping false gods, breaking their covenant with God, and committing various sins and immoral acts. God's judgment against Israel is described, including punishment and destruction.

The chapter concludes with a call for repentance and a warning of the consequences of continued disobedience. God warns that the priests and people will be punished for their sins and calls on them to repent and turn back to Him. The chapter ends with a promise of restoration if Israel repents and returns to the Lord.

Overall, chapter 4 of Hosea is a powerful rebuke against the sins of Israel and a call for repentance. The chapter emphasizes the need for the priests and people to turn back to God and seek forgiveness for their sins. It also highlights the consequences of disobedience and the judgment that will come if they do not repent.

Here are some important verses from chapter 4 of the book of Hosea, along with brief explanations and references:

1. "Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land." (Hosea 4:1) - This verse highlights God's displeasure with Israel due to their lack of faithfulness and knowledge of God. God has a legal case against Israel because they have not fulfilled their covenant obligations, which include acting with truth, mercy, and knowledge of God.
2. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children." (Hosea 4:6) - In this verse, God rebukes Israel for their lack of knowledge and understanding of God's ways. The phrase "I will also forget thy children" suggests that the consequences of Israel's disobedience will extend beyond their own generation and affect future generations.
3. "They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof is good: therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery." (Hosea 4:13) - This verse highlights Israel's idolatry and pagan worship practices, which are characterized by sacrificing and burning incense in natural settings. The phrase "therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery" suggests that this pagan worship has moral consequences and leads to sexual immorality.

Hosea chapter 4 contains important theological thoughts and influences:

#### 1. Theological Thought:

**Accusation of Israel's Sins:** In Hosea 4, the prophet begins by accusing the people of Israel of various sins and transgressions. These sins include idolatry, dishonesty, violence, and immorality. The theological thought here is a condemnation of Israel's moral and spiritual decline. Hosea serves as God's mouthpiece, highlighting the people's departure from God's ways and their violation of the covenant.

**Lack of Knowledge:** Hosea emphasizes that the people are perishing due to a lack of knowledge. This is not a lack of general knowledge but a lack of knowledge about God and His ways. Theological thought centers on the importance of knowing and understanding God's will and the consequences of spiritual ignorance.



Consequences of Sin: The chapter outlines the consequences of Israel's sins. These consequences include a lack of peace, a decrease in prosperity, and a decrease in fertility and agricultural abundance. The theological thought here is that disobedience to God's commandments leads to negative consequences both individually and collectively.

## 2. Theological Influence:

Hosea's message in chapter 4, with its emphasis on the consequences of sin and the importance of knowledge and obedience to God's laws, has influenced moral and ethical teachings within both Jewish and Christian traditions. The idea that sin has consequences is a recurring theme in the Bible.

Hosea's critique of spiritual ignorance has led to an emphasis on religious education and the study of Scripture within religious communities. Knowledge of God and His ways is considered essential for spiritual growth and righteousness.

The prophetic message in Hosea 4 has influenced sermons and teachings on the importance of ethical conduct, honesty, and morality in daily life. It serves as a reminder that faith should be reflected in one's actions and behavior.

The consequences of sin outlined in Hosea 4 have been used as a cautionary lesson, illustrating that turning away from God's commands can lead to negative outcomes. This theme of divine judgment and discipline can be found in various parts of the Bible.

In summary, Hosea chapter 4 emphasizes the theological thoughts of the consequences of sin, the importance of knowledge of God's ways, and the accusation of Israel's moral decline. It has influenced teachings on ethics, morality, and the consequences of disobedience within both Jewish and Christian theological traditions.

## Hosea 5

New International Version

Judgment Against Israel

5 "Hear this, you priests!

Pay attention, you Israelites!

Listen, royal house!

This judgment is against you:

You have been a snare at Mizpah,

a net spread out on Tabor.

2 The rebels are knee-deep in slaughter.

I will discipline all of them.

3 I know all about Ephraim;

Israel is not hidden from me.

Ephraim, you have now turned to prostitution;

Israel is corrupt.

4 “Their deeds do not permit them  
to return to their God.  
A spirit of prostitution is in their heart;  
they do not acknowledge the Lord.  
5 Israel’s arrogance testifies against them;  
the Israelites, even Ephraim, stumble in their sin;  
Judah also stumbles with them.  
6 When they go with their flocks and herds  
to seek the Lord,  
they will not find him;  
he has withdrawn himself from them.  
7 They are unfaithful to the Lord;  
they give birth to illegitimate children.  
When they celebrate their New Moon feasts,  
he will devour[a] their fields.

8 “Sound the trumpet in Gibeah,  
the horn in Ramah.  
Raise the battle cry in Beth Aven[b];  
lead on, Benjamin.

9 Ephraim will be laid waste  
on the day of reckoning.  
Among the tribes of Israel  
I proclaim what is certain.  
10 Judah’s leaders are like those  
who move boundary stones.  
I will pour out my wrath on them  
like a flood of water.

11 Ephraim is oppressed,  
trampled in judgment,  
intent on pursuing idols.[c]  
12 I am like a moth to Ephraim,  
like rot to the people of Judah.

13 “When Ephraim saw his sickness,  
and Judah his sores,  
then Ephraim turned to Assyria,  
and sent to the great king for help.  
But he is not able to cure you,  
not able to heal your sores.  
14 For I will be like a lion to Ephraim,  
like a great lion to Judah.  
I will tear them to pieces and go away;  
I will carry them off, with no one to rescue them.  
15 Then I will return to my lair  
until they have borne their guilt

and seek my face—  
in their misery  
they will earnestly seek me.”

#### Footnotes

Hosea 5:7 Or Now their New Moon feasts / will devour them and

Hosea 5:8 Beth Aven means house of wickedness (a derogatory name for Bethel, which means house of God).

Hosea 5:11 The meaning of the Hebrew for this word is uncertain.

Here is a full description of chapter 5 of the book of Hosea:

Chapter 5 begins with a warning from God against the priests and leaders of Israel for their corruption and lack of knowledge. The chapter accuses them of leading the people astray and making alliances with other nations instead of relying on God for protection. The chapter then describes the punishment that will come upon Israel for their sins, including invasion and destruction by their enemies. God warns that Israel's pride and arrogance will be their downfall, and that they will suffer the consequences of their disobedience.

The chapter goes on to describe God's call for repentance and the promise of restoration if Israel turns back to Him. God calls on the people to acknowledge their sins and seek forgiveness, promising to heal them and love them freely. He also promises to protect and bless them if they repent and turn back to Him.

The chapter concludes with a lament from Hosea over Israel's stubbornness and refusal to listen to God's warning. Hosea acknowledges that Israel's destruction is coming, and that they have brought it upon themselves through their disobedience.

Overall, chapter 5 of Hosea emphasizes the themes of warning, punishment, and repentance. The chapter warns of the consequences of disobedience and emphasizes the need for Israel to turn back to God and seek forgiveness for their sins. It also highlights the role of the leaders in Israel's downfall and emphasizes the importance of true knowledge and obedience to God's commands.

here are some important verses from Hosea chapter 5 with a brief explanation and reference:

Verse 4: "Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. A spirit of prostitution is in their heart; they do not acknowledge the Lord." This verse highlights how the Israelites' sinful actions have separated them from God and prevented them from returning to Him.

Verse 6: "When they go with their flocks and herds to seek the Lord, they will not find him; he has withdrawn himself from them." This verse emphasizes that God has withdrawn His presence from the Israelites due to their disobedience and idolatry.

Verse 12: "I am like a moth to Ephraim, like rot to the people of Judah." This verse illustrates how God's judgment will slowly and steadily consume the Israelites, just as a moth slowly eats away at clothing.

Verse 14: "For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, like a great lion to Judah. I will tear them to pieces and go away; I will carry them off, with no one to rescue them." This verse

describes how God will punish the Israelites fiercely like a lion, and no one will be able to save them from His judgment.

Reference: Hosea 5:4, 5:6, 5:12, 5:14.

Hosea chapter 5 continues the prophetic message of Hosea, and it contains significant theological thoughts and influences:

### 1. Theological Thought:

**Accusation of Israel's Spiritual Adultery:** In Hosea 5, the prophet continues to accuse Israel of spiritual adultery and unfaithfulness to God. The theological thought here is the ongoing metaphor of God as a faithful husband and Israel as an unfaithful wife. Israel's idolatry and forsaking of God's ways are seen as acts of spiritual adultery, leading to the nation's downfall.

**God's Discipline and Judgment:** Hosea warns of God's discipline and judgment that will come upon Israel due to their persistent unfaithfulness. This discipline is described as God withdrawing His presence and blessings from the people. The theological thought emphasizes the consequences of sin and the need for repentance and reconciliation with God.

**The Role of the Prophets:** Hosea, as a prophet, plays a central role in delivering God's message of warning and calling for repentance. The theological thought here underscores the importance of prophetic voices in challenging societal and religious wrongdoings and calling people back to God.

### 2. Theological Influence:

Hosea's continued emphasis on the metaphor of God as a faithful husband and Israel as an unfaithful wife has had a lasting influence on theological imagery within both Jewish and Christian traditions. It highlights the depth of God's love and the seriousness of human sin.

The idea of God's discipline and judgment as a consequence of unfaithfulness is a recurring theme in the Old Testament and has influenced subsequent theological discussions about divine justice and the consequences of sin.

Hosea's role as a prophet and his message of warning and repentance have influenced the understanding of prophetic ministry in both Jewish and Christian traditions. Prophets are seen as messengers who speak God's truth, even when it is difficult for people to hear.

The call for repentance and reconciliation found in Hosea 5 continues to be a prominent theme in Christian theology, emphasizing the need for individuals and communities to turn away from sin and return to God for forgiveness and restoration.

In summary, Hosea chapter 5 contains theological thoughts about spiritual adultery, God's discipline and judgment, and the role of the prophets. These themes have had a lasting influence on theological imagery, discussions about divine justice, and the importance of prophetic voices in religious traditions.

Hosea 6

New International Version

Israel Unrepentant

6 “Come, let us return to the Lord.

He has torn us to pieces

but he will heal us;

he has injured us

but he will bind up our wounds.

2 After two days he will revive us;

on the third day he will restore us,

that we may live in his presence.

3 Let us acknowledge the Lord;

let us press on to acknowledge him.

As surely as the sun rises,

he will appear;

he will come to us like the winter rains,

like the spring rains that water the earth.”

4 “What can I do with you, Ephraim?

What can I do with you, Judah?

Your love is like the morning mist,

like the early dew that disappears.

5 Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets,

I killed you with the words of my mouth—

then my judgments go forth like the sun.[a]

6 For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,

and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

7 As at Adam,[b] they have broken the covenant;

they were unfaithful to me there.

8 Gilead is a city of evildoers,

stained with footprints of blood.

9 As marauders lie in ambush for a victim,

so do bands of priests;

they murder on the road to Shechem,

carrying out their wicked schemes.

10 I have seen a horrible thing in Israel:

There Ephraim is given to prostitution,

Israel is defiled.

11 “Also for you, Judah,

a harvest is appointed.

“Whenever I would restore the fortunes of my people,

#### Footnotes

Hosea 6:5 The meaning of the Hebrew for this line is uncertain.

Hosea 6:7 Or Like Adam; or Like human beings

Here is a full description of chapter 6 of the book of Hosea:

Chapter 6 begins with a call for Israel to return to the Lord and acknowledge their sins. The people are urged to repent and seek God's forgiveness, promising that He will heal and restore them if they do so. The chapter emphasizes the importance of true knowledge of God and the need to pursue righteousness and love instead of outward sacrifices and rituals.

The chapter goes on to describe God's response to Israel's call for forgiveness. God promises to come to Israel like the dawn, and His righteousness will shine like the sun. He will heal and restore Israel if they return to Him, and His love for them will never fail. The chapter concludes with a warning to Israel about the consequences of continued disobedience. God warns that His judgment will come upon them if they do not repent and turn back to Him. He accuses them of faithlessness and compares them to a morning cloud and dew that quickly disappears.

Overall, chapter 6 of Hosea emphasizes the themes of repentance, restoration, and judgment. The chapter highlights the importance of true knowledge of God and the need for Israel to seek His forgiveness and pursue righteousness and love. It also emphasizes God's love and mercy towards Israel, and the consequences of disobedience if they do not turn back to Him.

here are some important verses from Hosea chapter 6:

Verse 1: "Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds." This verse expresses the idea of repentance and turning back to God, even in the face of hardship and suffering.

Verse 3: "Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth." This verse emphasizes the importance of knowing and acknowledging God, and the promise of his presence and provision.

Verse 6: "For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings." This verse emphasizes the idea that what God wants most from his people is not just ritual sacrifice, but a true heart of repentance and acknowledgement of him.

These verses can be found in Hosea chapter 6 in the Christian Bible.

Hosea chapter 6 presents important theological thoughts and influences:

#### 1. Theological Thought:

Call to Repentance and Restoration: Hosea 6 begins with a call to return to the Lord. The people express a desire to return, saying, "Come, let us return to the Lord." This reflects a

theological thought about the possibility of repentance and restoration. Despite Israel's unfaithfulness and sin, there is an opportunity for reconciliation with God if they genuinely repent.

**God's Desire for Mercy Over Sacrifice:** In verse 6, Hosea conveys a significant theological thought when he quotes God as saying, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." This highlights the importance of genuine love, compassion, and justice over ritualistic sacrifices. It echoes the idea that God desires a heartfelt relationship with His people rather than mere external religious observance.

**Fickleness and Transience of Human Loyalty:** Hosea speaks about the fickleness and transience of human loyalty and compares it to the morning dew that disappears quickly. This underscores a theological thought about the need for steadfast and enduring faithfulness to God rather than superficial or temporary commitment.

## 2. Theological Influence:

Hosea 6:6, with its emphasis on God's desire for mercy and the importance of genuine relationship over ritualistic sacrifices, has been influential in both Jewish and Christian theology. Jesus Christ referenced this verse in the New Testament (Matthew 9:13, Matthew 12:7) to emphasize the importance of mercy, compassion, and inner righteousness over mere religious rituals.

The call to repentance and the possibility of restoration found in Hosea 6 have had a profound impact on the understanding of repentance and forgiveness within Judeo-Christian traditions. It serves as a reminder that, even in the face of sin, there is hope for reconciliation with God through sincere repentance.

Hosea's portrayal of the human tendency to be fickle and short-lived in their loyalty to God has been used as a cautionary lesson in religious teaching. It underscores the importance of enduring faithfulness and commitment to God's covenant.

The overall message of Hosea 6, which includes the themes of repentance, mercy, and genuine relationship with God, has influenced theological discussions on the nature of God's grace and the human response to it.

In summary, Hosea chapter 6 contains theological thoughts about repentance, God's desire for mercy over sacrifice, and the transience of human loyalty. These thoughts have had a lasting influence on Judeo-Christian theology, particularly in discussions about genuine faith, repentance, and the importance of inner righteousness.

## Hosea 7

New International Version

7 1 whenever I would heal Israel,  
the sins of Ephraim are exposed  
and the crimes of Samaria revealed.

They practice deceit,  
thieves break into houses,  
bandits rob in the streets;  
2 but they do not realize  
that I remember all their evil deeds.  
Their sins engulf them;  
they are always before me.

3 “They delight the king with their wickedness,  
the princes with their lies.  
4 They are all adulterers,  
burning like an oven  
whose fire the baker need not stir  
from the kneading of the dough till it rises.  
5 On the day of the festival of our king  
the princes become inflamed with wine,  
and he joins hands with the mockers.  
6 Their hearts are like an oven;  
they approach him with intrigue.  
Their passion smolders all night;  
in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire.  
7 All of them are hot as an oven;  
they devour their rulers.  
All their kings fall,  
and none of them calls on me.

8 “Ephraim mixes with the nations;  
Ephraim is a flat loaf not turned over.  
9 Foreigners sap his strength,  
but he does not realize it.  
His hair is sprinkled with gray,  
but he does not notice.  
10 Israel’s arrogance testifies against him,  
but despite all this  
he does not return to the Lord his God  
or search for him.

11 “Ephraim is like a dove,  
easily deceived and senseless—  
now calling to Egypt,  
now turning to Assyria.  
12 When they go, I will throw my net over them;  
I will pull them down like the birds in the sky.  
When I hear them flocking together,  
I will catch them.  
13 Woe to them,



because they have strayed from me!  
Destruction to them,  
because they have rebelled against me!  
I long to redeem them  
but they speak about me falsely.  
14 They do not cry out to me from their hearts  
but wail on their beds.  
They slash themselves,[a] appealing to their gods  
for grain and new wine,  
but they turn away from me.  
15 I trained them and strengthened their arms,  
but they plot evil against me.  
16 They do not turn to the Most High;  
they are like a faulty bow.  
Their leaders will fall by the sword  
because of their insolent words.  
For this they will be ridiculed  
in the land of Egypt.

#### Footnotes

Hosea 7:14 Some Hebrew manuscripts and Septuagint; most Hebrew manuscripts They gather together

Here is a full description of chapter 7 of the book of Hosea:

Chapter 7 begins with a description of Israel's continued disobedience and sinfulness. The chapter accuses them of immorality, theft, and lies, and highlights their stubbornness in refusing to turn back to God. The people are accused of turning to other nations for help instead of relying on God for protection.

The chapter goes on to describe the consequences of Israel's sins, including their decline and eventual destruction. God warns that their leaders are corrupt and that they are all guilty of wickedness. God also accuses Israel of making alliances with other nations, leading to their downfall.

The chapter concludes with a call for Israel to repent and turn back to God. God promises to heal them if they do so, and to love them freely. He urges them to seek Him first, rather than relying on alliances with other nations or their own strength.

Overall, chapter 7 of Hosea emphasizes the themes of sinfulness, disobedience, and the consequences of turning away from God. The chapter highlights Israel's reliance on other nations and their failure to trust in God for protection. It also emphasizes the need for repentance and the promise of restoration if Israel turns back to God.

Here are some important verses from Hosea chapter 7, along with a brief explanation and where to find them:

1. "When I would heal Israel, the iniquity of Ephraim is revealed, and the evil deeds of Samaria; for they deal falsely; the thief breaks in, and the bandits raid outside."  
(Hosea 7:1)

This verse is describing how God had wanted to heal Israel and forgive their sins, but their continued disobedience and wickedness prevented that from happening. Instead, their sins were being exposed and their enemies were attacking them.

2. "All of them are hot as an oven, and they devour their rulers. All their kings have fallen, and none of them calls upon me." (Hosea 7:7)

This verse describes how the people of Israel were consumed by their own passions and desires, leading to the downfall of their leaders and kings. They had turned away from God and did not call upon Him for help.

3. "Ephraim is like a dove, silly and without sense, calling to Egypt, going to Assyria." (Hosea 7:11)

This verse is using the metaphor of a dove to describe how foolish and easily deceived the people of Israel were. They were seeking alliances with other nations instead of relying on God for protection and guidance.

4. "They do not consider in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness. Now their deeds surround them; they are before my face." (Hosea 7:2)

This verse emphasizes that God is aware of all the sins and wickedness of the people of Israel, and that their actions will ultimately come back to haunt them. They cannot hide their sins from God.

These are just a few examples of the important verses in Hosea chapter 7.

Hosea chapter 7 presents several theological thoughts and influences:

#### 1. Theological Thought:

**Continued Sin and Rebellion:** In Hosea 7, the prophet continues to highlight Israel's sin and rebellion against God. He describes their sinful actions, including political alliances and reliance on foreign nations, as well as their moral decay and corruption. The theological thought here is the ongoing pattern of unfaithfulness and disobedience among the people.

**Failure to Seek God:** Hosea laments that the people of Israel do not cry out to God from their hearts. Their prayers and cries for help appear to be insincere and motivated by self-interest. This underscores the importance of genuine repentance and seeking God with a contrite heart, rather than superficial displays of religion.

**God's Assessment of Israel:** The chapter includes God's assessment of Israel's behavior and its consequences. God compares Israel to a heated oven that burns with wickedness and declares that their kings and leaders fall in disgrace. The theological thought here is the divine judgment upon the nation due to their persistent sin.

#### 2. Theological Influence:

Hosea's depiction of Israel's sin and rebellion against God has been influential in theological discussions about human nature and the tendency to stray from God's ways. It

serves as a reminder of the importance of remaining faithful and obedient to God's commandments.

The emphasis on the need for sincere repentance and genuine seeking of God found in Hosea 7 has influenced discussions on the nature of true worship and devotion within religious traditions. It highlights the difference between outward religious rituals and a heart that is truly turned toward God.

The concept of divine judgment for persistent sin, as seen in God's assessment of Israel, has influenced theological discussions on God's justice and the consequences of disobedience. It underscores the idea that there are consequences for turning away from God's ways.

Hosea's prophetic message in this chapter has been cited and referenced by theologians and preachers in both Jewish and Christian traditions as a call for spiritual renewal and genuine repentance. It serves as a warning against complacency and superficiality in one's relationship with God.

In summary, Hosea chapter 7 contains theological thoughts about Israel's continued sin and rebellion, the need for sincere repentance, and the consequences of disobedience. These thoughts have had an enduring influence on discussions about human nature, worship, divine justice, and the importance of genuine repentance within religious traditions.

## Hosea 8

New International Version

Israel to Reap the Whirlwind

8 “Put the trumpet to your lips!

An eagle is over the house of the Lord  
because the people have broken my covenant  
and rebelled against my law.

2 Israel cries out to me,  
‘Our God, we acknowledge you!’

3 But Israel has rejected what is good;  
an enemy will pursue him.

4 They set up kings without my consent;  
they choose princes without my approval.

With their silver and gold  
they make idols for themselves  
to their own destruction.

5 Samaria, throw out your calf-idol!  
My anger burns against them.

How long will they be incapable of purity?

6 They are from Israel!  
This calf—a metalworker has made it;  
it is not God.

It will be broken in pieces,  
that calf of Samaria.

7 “They sow the wind  
and reap the whirlwind.  
The stalk has no head;  
it will produce no flour.  
Were it to yield grain,  
foreigners would swallow it up.

8 Israel is swallowed up;  
now she is among the nations  
like something no one wants.

9 For they have gone up to Assyria  
like a wild donkey wandering alone.  
Ephraim has sold herself to lovers.

10 Although they have sold themselves among the nations,  
I will now gather them together.  
They will begin to waste away  
under the oppression of the mighty king.

11 “Though Ephraim built many altars for sin offerings,  
these have become altars for sinning.

12 I wrote for them the many things of my law,  
but they regarded them as something foreign.

13 Though they offer sacrifices as gifts to me,  
and though they eat the meat,  
the Lord is not pleased with them.

Now he will remember their wickedness  
and punish their sins:

They will return to Egypt.

14 Israel has forgotten their Maker  
and built palaces;  
Judah has fortified many towns.

But I will send fire on their cities  
that will consume their fortresses.”

Here is a full description of chapter 8 of the book of Hosea:

Chapter 8 begins with a warning from God about the consequences of Israel's sinfulness and disobedience. The chapter accuses them of setting up idols and rejecting God's laws, and emphasizes their stubbornness in refusing to turn back to Him.

The chapter goes on to describe the punishment that will come upon Israel for their sins, including invasion and captivity by their enemies. God warns that their wealth and power will be taken away, and that they will suffer the consequences of their disobedience.

The chapter then describes the uselessness of Israel's religious practices and sacrifices, which are seen as empty and meaningless. God accuses them of going through the motions without truly seeking Him or following His commands.

The chapter concludes with a lament from Hosea over Israel's sinfulness and the coming judgment. Hosea acknowledges that Israel has brought this punishment upon themselves through their disobedience, and that they will face the consequences of their actions. Overall, chapter 8 of Hosea emphasizes the themes of sinfulness, disobedience, and punishment. The chapter warns of the consequences of rejecting God's laws and emphasizes the uselessness of empty religious practices. It also highlights the need for true repentance and obedience, and the coming judgment for those who continue to turn away from God.

Here are some important verses from Hosea chapter 8, along with a brief explanation and their location within the chapter:

1. "Put the trumpet to your lips! An eagle is over the house of the Lord because the people have broken my covenant and rebelled against my law." (Hosea 8:1) - The prophet Hosea calls for an alarm to be sounded because God's judgment is coming upon Israel due to their disobedience.
2. "They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no head; it will produce no flour. Were it to yield grain, foreigners would swallow it up." (Hosea 8:7) - This verse speaks of the consequences of Israel's sinful actions. Instead of receiving blessings, they will reap destruction and loss.
3. "For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. The standing grain has no heads; it shall yield no flour; if it were to yield, strangers would devour it." (Hosea 8:7, ESV) - This is a repeated verse that emphasizes the severity of Israel's sin and the inevitability of the judgment that will come as a result.
4. "Israel has forgotten his Maker and built palaces; Judah has fortified many towns. But I will send fire upon their cities that will consume their fortresses." (Hosea 8:14) - God declares that despite Israel and Judah's pride and self-sufficiency, He will bring destruction upon their cities as a result of their forgetting Him.

These verses warn of the impending judgment and destruction that will come upon Israel due to their disobedience and turning away from God.

Hosea chapter 8 presents several theological thoughts and influences:

#### 1. Theological Thought:

**Idolatry and False Worship:** Hosea 8 addresses the issue of Israel's idolatry and false worship. The people of Israel are condemned for making idols and altars for false gods, particularly in the cities of Samaria and Bethel. The theological thought here is a strong denunciation of idolatry and the importance of worshiping the one true God.

**The Consequences of Idolatry:** Hosea emphasizes the consequences of Israel's idolatry. He warns that they will reap what they have sown and that their idols will be destroyed. The theological thought underscores the principle that turning away from the true God to worship idols leads to negative consequences.

God's Rejection of Israel's Religious Practices: The chapter also highlights God's rejection of Israel's religious practices and sacrifices. Despite their outward display of religion, God does not accept their offerings because of their unfaithfulness and idolatry. This reinforces the idea that genuine faith and obedience are more important than ritualistic observance.

## 2. Theological Influence:

Hosea's strong condemnation of idolatry and false worship has had a lasting influence on theological discussions about monotheism and the exclusive worship of the one true God. It serves as a reminder of the dangers of turning to false gods and idols.

The idea that idolatry and false worship lead to negative consequences is a recurring theme in the Bible and has influenced discussions on the consequences of sin and the importance of remaining faithful to God.

The rejection of Israel's religious practices despite their external show of piety has influenced theological discussions on the nature of true worship. It emphasizes the need for sincerity and faithfulness in one's relationship with God.

Hosea's prophetic message in chapter 8 has been cited and referenced by theologians and preachers in both Jewish and Christian traditions as a warning against idolatry and the importance of genuine faith and worship. It serves as a call to return to the true worship of the one God.

In summary, Hosea chapter 8 contains theological thoughts about idolatry, the consequences of false worship, and the rejection of insincere religious practices. These thoughts have had an enduring influence on discussions about monotheism, the consequences of sin, true worship, and the importance of genuine faith within religious traditions.

## Hosea 9

### New International Version

#### Punishment for Israel

9 Do not rejoice, Israel;

do not be jubilant like the other nations.

For you have been unfaithful to your God;

you love the wages of a prostitute

at every threshing floor.

2 Threshing floors and winepresses will not feed the people;

the new wine will fail them.

3 They will not remain in the Lord's land;

Ephraim will return to Egypt

and eat unclean food in Assyria.

4 They will not pour out wine offerings to the Lord,

nor will their sacrifices please him.

Such sacrifices will be to them like the bread of mourners;  
all who eat them will be unclean.  
This food will be for themselves;  
it will not come into the temple of the Lord.

5 What will you do on the day of your appointed festivals,  
on the feast days of the Lord?

6 Even if they escape from destruction,  
Egypt will gather them,  
and Memphis will bury them.

Their treasures of silver will be taken over by briars,  
and thorns will overrun their tents.

7 The days of punishment are coming,  
the days of reckoning are at hand.  
Let Israel know this.

Because your sins are so many  
and your hostility so great,  
the prophet is considered a fool,  
the inspired person a maniac.

8 The prophet, along with my God,  
is the watchman over Ephraim,[a]  
yet snares await him on all his paths,  
and hostility in the house of his God.

9 They have sunk deep into corruption,  
as in the days of Gibeah.  
God will remember their wickedness  
and punish them for their sins.

10 “When I found Israel,  
it was like finding grapes in the desert;  
when I saw your ancestors,  
it was like seeing the early fruit on the fig tree.

But when they came to Baal Peor,  
they consecrated themselves to that shameful idol  
and became as vile as the thing they loved.

11 Ephraim’s glory will fly away like a bird—  
no birth, no pregnancy, no conception.

12 Even if they rear children,  
I will bereave them of every one.

Woe to them  
when I turn away from them!

13 I have seen Ephraim, like Tyre,  
planted in a pleasant place.  
But Ephraim will bring out  
their children to the slayer.”

14 Give them, Lord—  
    what will you give them?  
Give them wombs that miscarry  
    and breasts that are dry.

15 “Because of all their wickedness in Gilgal,  
    I hated them there.  
Because of their sinful deeds,  
    I will drive them out of my house.  
I will no longer love them;  
    all their leaders are rebellious.

16 Ephraim is blighted,  
    their root is withered,  
    they yield no fruit.  
Even if they bear children,  
    I will slay their cherished offspring.”

17 My God will reject them  
    because they have not obeyed him;  
    they will be wanderers among the nations.

#### Footnotes

Hosea 9:8 Or The prophet is the watchman over Ephraim, / the people of my God

Here is a full description of chapter 9 of the book of Hosea:

Chapter 9 begins with a lament from Hosea over Israel's sinfulness and the punishment that is coming upon them. Hosea acknowledges that Israel has brought this upon themselves through their disobedience, and that they will face the consequences of their actions.

The chapter goes on to describe the punishment that will come upon Israel for their sins, including the destruction of their land and the exile of their people. God warns that their children will be taken away and that their wealth and power will be stripped from them. The chapter then describes the extent of Israel's sinfulness, including their idol worship and immorality. God accuses them of turning away from Him and chasing after false gods and worldly pleasures.

The chapter concludes with a call for Israel to repent and turn back to God. God promises to heal and restore them if they do so, but warns that their punishment will continue if they refuse to repent.

Overall, chapter 9 of Hosea emphasizes the themes of sinfulness, disobedience, and punishment. The chapter highlights the extent of Israel's sinfulness and their refusal to turn back to God, and warns of the consequences that will come upon them. It also emphasizes the need for true repentance and the promise of restoration if Israel turns back to God.

Here are some important verses from Hosea chapter 9, along with brief explanations and where to find them in the chapter:



Verse 1: "Rejoice not, O Israel! Exult not like the peoples; for you have played the whore, forsaking your God. You have loved a prostitute's wages on all threshing floors." This verse speaks of the people of Israel's unfaithfulness to God, and their love of material things instead of serving and worshipping Him.

Verse 2: "Threshing floor and wine vat shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail them." This verse emphasizes that the material things the people of Israel were chasing after would ultimately fail them.

Verse 7: "The days of punishment have come; the days of recompense have come; Israel shall know it. The prophet is a fool; the man of the spirit is mad, because of your great iniquity and great hatred." This verse speaks of the consequences of Israel's sinfulness and rebellion against God, and the people's refusal to listen to the prophets and spiritual leaders who were sent to warn them.

Verse 9: "They have deeply corrupted themselves as in the days of Gibeah: he will remember their iniquity; he will punish their sins." This verse references a story from the book of Judges (chapter 19) in which the people of Gibeah committed a heinous crime, and highlights the fact that Israel's sin was just as great and deserving of punishment.

Verse 13: "Ephraim, as I have seen, was like a young palm planted in a meadow; but Ephraim must lead his children out to slaughter." This verse speaks of the destruction and death that the people of Israel would face as a result of their disobedience to God.

Hosea chapter 9 contains several theological thoughts and influences:

#### 1. Theological Thought:

**Judgment and Consequences of Sin:** Hosea 9 opens with a pronouncement of God's judgment upon Israel. The people of Israel are described as having gone deeply astray, and they are warned that they will reap the consequences of their sin. The theological thought here is a continuation of the theme of divine judgment for disobedience and idolatry.

**Exile as a Punishment:** The chapter also alludes to the impending exile of Israel as a punishment for their unfaithfulness and idol worship. This theological thought underscores the idea that exile and displacement are consequences of turning away from God's covenant.

**Warning Against Rejoicing:** Hosea warns against rejoicing, celebrating, or participating in festivals that would typically be occasions of joy. This is because the people have become unfaithful and their actions have brought about God's judgment. The theological thought emphasizes that disobedience leads to a loss of blessings and joy.

#### 2. Theological Influence:

Hosea's message in chapter 9 about the judgment and consequences of sin has influenced discussions about divine justice and the relationship between sin and punishment. It

serves as a reminder that God's covenant involves both blessings for obedience and consequences for disobedience.

The theme of exile as a punishment has had a significant impact on Jewish theology, particularly in the context of the Babylonian exile, which occurred later in Israel's history. The concept of exile as a consequence of unfaithfulness has been used to reflect on the importance of faithfulness to God's covenant.

The warning against rejoicing in the midst of judgment has been referenced in discussions about the appropriateness of celebrating during times of national or personal crisis. It emphasizes the need for genuine repentance and reflection during times of adversity.

Hosea's prophetic message in chapter 9 has been cited and referenced in both Jewish and Christian traditions as a call for repentance and a reminder of the consequences of unfaithfulness. It encourages individuals and communities to remain faithful to God's covenant.

In summary, Hosea chapter 9 contains theological thoughts about divine judgment, the consequences of sin, the idea of exile as a punishment, and the appropriateness of rejoicing in times of judgment. These thoughts have had an enduring influence on theological discussions about divine justice, the importance of faithfulness to God's covenant, and the need for genuine repentance.

## Hosea 10

### New International Version

10 Israel was a spreading vine;  
    he brought forth fruit for himself.  
As his fruit increased,  
    he built more altars;  
as his land prospered,  
    he adorned his sacred stones.  
2 Their heart is deceitful,  
    and now they must bear their guilt.  
The Lord will demolish their altars  
    and destroy their sacred stones.  
  
3 Then they will say, “We have no king  
    because we did not revere the Lord.  
But even if we had a king,  
    what could he do for us?”  
4 They make many promises,  
    take false oaths  
    and make agreements;  
therefore lawsuits spring up  
    like poisonous weeds in a plowed field.

5 The people who live in Samaria fear  
for the calf-idol of Beth Aven.[a]  
Its people will mourn over it,  
and so will its idolatrous priests,  
those who had rejoiced over its splendor,  
because it is taken from them into exile.

6 It will be carried to Assyria  
as tribute for the great king.  
Ephraim will be disgraced;  
Israel will be ashamed of its foreign alliances.

7 Samaria's king will be destroyed,  
swept away like a twig on the surface of the waters.

8 The high places of wickedness[b] will be destroyed—  
it is the sin of Israel.  
Thorns and thistles will grow up  
and cover their altars.  
Then they will say to the mountains, "Cover us!"  
and to the hills, "Fall on us!"

9 "Since the days of Gibeah, you have sinned, Israel,  
and there you have remained.[c]  
Will not war again overtake  
the evildoers in Gibeah?

10 When I please, I will punish them;  
nations will be gathered against them  
to put them in bonds for their double sin.

11 Ephraim is a trained heifer  
that loves to thresh;  
so I will put a yoke  
on her fair neck.  
I will drive Ephraim,  
Judah must plow,  
and Jacob must break up the ground.

12 Sow righteousness for yourselves,  
reap the fruit of unfailing love,  
and break up your unplowed ground;  
for it is time to seek the Lord,  
until he comes  
and showers his righteousness on you.

13 But you have planted wickedness,  
you have reaped evil,  
you have eaten the fruit of deception.  
Because you have depended on your own strength  
and on your many warriors,

14 the roar of battle will rise against your people,  
so that all your fortresses will be devastated—

as Shalman devastated Beth Arbel on the day of battle,  
when mothers were dashed to the ground with their children.  
15 So will it happen to you, Bethel,  
because your wickedness is great.  
When that day dawns,  
the king of Israel will be completely destroyed.

#### Footnotes

Hosea 10:5 Beth Aven means house of wickedness (a derogatory name for Bethel, which means house of God).

Hosea 10:8 Hebrew aven, a reference to Beth Aven (a derogatory name for Bethel); see verse 5.

Hosea 10:9 Or there a stand was taken

Here is a full description of chapter 10 of the book of Hosea:

Chapter 10 begins with a condemnation of Israel's sinfulness and idolatry. God accuses them of planting wickedness and reaping evil, and of turning away from Him to worship false gods.

The chapter then goes on to describe the consequences of Israel's disobedience, including the destruction of their cities and the exile of their people. God warns that their idols will be destroyed and that they will face punishment for their sins.

The chapter continues with a call for Israel to repent and turn back to God. God promises to heal and restore them if they do so, but warns that their punishment will continue if they refuse to repent.

The chapter concludes with a warning against trusting in earthly powers and false gods for protection. God reminds Israel that He is their true source of strength and protection, and that they must turn back to Him in order to be saved.

Overall, chapter 10 of Hosea emphasizes the themes of sinfulness, disobedience, and punishment. The chapter highlights the consequences of Israel's idolatry and disobedience, and emphasizes the need for true repentance and turning back to God. It also warns against trusting in earthly powers and false gods, and reminds Israel of the importance of relying on God for protection and salvation.

here are some important verses from Hosea chapter 10, along with a brief explanation and where to find them in the chapter:

1. "Israel is a luxuriant vine that yields its fruit. The more his fruit increased, the more altars he built; as his country improved, he improved his pillars." (Hosea 10:1) - This verse compares Israel to a vine that produces fruit, but also builds more altars to worship false gods as its prosperity increases. This reflects the theme of Israel's unfaithfulness to God despite his blessings.
2. "Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you." (Hosea 10:12) - This verse encourages the people of Israel to turn back to God and seek righteousness, so that they may receive his blessings of steadfast love and righteousness.

3. "For you have plowed iniquity; you have reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way and in the multitude of your warriors..." (Hosea 10:13) - This verse speaks of the consequences of Israel's unfaithfulness and sin, as they reap injustice and eat the fruit of lies due to their trust in themselves and their armies rather than in God.
4. "The inhabitants of Samaria tremble for the calf of Beth-aven. Its people mourn for it, and so do its idolatrous priests—those who rejoiced over it and over its glory—for it has departed from them." (Hosea 10:5) - This verse refers to the worship of a golden calf idol in Beth-aven, which has caused the people of Samaria to mourn and the idolatrous priests to lose their source of pride and glory.

Hosea chapter 10 contains several theological thoughts and influences:

#### 1. Theological Thought:

**The Consequences of Idolatry:** Hosea 10 continues to emphasize the consequences of Israel's idolatry and the worship of false gods. The people are rebuked for their proliferation of altars and idols, and they are warned that these actions will result in judgment and exile. The theological thought here is a continuation of the theme that idolatry leads to divine judgment and separation from God.

**Sow Righteousness, Reap Mercy:** In verse 12, Hosea delivers a theological thought that encourages righteousness: "Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you." This verse emphasizes the importance of righteous living, repentance, and seeking God's mercy as a path to reconciliation and blessing.

**The Contrast Between False Worship and True Worship:** The chapter highlights the stark contrast between Israel's false worship and the true worship of God. The people are depicted as having turned to calf worship, while God is portrayed as the one who brought them out of Egypt and nurtured them like a tender plant. The theological thought underscores the importance of genuine worship of the one true God.

#### 2. Theological Influence:

The condemnation of idolatry and its consequences found in Hosea 10 has had a lasting influence on theological discussions about monotheism, the exclusivity of worshiping the one true God, and the dangers of turning to false gods.

The theological thought of sowing righteousness and reaping mercy has influenced discussions on the importance of repentance and righteous living in both Jewish and Christian traditions. It reminds individuals and communities of the need for moral and ethical integrity.

The contrast between false worship and true worship has been used to emphasize the importance of sincere and genuine worship in religious practice. It encourages believers to worship God with authenticity and devotion.

Hosea's prophetic message in chapter 10 has been cited and referenced in both Jewish and Christian teachings as a call to turn away from idolatry, embrace righteousness, and seek God's mercy. It serves as a reminder of the consequences of unfaithfulness and the path to reconciliation with God.

In summary, Hosea chapter 10 contains theological thoughts about the consequences of idolatry, the importance of sowing righteousness, and the contrast between false worship and true worship. These thoughts have had a lasting influence on discussions about monotheism, repentance, genuine worship, and the consequences of unfaithfulness within religious traditions.

Hosea 11

New International Version

God's Love for Israel

11 "When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
and out of Egypt I called my son.

2 But the more they were called,  
the more they went away from me.[a]

They sacrificed to the Baals  
and they burned incense to images.

3 It was I who taught Ephraim to walk,  
taking them by the arms;  
but they did not realize  
it was I who healed them.

4 I led them with cords of human kindness,  
with ties of love.

To them I was like one who lifts  
a little child to the cheek,  
and I bent down to feed them.

5 "Will they not return to Egypt  
and will not Assyria rule over them  
because they refuse to repent?

6 A sword will flash in their cities;  
it will devour their false prophets  
and put an end to their plans.

7 My people are determined to turn from me.  
Even though they call me God Most High,  
I will by no means exalt them.

8 "How can I give you up, Ephraim?  
How can I hand you over, Israel?

How can I treat you like Admah?  
How can I make you like Zeboyim?  
My heart is changed within me;  
all my compassion is aroused.  
9 I will not carry out my fierce anger,  
nor will I devastate Ephraim again.  
For I am God, and not a man—  
the Holy One among you.  
I will not come against their cities.  
10 They will follow the Lord;  
he will roar like a lion.  
When he roars,  
his children will come trembling from the west.  
11 They will come from Egypt,  
trembling like sparrows,  
from Assyria, fluttering like doves.  
I will settle them in their homes,”  
declares the Lord.

#### Israel's Sin

12 Ephraim has surrounded me with lies,  
Israel with deceit.  
And Judah is unruly against God,  
even against the faithful Holy One.[b]

#### Footnotes

Hosea 11:2 Septuagint; Hebrew them

Hosea 11:12 In Hebrew texts this verse (11:12) is numbered 12:1.

Here is a full description of chapter 11 of the book of Hosea:

Chapter 11 of Hosea begins with a depiction of God's love for Israel. God recalls how He chose Israel as His people and led them out of Egypt, despite their rebellion and disobedience. God's love for Israel is portrayed as a parent's love for a child, as He taught them to walk and lifted them up in His arms.

The chapter then goes on to describe how Israel has turned away from God and refused to acknowledge His love and care for them. Despite this, God still has compassion for Israel and will not totally destroy them. God's love for Israel is portrayed as a struggle between His love and anger, as He struggles with the decision to punish them for their disobedience.

The chapter concludes with a call for Israel to repent and turn back to God. God promises to heal and restore them if they do so, and to lead them in righteousness and love.

Overall, chapter 11 of Hosea emphasizes the themes of God's love and Israel's disobedience. The chapter portrays God's love for Israel as a parent's love for a child, and highlights Israel's rebellion and refusal to acknowledge God's love and care for them. It also emphasizes the importance of repentance and turning back to God, and portrays God's desire to heal and restore His people.

here are some important verses from Hosea chapter 11, along with brief explanations and references:

1. "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son." (Hosea 11:1) - This verse recalls the story of the exodus, when God led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. It speaks of God's love for his people, whom he has chosen and called as his own.
2. "Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them." (Hosea 11:3) - This verse speaks of God's care for his people, who were like a child learning to walk. He helped them, even when they didn't realize it, and healed them when they were sick or injured.
3. "My people are bent on turning away from me, and though they call out to the Most High, he shall not raise them up at all." (Hosea 11:7) - This verse laments the fact that God's people have turned away from him, despite his love and care for them. They may call out to him in distress, but they will not be rescued because of their disobedience.
4. "How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel?... My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender." (Hosea 11:8) - This verse speaks of God's deep love for his people, even in the face of their disobedience and rebellion. He longs to show them mercy and compassion, and struggles with the decision to punish them.

These verses show God's love and care for his people, even when they have turned away from him. They also demonstrate the tension between God's justice and mercy, as he grapples with how to deal with their disobedience.

Hosea chapter 11 presents profound theological thoughts and influences:

#### 1. Theological Thought:

**God's Compassionate Love:** Hosea 11 begins with a poignant depiction of God's compassionate love for Israel. God is portrayed as a loving parent who called His son, Israel, out of Egypt. The theological thought here is the depth of God's love and care for His people, despite their waywardness and unfaithfulness.

**Israel's Rebellion and God's Grief:** The chapter goes on to describe Israel's rebellion and idolatry. Despite God's love and care, the people have turned away from Him. This leads to a theological thought about God's grief and sorrow over Israel's unfaithfulness. God's love is contrasted with Israel's ingratitude and disobedience.

**The Divine Dilemma:** Hosea 11 portrays a divine dilemma. God is torn between His desire to show compassion and His obligation to bring judgment due to Israel's sin. This theological thought underscores the tension between God's justice and His mercy.

#### 2. Theological Influence:



Hosea 11:1, which mentions God's calling of His son, Israel, out of Egypt, has been referenced in the New Testament in relation to Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 2:15), this verse is cited to connect Jesus' return from Egypt to the Exodus story, emphasizing Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's destiny.

The theological thought of God's compassionate love, as depicted in Hosea 11, has had a profound influence on both Jewish and Christian theology. It serves as a reminder of God's enduring love and mercy, even in the face of human sin and rebellion.

Hosea 11 has influenced discussions about the nature of God's emotions and how God relates to humanity. It highlights God's emotional investment in His people and His capacity to experience grief and love.

The concept of the divine dilemma, as presented in Hosea 11, has been used in theological discussions about the tension between God's justice and mercy. It prompts reflection on the complexities of divine judgment and the role of human free will in shaping God's response to humanity.

In summary, Hosea chapter 11 contains theological thoughts about God's compassionate love, Israel's rebellion, and the divine dilemma of balancing justice and mercy. These thoughts have had significant influences on the understanding of God's love and emotions, the relationship between the Old and New Testaments, and theological discussions about divine justice and mercy.

## Hosea 12

### New International Version

12 [a]1 Ephraim feeds on the wind;  
he pursues the east wind all day  
and multiplies lies and violence.

He makes a treaty with Assyria  
and sends olive oil to Egypt.

2 The Lord has a charge to bring against Judah;  
he will punish Jacob[b] according to his ways  
and repay him according to his deeds.

3 In the womb he grasped his brother's heel;  
as a man he struggled with God.

4 He struggled with the angel and overcame him;  
he wept and begged for his favor.

He found him at Bethel  
and talked with him there—

5 the Lord God Almighty,  
the Lord is his name!

6 But you must return to your God;  
maintain love and justice,  
and wait for your God always.

7 The merchant uses dishonest scales  
and loves to defraud.

8 Ephraim boasts,  
“I am very rich; I have become wealthy.  
With all my wealth they will not find in me  
any iniquity or sin.”

9 “I have been the Lord your God  
ever since you came out of Egypt;  
I will make you live in tents again,  
as in the days of your appointed festivals.

10 I spoke to the prophets,  
gave them many visions  
and told parables through them.”

11 Is Gilead wicked?  
Its people are worthless!  
Do they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal?  
Their altars will be like piles of stones  
on a plowed field.

12 Jacob fled to the country of Aram[c];  
Israel served to get a wife,  
and to pay for her he tended sheep.

13 The Lord used a prophet to bring Israel up from Egypt,  
by a prophet he cared for him.

14 But Ephraim has aroused his bitter anger;  
his Lord will leave on him the guilt of his bloodshed  
and will repay him for his contempt.

#### Footnotes

Hosea 12:1 In Hebrew texts 12:1-14 is numbered 12:2-15.

Hosea 12:2 Jacob means he grasps the heel, a Hebrew idiom for he takes advantage of or he deceives.

Hosea 12:12 That is, Northwest Mesopotamia

Here is a full description of chapter 12 of the book of Hosea:

Chapter 12 of Hosea begins with a condemnation of Israel's deceitful practices. God accuses them of relying on their own strength and cunning, rather than turning to Him for help. The chapter goes on to describe how Jacob (Israel) cheated his brother Esau, and how God punished him for his deceit. Despite this, Jacob continued to rely on his own resources and cunning, rather than turning to God.

The chapter then goes on to describe how God led Israel out of Egypt and cared for them in the wilderness. Despite this, Israel continued to rebel against God and worship false gods. God warns that He will punish Israel for their disobedience, and calls on them to repent and turn back to Him.

The chapter concludes with a call for Israel to return to God and acknowledge their sinfulness. God promises to bless them if they do so, and warns that they will be punished if they continue to rebel.

Overall, chapter 12 of Hosea emphasizes the themes of deceitfulness, rebellion, and the consequences of sin. The chapter highlights Israel's reliance on their own strength and cunning, rather than turning to God for help. It also portrays God's care and provision for Israel in the past, and emphasizes the importance of repentance and turning back to God.

Here are some important verses in Hosea chapter 12, along with a brief explanation and their location in the chapter:

1. "Ephraim feeds on the wind and pursues the east wind all day long; they multiply falsehood and violence; they make a covenant with Assyria, and oil is carried to Egypt." (Hosea 12:1) Explanation: This verse describes Ephraim (a metaphorical reference to the northern kingdom of Israel) as being consumed by greed and falsehood, as they make alliances with foreign nations and seek after their own gain.
2. "The Lord has an indictment against Judah and will punish Jacob according to his ways; he will repay him according to his deeds." (Hosea 12:2) Explanation: This verse speaks of God's judgment against Judah (a metaphorical reference to the southern kingdom of Israel) and Jacob (referring to the entire nation of Israel) for their wrongdoing.
3. "In the womb he took his brother by the heel, and in his manhood he strove with God." (Hosea 12:3) Explanation: This verse references the story of Jacob (whose name means "he who takes by the heel" or "he who supplants") and how he wrestled with an angel of God in Genesis 32:22-32. It suggests that Israel has a history of being rebellious and disobedient.
4. "But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness." (Hosea 12:11) Explanation: This verse is addressed to the faithful remnant of Israel, encouraging them to turn away from the sinful ways of their people and instead pursue righteousness and godliness.
5. "I spoke to the prophets; it was I who multiplied visions, and through the prophets gave parables." (Hosea 12:10) Explanation: This verse emphasizes the importance of the role of the prophets in Israel, as God spoke through them to communicate his messages to the people.

Hosea chapter 12 continues to present theological thoughts and influences:

#### 1. Theological Thought:

**Jacob's Deception and Transformation:** Hosea 12 begins with a recounting of Jacob's life, highlighting his earlier deceptive actions, including his trickery of his brother Esau. However, as the chapter progresses, it focuses on Jacob's transformation and relationship with God. The theological thought here is the capacity for repentance and change, even in the face of past wrongdoing.

God's Faithfulness: The chapter emphasizes God's faithfulness to Jacob, even when Jacob was imperfect. God continued to guide and bless Jacob throughout his life, illustrating God's unwavering commitment to His covenant people.

Call to Repentance: Hosea 12 calls the people of Israel to repentance, drawing a parallel between their current unfaithfulness and Jacob's earlier deceitful behavior. The theological thought here is the importance of genuine repentance and turning back to God.

## 2. Theological Influence:

Hosea 12's recounting of Jacob's transformation and God's faithfulness has influenced theological discussions about repentance and change. It serves as a reminder that individuals and nations have the capacity to repent and seek God's forgiveness, even if they have a history of wrongdoing.

The chapter's call to repentance and its use of Jacob's story as an example have been referenced in sermons and teachings within both Jewish and Christian traditions. It emphasizes the importance of turning away from sin and returning to God.

The theological thought of God's faithfulness to imperfect individuals like Jacob has influenced discussions on God's grace and mercy. It highlights God's commitment to His covenant, even when humanity falls short.

Hosea 12's message of transformation and repentance has served as a source of hope for individuals and communities seeking spiritual renewal. It encourages the belief that genuine change and reconciliation with God are possible.

In summary, Hosea chapter 12 contains theological thoughts about transformation, God's faithfulness, and the call to repentance. These thoughts have had influences on discussions about repentance, God's grace, and the possibility of change and renewal within religious traditions.

## Hosea 13

New International Version

The Lord's Anger Against Israel

13 When Ephraim spoke, people trembled;  
he was exalted in Israel.

But he became guilty of Baal worship and died.

2 Now they sin more and more;  
they make idols for themselves from their silver,  
cleverly fashioned images,  
all of them the work of craftsmen.

It is said of these people,

“They offer human sacrifices!

They kiss[a] calf-idols!”

3 Therefore they will be like the morning mist,  
like the early dew that disappears,  
like chaff swirling from a threshing floor,  
like smoke escaping through a window.

4 “But I have been the Lord your God  
ever since you came out of Egypt.  
You shall acknowledge no God but me,  
no Savior except me.

5 I cared for you in the wilderness,  
in the land of burning heat.

6 When I fed them, they were satisfied;  
when they were satisfied, they became proud;  
then they forgot me.

7 So I will be like a lion to them,  
like a leopard I will lurk by the path.

8 Like a bear robbed of her cubs,  
I will attack them and rip them open;  
like a lion I will devour them—  
a wild animal will tear them apart.

9 “You are destroyed, Israel,  
because you are against me, against your helper.

10 Where is your king, that he may save you?  
Where are your rulers in all your towns,  
of whom you said,

‘Give me a king and princes’?

11 So in my anger I gave you a king,  
and in my wrath I took him away.

12 The guilt of Ephraim is stored up,  
his sins are kept on record.

13 Pains as of a woman in childbirth come to him,  
but he is a child without wisdom;

when the time arrives,  
he doesn’t have the sense to come out of the womb.

14 “I will deliver this people from the power of the grave;  
I will redeem them from death.

Where, O death, are your plagues?  
Where, O grave, is your destruction?

“I will have no compassion,

15 even though he thrives among his brothers.

An east wind from the Lord will come,  
blowing in from the desert;

his spring will fail

and his well dry up.  
His storehouse will be plundered  
of all its treasures.  
16 The people of Samaria must bear their guilt,  
because they have rebelled against their God.  
They will fall by the sword;  
their little ones will be dashed to the ground,  
their pregnant women ripped open.”[b]

#### Footnotes

Hosea 13:2 Or “Men who sacrifice / kiss

Hosea 13:16 In Hebrew texts this verse (13:16) is numbered 14:1.

Here is a full description of chapter 13 of the book of Hosea:

Chapter 13 of Hosea begins with a warning of judgment against Israel for their idolatry and disobedience. God describes how they have gone astray like a calf that wanders away from its mother, and how He will punish them for their rebellion.

The chapter goes on to describe how God had been Israel's savior in the past, rescuing them from slavery in Egypt and providing for them in the wilderness. Despite this, Israel had turned away from God and worshiped idols. God warns that He will not relent in His judgment against them.

The chapter then describes how Israel had trusted in their own strength and alliances with other nations, rather than turning to God. God promises to destroy their false idols and punish them for their arrogance.

The chapter concludes with a call for Israel to repent and turn back to God, acknowledging Him as their only savior. God promises to have compassion on them and to bless them if they do so.

Overall, chapter 13 of Hosea emphasizes the themes of judgment, idolatry, and the consequences of disobedience. The chapter portrays God as a just judge who will not tolerate Israel's rebellion and idolatry. It also emphasizes the importance of repentance and turning back to God, and portrays God's willingness to have compassion on those who do so.

Here are the important verses in Hosea chapter 13, along with a brief explanation and where to find them:

Verse 4: "But I have been the LORD your God ever since you came out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me."

This verse emphasizes the exclusive relationship between God and the Israelites. It reminds them that God has been their only God and Savior since the time of the exodus from Egypt.

Verse 6: "When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me."

This verse describes how the Israelites, despite being provided for by God, became arrogant and forgot about their dependence on Him.

Verse 9: "You are destroyed, Israel, because you are against me, against your helper."

This verse speaks of the consequences of Israel's rebellion against God. They have chosen to be against their own helper and have brought destruction upon themselves. Verse 14: "I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?" This verse is a promise of God's redemption for His people. It foreshadows the ultimate victory of life over death, as Christ would later conquer death through His resurrection.

Hosea chapter 13 contains theological thoughts and influences:

### 1. Theological Thought:

**Warning Against Idolatry:** Hosea 13 continues to emphasize the dangers of idolatry and false worship. The people of Israel are rebuked for their continued idolatrous practices, and the theological thought here is a stern warning about the consequences of turning away from the one true God and worshiping idols.

**God's Past Deliverance:** The chapter reminds the people of Israel of God's past acts of deliverance, such as leading them out of Egypt. Despite God's faithfulness and provision, the people have turned to idols. The theological thought emphasizes the contrast between God's blessings and Israel's unfaithfulness.

**The Inevitability of Judgment:** Hosea 13 also speaks of the inevitability of God's judgment. The people are warned that their idolatry and sin will lead to destruction and exile. The theological thought is the principle that disobedience carries consequences, including divine judgment.

### 2. Theological Influence:

Hosea 13's emphasis on the dangers of idolatry and false worship has had a lasting influence on theological discussions about monotheism, the exclusivity of worshiping the one true God, and the dangers of turning to false gods.

The theological thought of God's past deliverance and faithfulness contrasted with Israel's unfaithfulness has been referenced in discussions about God's grace and human ingratitude. It serves as a reminder of God's enduring love despite human waywardness.

The idea of the inevitability of judgment for disobedience, as presented in Hosea 13, has influenced theological discussions about divine justice and the consequences of sin. It underscores the biblical principle that disobedience leads to judgment.

Hosea 13's message has been cited and referenced in both Jewish and Christian teachings as a cautionary lesson against idolatry, unfaithfulness, and the importance of remaining steadfast in one's relationship with God. It serves as a call to repentance and a reminder of the consequences of straying from God's ways.

In summary, Hosea chapter 13 contains theological thoughts about the dangers of idolatry, God's past deliverance, and the inevitability of divine judgment for disobedience. These thoughts have had an enduring influence on discussions about monotheism, God's grace, divine justice, and the importance of faithfulness within religious traditions.

Hosea 14

New International Version

Repentance to Bring Blessing

14 [a]Return, Israel, to the Lord your God.

Your sins have been your downfall!

2 Take words with you  
and return to the Lord.

Say to him:

“Forgive all our sins  
and receive us graciously,  
that we may offer the fruit of our lips.[b]

3 Assyria cannot save us;  
we will not mount warhorses.

We will never again say ‘Our gods’  
to what our own hands have made,  
for in you the fatherless find compassion.”

4 “I will heal their waywardness  
and love them freely,  
for my anger has turned away from them.

5 I will be like the dew to Israel;  
he will blossom like a lily.

Like a cedar of Lebanon  
he will send down his roots;

6 his young shoots will grow.  
His splendor will be like an olive tree,  
his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon.

7 People will dwell again in his shade;  
they will flourish like the grain,  
they will blossom like the vine—  
Israel’s fame will be like the wine of Lebanon.

8 Ephraim, what more have I[c] to do with idols?  
I will answer him and care for him.

I am like a flourishing juniper;  
your fruitfulness comes from me.”

9 Who is wise? Let them realize these things.  
Who is discerning? Let them understand.

The ways of the Lord are right;  
the righteous walk in them,



but the rebellious stumble in them.

#### Footnotes

Hosea 14:1 In Hebrew texts 14:1-9 is numbered 14:2-10.

Hosea 14:2 Or offer our lips as sacrifices of bulls

Hosea 14:8 Or Hebrew; Septuagint What more has Ephraim

Here is a full description of chapter 14 of the book of Hosea:

Chapter 14 of Hosea begins with a call to Israel to return to the Lord and repent of their sins. The chapter emphasizes the theme of repentance and portrays God as merciful and willing to forgive.

The chapter goes on to describe how Israel should express their repentance through their words and actions. They should confess their sins and ask God for forgiveness, and they should promise to trust in Him alone and not rely on their own strength or on false gods. The chapter also describes the blessings that God promises to bestow upon those who repent and turn back to Him. He promises to heal their backsliding, to love them freely, and to make them fruitful and prosperous.

The chapter concludes with a message from God to Israel, urging them to listen to His words and to turn back to Him. God promises to be their God and to bless them if they do so.

Overall, chapter 14 of Hosea emphasizes the theme of repentance and portrays God as merciful and willing to forgive. It calls on Israel to confess their sins and turn back to God, promising them blessings and prosperity if they do so. The chapter emphasizes the importance of trusting in God alone and not relying on false gods or on their own strength.

Here are some more important verses from Hosea 14:

Verse 1: "Return, Israel, to the Lord your God. Your sins have been your downfall!"

Explanation: The Lord calls upon Israel to repent and return to Him. He acknowledges that their sins have caused them to fall away from Him.

Verse 2: "Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to him: 'Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips.'"

Explanation: The Lord instructs Israel to ask for forgiveness and to offer words of praise and thanksgiving to Him.

Verse 3: "Assyria cannot save us; we will not mount warhorses. We will never again say 'Our gods' to what our own hands have made, for in you the fatherless find compassion."

Explanation: Israel renounces their reliance on other nations and false idols. They affirm their trust in the Lord, who provides for the vulnerable.

Verse 4: "I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them."

Explanation: The Lord promises to heal and restore Israel, showing them mercy and grace despite their past disobedience.

Verse 9: "Who is wise? Let them realize these things. Who is discerning? Let them understand. The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them."

Explanation: This verse emphasizes the importance of wisdom and discernment in understanding the ways of the Lord. Those who follow His ways will be blessed, while those who rebel will suffer the consequences.

Hosea chapter 14 is a closing chapter that offers important theological thoughts and influences:

### 1. Theological Thought:

**Call to Repentance and Return:** Hosea 14 opens with a call to repentance and a plea for Israel to return to the Lord. The chapter emphasizes the importance of sincere repentance and turning away from idolatry and sin. The theological thought here is the possibility of reconciliation with God through genuine repentance.

**God's Healing and Restoration:** The chapter portrays God as a healer and restorer. God is described as ready to forgive and bring healing to the people's waywardness. The theological thought is that God's grace and mercy are available for those who repent and seek His forgiveness.

**The Contrast Between God and Idols:** Hosea 14 contrasts the reliability of God with the emptiness of idols. The people are urged to let go of their reliance on idols and acknowledge God as their source of help and salvation. The theological thought emphasizes the futility of idol worship and the sufficiency of God.

### 2. Theological Influence:

Hosea 14's call to repentance and return to the Lord has been influential in both Jewish and Christian traditions as a model for genuine repentance and restoration. It underscores the idea that no matter how far one has strayed, reconciliation with God is possible through sincere repentance.

The theological thought of God as a healer and restorer has influenced theological discussions about God's grace and forgiveness. It highlights God's willingness to extend mercy to those who turn to Him in repentance.

The contrast between God and idols found in Hosea 14 has had a lasting impact on discussions about monotheism, the emptiness of false gods, and the importance of wholehearted devotion to the one true God.

Hosea 14's message has been cited and referenced in sermons and teachings in both Jewish and Christian traditions as a call to forsake idolatry, embrace genuine repentance, and experience God's healing and restoration. It serves as a message of hope and reconciliation.

In summary, Hosea chapter 14 contains theological thoughts about repentance, God's healing and restoration, and the contrast between God and idols. These thoughts have had significant influences on discussions about repentance, God's grace, monotheism, and the importance of wholehearted devotion to God within religious traditions.

There are several difficult questions in the book of Hosea that have been the subject of much debate among biblical scholars and theologians throughout history.

One of the most challenging questions is the nature of the relationship between God and Israel, which is portrayed in the book as a marriage. The metaphor of marriage is used throughout the book, and God is depicted as a jilted lover who continues to pursue Israel despite her unfaithfulness. This raises questions about the nature of God's love, the role of human free will, and the meaning of faithfulness in a covenant relationship.

Another difficult question in Hosea is the issue of divine justice and punishment. The book contains many prophecies of judgment and punishment for Israel's sins, but it also includes passages that emphasize God's mercy and forgiveness. This raises questions about the nature of sin, the consequences of disobedience, and the role of repentance in the process of forgiveness.

Overall, the book of Hosea is a complex and challenging work that raises many questions about the nature of God, the relationship between God and humanity, and the meaning of faithfulness and obedience. While there may not be definitive answers to all of these questions, they provide fertile ground for theological reflection and discussion.

Notes: