**Hosea 13-14:1**

**Death of Ephraim**

**Lesson 28**

1. **When did you feel closest to God this week? Was there a particular verse or lesson in our study of Hosea this week that you found inspiring in some way?**
2. **Verses 1-3 in this chapter refer to the territory around Mt Ephraim where the royal residence was.**

**Who was the man, Ephraim?**

**Does knowing who Ephraim was make the fate of the tribe more of a surprise and tragedy?**

**See Genesis 48:1-11 and Hosea 13:1-3**

**Genesis 48:1-11** Sometime afterward, Joseph was informed, “Your father is failing.” So, he took along with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. **2**When Jacob was told, “Your son Joseph has come to you,” Israel rallied his strength and sat up in bed.

**3**Jacob then said to Joseph: “God Almighty appeared to me at Luzin the land of Canaan, and blessing me, **4**he said, ‘I will make you fertile and multiply you and make you into an assembly of peoples, and I will give this land to your descendants after you as a permanent possession.’ **5**So now your two sons who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I joined you here, shall be mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine as much as Reuben and Simeon are mine. **6**Progeny born to you after them shall remain yours; but their heritage shall be recorded in the names of their brothers. **7**I do this because, when I was returning from Paddan, your mother Rachel died, to my sorrow, during the journey in Canaan, while we were still a short distance from Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath [now Bethlehem].”

**8**When Israel saw Joseph’s sons, he asked, “Who are these?” **9**“They are my sons,” Joseph answered his father, “whom God has given me here.” “Bring them to me,” said his father, “that I may bless them.” **10**Now Israel’s eyes were dim from age; he could not see well. When Joseph brought his sons close to him, he kissed and embraced them. **11**Then Israel said to Joseph, “I never expected to see your face again, and now God has allowed me to see your descendants as well!”

**Hosea 13:1-3** When Ephraim spoke there was terror; he was exalted in Israel; but he became guilty through Baal and died.

**2**Now they continue to sin, making for themselves molten images, silver idols according to their skill,  
    all of them the work of artisans. “To these, offer sacrifice,” they say. People kiss calves! **3**Therefore, they will be like a morning cloud or like the dew that vanishes with the dawn, like chaff storm-driven from the threshing floor or like smoke out of the window.

1. **Ephraim is one of ten tribes that made up the Northern Kingdom of Israel. In the 9th Century BC, during the time of Hosea, it wielded great power within Israel.**

**Joshua and Jeroboam I were both Ephraimites. How does this explain the meaning of verse 1-3?**

**See also Joshua 24: 29-33.**

**Joshua 24:29-33** Joshua, son of Nun, servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten, **30**and they buried him within the borders of his heritage at Timnath-serah **in the mountain region of Ephraim** north of Mount Gaash. **31Israel served the Lord during the entire lifetime of Joshua**, and of those elders who outlived Joshua and who knew all the work the Lord had done for Israel. **32**The bones of Joseph, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried in Shechem in the plot of ground Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor, father of Shechem, for a hundred pieces of money. This was a heritage of the descendants of Joseph. **33**When Eleazar, son of Aaron, also died, he was buried on the hill which had been given to his son Phinehas in the mountain region of Ephraim.

1. **To what does the phrase “kissing calves” refer? See footnotes in your Bible for verse 2 and 1 Kings 19:13-18 below.**

**1 Kings 19:13-18** A voice said to him, Why are you here, Elijah? **14**He replied, “I have been most zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, but the Israelites have forsaken your covenant. They have destroyed your altars and murdered your prophets by the sword. I alone remain, and they seek to take my life.” **15**The Lord said to him: Go back! Take the desert road to Damascus. When you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king of Aram. **16**You shall also anoint Jehu, son of Nimshi, as king of Israel, and Elisha, son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah, as prophet to succeed you. **17**Anyone who escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill. Anyone who escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. **18*But I will spare seven thousand in Israel—every knee that has not bent to Baal, every mouth that has not kissed him***.

1. **Read verses 4-8. Why did Israel forget the LORD?**

**Hosea 13:4-8** I, the Lord, am your God, since the land of Egypt;   
Gods apart from me you do not know; there is no savior but me.  
**5**I fed you in the wilderness, in the parched land.  
**6**When I fed them, they were satisfied; when satisfied, they became proud,  
    therefore they forgot me.  
**7**So, I will be like a lion to them, like a leopard by the road I will keep watch.  
**8**I will attack them like a bear robbed of its young, and tear their hearts from their breasts;  
I will devour them on the spot like a lion, as a wild animal would rip them open.

1. **Reflect on the meaning of verse 6. When our needs are all met and times are good is it easier to forget the LORD and feel proud?**
2. **For us personally, what is the value of remembering times of trouble and trial? What should our response be when we do emerge from those difficult and challenging moments in life?**
3. **The LORD’s anger is like that of a “she-bear” robbed of her cubs. In this metaphor, who are the cubs? If they somehow escape the bear what will happen to them?**
4. **Read verses 9-11 in Hosea and 1 Samuel 8:1-7.**

**What is the Lord saying about the decision to choose kings to manage the political affairs of Israel?**

**Were the 8th century BC kings capable of protecting or saving Israel? What would have made the kings more successful in their roles of protecting the people of Israel?**

**Check footnotes for information on verse 11.**

**Hosea 13: 9-11** I destroy you, Israel!  
    who is there to help you?  
**10**Where now is your king,  
    that he may rescue you?  
And all your princes,  
    that they may defend you?  
Of whom you said,  
    “Give me a king and princes”?  
**11**I give you a king in my anger,  
    and I take him away in my wrath.

**1 Samuel 8: 1-7 1**In his old age Samuel appointed his sons judges over Israel. **2**His firstborn was named Joel, his second son, Abijah; they judged at Beer-sheba. **3**His sons did not follow his example, but looked to their own gain, accepting bribes and perverting justice. **4**Therefore all the elders of Israel assembled and went to Samuel at Ramah **5**and said to him, “Now that you are old, and your sons do not follow your example, appoint a king over us, like all the nations, to rule us.”

**6**Samuel was displeased when they said, “Give us a king to rule us.” But he prayed to the Lord. **7**The Lord said: Listen to whatever the people say. You are not the one they are rejecting. They are rejecting me as their king.

1. **Check for the meaning of verse 13. What is it that happens if an infant cannot be born properly?**

**Hosea 13:12- 14** The guilt of Ephraim is wrapped up,  
    his sin is stored away.  
**13**The birth pangs will come for him,  
    but this is an unwise child,  
Who, when it is time, does not present himself  
    at the mouth of the womb.  
**14**Shall I deliver them from the power of Sheol?  
    shall I redeem them from death?  
Where are your plagues, O death!  
    where is your sting, Sheol!  
    Compassion is hidden from my eyes.

1. "Sheol, " refers to the grave or the abode of the dead. Through much of the Old Testament period, it was believed that *all went to this one place after death*, whether human or animal whether righteous or wicked. No one could avoid Sheol. **Read verse 14.**

**What is being said about the power of the LORD here? Look for info in your footnotes.**