

# Hosea 9

From Days of Celebration to Days of Punishment



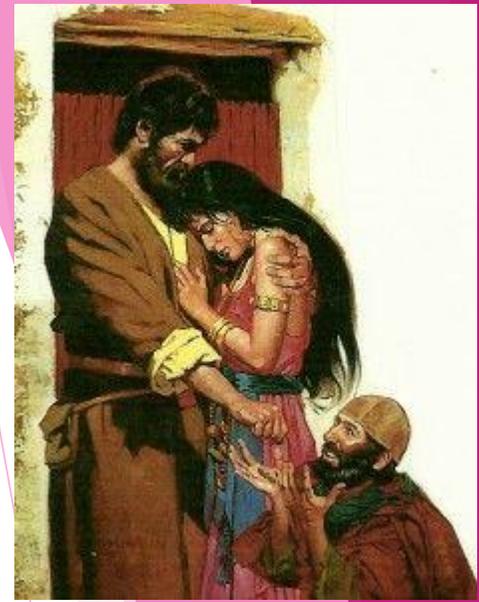
# Quick Review

## ▶ Chapters 1-3 The Marriage of Hosea to Gomer

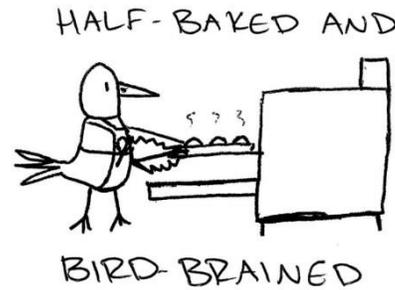
A metaphor for the relationship of YHWH to his chosen people.

**Chapter 4** - Israel is guilty of lawlessness, immorality, ignorance of God's Word, and idolatry. The Lord spells out their specific sins; they are breaking the Ten Commandments.

**Chapter 5** - Israel turns from God, and God turns away from Israel. The country falls to ruin. When the nation falls, they will cry to God, but He will not respond. **God condemns the leadership – priest and king.**



# Looking Back



- ▶ **Chapter 6** - Israel/Ephraim will return in the last days and will be judges for sins. The priesthood is corrupt.

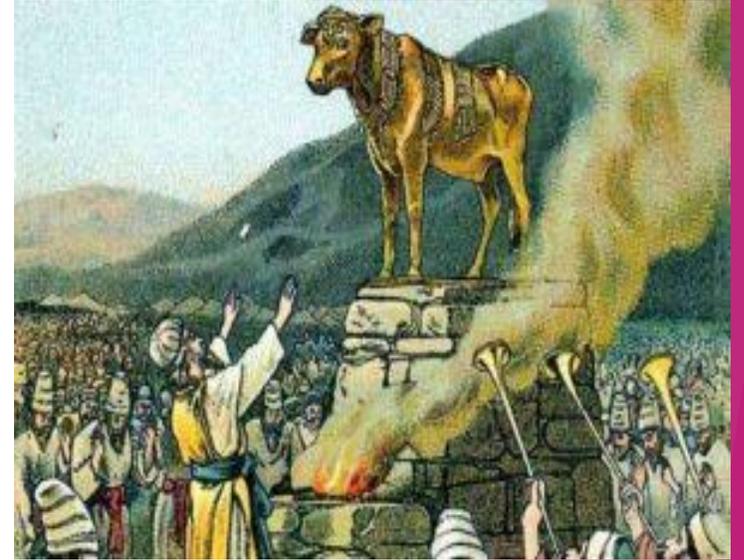
*6:6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.*

- ▶ **Chapter 7**- Israel, acting like a “silly dove”, turns first to Egypt and then to Assyria for salvation. They are now “among the nations”. Their immorality is approved by the king. Ephraim and her faith, is like a pancake fried on top of the stove – burned on one side and raw on the other. Not good for anything.



# Last week

- ▶ **Chapter 8-** Israel turns to golden calves and “altars of sin”.
- ▶ Having turned from God, they look to their king and their wealth to deliver them.
- ▶ The golden calf that Jeroboam had set up had not helped them. Assyria will finally take them into captivity, yet they turn foolishly to their enemy. They try to buy off Assyria.



# Chapter 9



- ▶ Chapter 9 is a continuation of the themes from chapter 8. Hosea spoke of sacrifices in chapter 8 and of punishment.
- ▶ This chapter is not focused on the connection between religion and politics the way chapter 8 was.
- ▶ In this chapter, Hosea focuses on worship and the prophets.
- ▶ Hosea describes the contrast between the festivals of joy and worship (from earlier days) to the reality of life without the blessings of LORD. The chapter ends with images of life in exile.



# Timeline - key events

- ▶ Abraham ~ 1850 BC
- ▶ Jacob ~ 1676 BC
- ▶ Moses/Exodus- after Jacob's descendants are 400 years in Egypt ~ 1250 BC
- ▶ David~1020 BC A United Kingdom!
- ▶ Solomon ~ 950 BC
- ▶ Divided Kingdom- ~922 BC
- ▶ Hosea- ~750-722 BC
- ▶ Assyria conquers the Northern Tribes (Israel) 722-721BC
- ▶ Babylon Conquers Judah/Jerusalem 605-586 BC (Daniel)
- ▶ Judah freed to return to Judah/Jerusalem 539 BC
- ▶ Construction of Second Temple 515 BC

# Hosea 9:1-2

## Note the contrast



- ▶ **Do not rejoice**, Israel, **do not exult** like the nations!  
For you have prostituted yourself, abandoning your God,  
loving a prostitute's fee upon every threshing floor.  
<sup>2</sup> Threshing floor and wine press will not nourish them,  
the new wine will fail them.
- ▶ Israel is called NOT to rejoice or exult - these same words are used to call people to worship. But there is nothing to rejoice and there will be no worship.
- ▶ This is followed by a description of adultery, the chief accusation against Israel, and God's action or punishment.
- ▶ Wheat that they will not eat and vineyards that will fail to produce.

# These first verses are addressed Israel in general and to the priests

- ▶ For you have prostituted yourself, abandoning your God, loving a prostitute's fee upon every threshing floor.  
<sup>2</sup> Threshing floor and wine press will not nourish them, the new wine will fail them.
- ▶ The words used suggest that the defilement of the place of worship, and worship itself, has not been prevented by the priests.
- ▶ The words used are also used in Numbers 18:25-32

# Numbers 18:25-32

- ▶ <sup>25</sup> The LORD said to Moses: <sup>26</sup> Speak to the Levites and say to them: When you take from the Israelites the tithes I have assigned you from them as your heritage, **you are to make a contribution from them to the LORD, a tithe of the tithe;** <sup>27</sup> and your contribution will be credited to you as if it were ***grain from the threshing floor or new wine from the vat.*** <sup>28</sup> Thus you too shall make a contribution to the LORD from all the tithes you take from the Israelites, handing over to Aaron the priest the contribution to the LORD. <sup>29</sup> From all the gifts to you, you shall make every contribution due to the LORD—from their best parts, that is the part to be consecrated from them.
- ▶ <sup>30</sup> Say to them also: Once you have made your contribution from the best part, **the rest of the tithe will be credited to the Levites as if it were produce of the threshing floor or the produce of the vat.** <sup>31</sup> You and your households may eat it anywhere, since it is your recompense in exchange for labor in the tent of meeting. <sup>32</sup> **You will incur no punishment when you contribute the best part of it. But do not profane the holy offerings of the Israelites or else you shall die.**

# Hosea 9:3-4

## An explanation for vs 1 and 2

- ▶ They will not dwell in the LORD's land; Ephraim will return to Egypt, and in Assyria they will eat unclean food.  
⁴ They will not pour libations of wine to the LORD, and their sacrifices will not please him. Their bread will be like mourners' bread, that makes unclean all who eat of it; Their food will be for their own appetites; it cannot enter the house of the LORD.



Some will be forced to immigrate to Egypt, others to Assyria.



Food not grown in the Land of YHWH and by unclean or unholy people is not suitable for offerings



# Mourners Bread



- ▶ Sacrifices that would once have pleased YHWH, will no longer be offered in a foreign land.
- ▶ The food to be eaten in exile will taste like mourners bread.
- ▶ Anyone who eats it is unfit to participate in cultic worship.
- ▶ It is only suitable to satisfy the hunger of the deportees.
- ▶ For Hosea defilement comes from anything outside of the Promised Land.

# Hosea 9:5-7

- ▶ What will you do on the festival day,  
the day of the LORD's feast?  
<sup>6</sup> When they flee from the devastation,  
Egypt will gather them, Memphis will bury them.  
Weeds will overgrow their silver treasures,  
and thorns, their tents.
- ▶ <sup>7</sup> They have come, the days of punishment!  
they have come, the days of recompense!  
Let Israel know it!



The Lord makes it known that there will not be any future celebrations of the YHWH festivals. Judgment has already been made.



They will be gathered up and taken away. Israel will become overgrown and desolate.



# Hosea 9:7-9

▶ “The prophet is a fool,  
the man of the spirit is mad!”  
Because your iniquity is great,  
great, too, is your hostility.



When Hosea attempts to  
Put an end to the Baal worship,  
He is called a fool. It is more  
evidence of Israel’s guilt and  
hostility towards God’s messenger  
and watchman.

<sup>8</sup> The watchman of Ephraim, the people of my God, is the  
prophet; yet a fowler’s snare is on all his ways,  
hostility in the house of his God.



<sup>9</sup> They have sunk to the depths of corruption,  
as in the days of Gibeah;  
God will remember their iniquity  
and punish their sins.

Traps are set to  
keep Hosea from  
his sacred duty;  
to see and warn  
of impending  
danger.

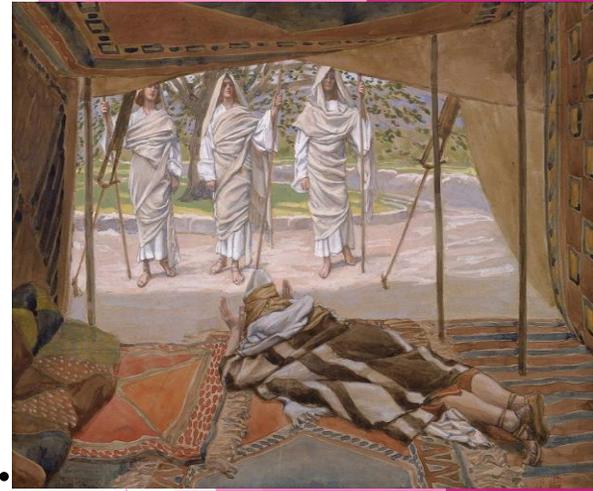
# Corruption as in the days of Gibeah

▶ In Judges 19 many crimes against God's Law are noted; Intent to harm a foreigner and abuse and murder of a woman.

▶ Lev 19:33-34 When an alien resides with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one. <sup>34</sup> You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I, the LORD, am your God.

Deut 27:19 "Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

Hebrews 13:2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.



# Hosea 9:10

## Reminiscing

- ▶ Like grapes in the desert,  
I found Israel;  
Like the first fruits of the fig tree, its first to ripen,  
I looked on your ancestors.  
But when they came to Baal-peor  
and consecrated themselves to the **Shameful One**,  
they became as abhorrent as the thing they loved.



Grapes in the desert are unexpected and precious, they bring joy



Baal

# Punishment is in part due to guilt for events at Baal Peor

- ▶ Baal of Peor, was a local deity worshiped by the Moabites. When the Israelites, following Moses to the Promised Land, were in the vicinity of Peor, some of them fell into idolatry and worshiped Baal Peor. As a result of their sin, the men of Israel were judged by God.
- ▶ Numbers 23-24 - King Balaak, of Moab hired the “prophet for hire” Balaak, to curse Israel. Balaak was unable to curse Israel because the Lord would not allow him to do so. He wound up blessing Israel instead.
- ▶ In Numbers 25- Midian women are sent to seduce the Israelite men and succeed in drawing them into both sexual activities and worshipping Baal. This after God had blessed them in the above incident.

# Hosea 9:11-13

## loss of God's blessings

- ▶ Ephraim is like a bird:  
their glory flies away—  
no birth, no pregnancy, no conception.  
<sup>12</sup> Even though they bring up their children,  
I will make them childless, until no one is left.  
Indeed, woe to them  
when I turn away from them!
- <sup>13</sup> Ephraim, as I saw, was a tree  
planted in a meadow;  
But now Ephraim will bring out  
his children to the slaughterer!



Ephraim and Israel  
are used  
interchangeably  
here.



In 734 BC Israel fought  
with Damascus against  
Jerusalem. This  
angered Assyria. Now a  
new battle with Assyria  
is about to happen.  
Ephraim will lead his  
sons to battle to be  
slaughtered.

# Hosea 9:14-15

## Hosea has a conversation with the Lord

- ▶ Give them, LORD!  
give them what?  
Give them a miscarrying womb,  
and dry breasts!  
<sup>15</sup> All their misfortune began in Gilgal;  
yes, there I rejected them.  
Because of their wicked deeds  
I will drive them out of my house.  
I will love them no longer;  
all their princes are rebels.



Hosea is torn between what is deserved and what would be a more merciful punishment. Is miscarriage and dry breasts less of a punishment?



The Lord responds.

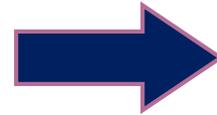
# All their misfortune began in Gilgal

- ▶ At Gilgal, the Gibeonites, who were inhabitants of the land, deceived Joshua into making a treaty with them in order to save themselves from being slaughtered by the Israelites. (Joshua 9)
- ▶ Gilgal was also where Saul twice ignored God's commands, and there Samuel informed him that the Lord had rejected him as king, and that his dynasty would not continue. (1 Samuel 13:1-15, 1 Samuel 15)
- ▶ In the first incident Saul, having fear and little faith did not wait for Samuel to offer sacrifice and bless the troops. He did it himself. The second event was also in war. The Lord told Saul not to spare any of the Amalekites. All traces of the Amalekites (people, cities, animals, etc.) were to be exterminated. No plunder could be seized for personal use. Saul chose to spare the Kenites and the King. He also kept some of the livestock.

# Hosea 9:16-17

## YHWH has become an enemy

- ▶ Ephraim is stricken,  
their root is dried up;  
they will bear no fruit.



The LORD  
speaks again

Were they to bear children,  
I would slay the beloved of their womb.

<sup>17</sup> My God will disown them  
because they have not listened to him;  
*they will be wanderers among the nations.*



Hosea  
speaks

# Reflections on Hosea 9

A quote from the book of Job comes to mind:

“Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall depart. **The Lord** gave and **the Lord** has taken away; may the name of **the Lord** be praised” (Job 1:20).

When the Lord withdraws his blessing, everything that brings joy disappears.

It is good to give thanks for even tiny blessings.

# More Reflections

- ▶ The mighty and meek will all be judged.
  - ▶ Walk with the Lord now, so when it is our time to knock on the gates of Heaven he will open and invite you in.

Prayers are needed for our world and Church leaders every day.

# Let us Pray Psalm 34:4-14

- ▶ I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.
  - <sup>5</sup> Those who look to him are radiant;  
their faces are never covered with shame.
  - <sup>6</sup> This poor man called, and the LORD heard him;  
he saved him out of all his troubles.
  - <sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,  
and he delivers them.
  
- ▶ <sup>8</sup> Taste and see that the LORD is good;  
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
  - <sup>9</sup> Fear the LORD, you his holy people,  
for those who fear him lack nothing.
  - <sup>10</sup> The lions may grow weak and hungry,  
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
  - <sup>11</sup> Come, my children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
  - <sup>12</sup> Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days,
  - <sup>13</sup> keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies.
  - <sup>14</sup> Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.