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Hoshea

(Hosea)

Introduction

This document is about what was prophesied long ago by the prophet Hoshea (often wrongly known in English as ‘Hosea’) around 800 before Yeshua/Jesus (B.C.) and before Shomron (Samaria) was destroyed by invading armies. The prophets Hoshea and Amos gave similar prophecies to the people in similar period, but Hoshea continued on for several years longer. In those times, Yisrael (Israel) was divided into two countries. The northern part where Hoshea preached continued to be known as Yisrael and was also named as ‘Efrayim’ (the name of a prominent tribe in that northern kingdom). Shomron (Samaria) was its capital city. The smaller, southern part of the former, larger Yisrael was named Yehudah (after the largest tribe in that area).
In this document, Hoshea showed the arguments between those who followed Yahweh, and those who had decided to change their allegiance to idols and other gods. The latter were like Hoshea’s disobedient spouse Gomir who left him behind. Also, Hoshea was very sad about how the people argued and worshipped false gods, and no longer trusted their god Yahweh. But in the ending, God again displayed his love towards his people and wanted to bring them back to him. His love for them was very strong, and he revealed this to them through Hoshea’s sorrowful speeches, “How can I give you up, Efrayim? How can I hand you over, Yisrael? ... My heart is turned over within me—all my compassions are aroused.” (11:8).

Main components of this document

Hoshea’s marriage and family *1:1–3:5*
God’s case against Yisrael *4:1–13:16*
The promise, and the command to repent *14:1-9*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

1:1 This is Yahweh's message that came to Be'eri's son Hoshea (Hosea) in the time of Kings Uziyah,[1] Yotam (Jotham),[2] Ahaz,[3] and Hizkiyah (Hezekiah),[4] of Yehudah (Judah), and was also during the reign of Yoash's son King Yarov'am (Jeroboam)[5] in Yisrael (Israel).

Hoshea's wife and children · Northern kingdom

2 When Yahweh first spoke through Hoshea (Hosea), he told him, "Go and get yourself a prostitute for a wife and have children from her, because the country is committing flagrant prostitution by forsaking Yahweh."

3 So he went and married Divlayim's daughter Gomer, and she got pregnant and bore him a son. **4** Then Yahweh told him, "Name him Yizre'el (Jezreel), because in a little while I'll avenge the blood shed in the Yizre'el valley on Yehu's (Jehu's) family,[6] and I'll put an end to the kingdom of Yisrael (Israel). **5** At that time in the Yizre'el valley, I'll break Yisrael's military power."

6 Then Gomer conceived again and bore a daughter, and Yahweh told Hoshea, "Name her Lo-Ruhamah (which means 'No mercy'), because I'll no longer have mercy on the Israelis, and I won't forgive them at all. **7** But I'll have mercy on Yehudah's (Judah's) descendants, and I'll save them so they'll be able to see that it was their god Yahweh. (I won't save them using bows, swords, battles, horses, or horsemen.)"

8 After she'd weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she got pregnant again and bore a second son. **9** Then Yahweh said, "Name him Lo-Ami (which means 'Not my people') because you're not my people and I'm not your god."

Yisrael's restoration · Northern kingdom

10 Yet the number of Israelis will be like the sand on the seashore, which can't be measured or counted. Then instead of being told, 'You're not my people,' they'll be told, 'You are children of the living god.'[7] **11** The people from both Yehudah (Judah) and Yisrael (Israel) will be gathered together. They'll appoint one leader for themselves, and they'll come out of the countries where they'd been exiled, because the day of Yizre'el (Jezreel) (which means 'planted by God') will be great.

2:1 "Say to your brothers, 'My people,' and your sisters, 'You've all been shown compassion.' "

Yisrael, the prostitute, will be punished · Northern kingdom

2 Contend with your mother, contend, because she's not my wife,
and nor am I her husband.
Let her turn her face away from prostitution,
and cease her adultery from between her breasts.
3 If she doesn't, I'll strip her naked
and expose her like on the day she was born.
I will make her like the wilderness,
and make her like a sun-baked land,
→and I'll make her die from thirst.
4 I won't have mercy on her children,
→because they're the products of prostitution,
5 because their mother has dabbled in prostitution—
the woman who conceived them has acted shamefully.
Yes, she had said, "I'll go after my lovers,
who give me my bread and my water,
my wool and my flax,
and my oil and my drink."
6 Therefore, I'll fence her paths in with thorns.
I'll build a wall up against her so she can't find her way.
7 She'll try to pursue her lovers, but she won't be able to catch up to them.
She'll search for them, but she won't be able to find them.
Then she'll say, "I'll go and return to my first husband,
→because it was better for me then than it is now."
8 No, she hadn't known that it was me who gave her the grain, the new wine and the oil,
and who lavished gold and silver on her,
→which they then used for Ba'al.
9 Therefore I'll take my grain back in its time,
and my new wine in its season.
I'll take away my wool and my flax
→that were used to cover her nakedness.
10 Now I'll uncover her lewdness as her lovers watch,
but no one can rescue her from my punishment.
11 I'll also put an end to all her mirth,
her feasts, her new-moon celebrations, her rest days, and all her scheduled festivals.
12 "I'll destroy her grapevines and her fig trees,
of which she said, 'Those are my wages that my lovers gave me.'
I'll make them grow wild,
→and then the animals in the countryside will devour them.
13 I'll punish her for the feast days for the Baals,
when she burnt incense to them,
when she adorned herself with her rings and jewellery,
and went after her lovers and forgot me."
That is Yahweh's declaration.

The love of God of his people · Northern kingdom

14 Therefore, listen, I'm going to entice her.
I'll bring her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her.
15 I'll give her back her vineyards,

1 **RV 1:1 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 15:1-7; 2Ch 26:1-23.
2 **RV 1:1 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 15:32-38; 2Ch 27:1-8.
3 **RV 1:1 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 16:1-20; 2Ch 28:1-27.
4 **RV 1:1 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 18:1–20:21; 2Ch 29:1–32:33.
5 **RV 1:1 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 14:23-29.
6 **RV 1:4 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 10:11.
7 **RV 1:10 · Cross-ref.** Rom 9:26.

Readers' Version

and the depressing Akor Valley[8] as a gateway for hope.
She'll answer me there as in the days of her youth—
like at the time that she came out of Mitsrayim (Egypt):
16 "Yahweh declares you'll call me, 'My husband,' at the time
^and no longer call me, 'My master (Heb. Ba'al),'
17 because I'll remove the names of the Baals from her mouth,
and they'll no longer be remembered by their names."
18 "On that day I'll make an agreement for them
with the animals in the fields,
with the birds in the sky,
and with the crawling things on the ground.
I'll abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land,
and I'll make you lie down in safety.
19 I'll take you as my wife forever.
I'll marry you to me in righteousness and justice,
in loyal commitment, and in mercy.
20 I'll be faithful to you as my wife,
and you'll know Yahweh.
21 This is Yahweh's declaration:
At that time I'll answer the skies with rain,
and they'll answer the earth.
22 The earth will answer the grain, the new wine and the oil,
and they'll answer Yizre'el (Jezreel) (which means 'God sows/plants').
23 I will sow her for myself in the land,
and I will have mercy on Lo-Ruhamah ('No mercy').
I will tell Lo-Ami ('Not my people'),
'You are my people,'
and they'll say, 'You're our God.' "[9]

Yahweh's love for his people · Northern kingdom

3:1 Yahweh told me, "Go again and love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as Yahweh loves the Israeli people, even though they turn to other gods and honour them with raisin cakes."
2 So I bought her for myself for fifteen silver coins and ten baskets of barley. 3 I told her, "You must stay with me for some time. You mustn't dabble in prostitution or mess with any other man. In the same way, I'll be true to you."
4 Because the Israeli people will continue for many days without a king or prince, a sacrifice or stone pillar, and an ephod or household idols. 5 Afterwards, the Israeli people will return and want to follow Yahweh their god and David their king, and in the final days, they'll come trembling to Yahweh and to his goodness.

Yahweh's case against Yisrael · Northern kingdom

4:1 Listen to Yahweh's message you Israelis,
because Yahweh has brought a lawsuit against the inhabitants of the land,
because there's no faithfulness or loyal commitment—no knowledge of God in the land.
2 There's cursing, lying, murder, stealing and adultery.
They've broken all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.
3 Therefore the land mourns,
and everyone who lives in it is wasting away,
along with the animals in the countryside and the birds in the sky.
Even the fish in the sea will disappear.

Yahweh's warning to priests · Northern kingdom

4 Despite that, don't let anyone bring a lawsuit,
and don't let them accuse.
Your people are like those who would accuse a priest.
5 You'll stumble during the day.
The prophets will also stumble with you at night,
and I'll destroy Yisrael (Israel) your mother.
6 My people are destroyed because of the lack of knowledge
because you have rejected knowledge and I'll reject you from being a priest to me.
Because you've forgotten your god's instructions,
I'll also forget your children.
7 The more the priests multiplied, the more they sinned against me.
→I will change their high status into shame.
8 They feed on the sin of my people.
They are greedy for their wickedness.
9 It will be like people, like priests.
→I will punish them for their ways
and I will repay them for their actions.
10 They'll eat but never be full.
They'll sleep around but not prosper,
because they've abandoned Yahweh as their protector.

Yahweh's curse on those worshipping false gods · Northern kingdom

11 Drinking and sleeping around destroy the heart.
12 My people consult their wooden idols,
and their divining rods inform them,
because a spirit of unfaithfulness has led them astray,
and they've played the loose woman, departing from their god.
13 They sacrifice on the mountaintops
and burn incense on the hills,
under oaks, poplars and terebinths,
→because the shade is good.
Therefore your daughters prostitute themselves,
and your daughters-in-law commit adultery.
14 I won't punish your daughters when they prostitute themselves,
nor your daughters-in-law when they commit adultery,
because the men themselves go off with loose women,
and they offer sacrifices with cult prostitutes,
→so the people without understanding will be ruined.
15 Though you prostitute yourself, Yisrael (Israel),
don't involve Yehudah (Judah) in what you're doing.
Don't go to Gilgal or to Beyt-Aven,

8 **RV 2:15 · Cross-ref.** Josh 7:24-26.
9 **RV 2:23 · Cross-ref.** Rom 9:25; 1Pe 2:10.

Readers' Version

and don't make an oath, saying, 'As Yahweh lives.'
16 Yisrael is stubborn, like a stubborn heifer.
Can Yahweh now feed them like lambs in a large paddock?
17 Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim) is joined to idols.
Leave them alone.
18 Even when their drinking is over,
they prostitute themselves continually.
Her rulers dearly love their shame.
19 The wind will wrap them up in its wings,
and they'll be ashamed because of their sacrifices.
5:1 "Hear this, you priests.
Pay attention, you Israelis.
Listen, you household of the king,
because the judgement is for you,
because you have all been a snare at Mitspah
and a net spread over Mt. Tavor.
2 The rebels stand deep in slaughter,
→but I will discipline all of them.
3 I know Yisrael,
and Yisrael (Israel) isn't hidden from me.
You've prostituted yourself for now, Yisrael.
Yisrael is defiled.
4 Their past actions won't allow them to return to their god,
because they have a spirit of prostitution within them,
and they don't know Yahweh.

Hoshea's warning against idolatry · Northern kingdom

5 Yisrael's (Israel's) arrogance testifies against them,
Yisrael—yes, Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim)—will stumble in their guilt.
Yehudah (Judah) also will stumble with them.
6 They'll go to inquire from Yahweh, taking their flocks and herds for sacrifices,
but they won't hear from him because he's withdrawn from them.
7 They were unfaithful to Yahweh because they've borne illegitimate children.
Now the new moon festivals will devour them along with their fields.
8 Blow the horn in Giveah,
and the trumpet in Ramah.
Sound the alarm at Beyt-Aven:
'We'll follow you into battle, Benyamin!'

The war between Yehudah and Yisrael · Northern kingdom

9 Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim) will become uninhabited in the time of punishment.
Among Yisrael's tribes I declare what will certainly happen.
10 Yehudah's (Judah's) leaders are like thieves who move a boundary.
I'll pour my anger out on them like water from a jug.
11 Yisrael is oppressed.
It's crushed in judgement,
because it was determined to honour idols.
12 So I'll be like a moth to Yisrael,
and like rot to Yehudah's descendants.
13 When Yisrael saw its sickness,
and Yehudah its wound,
then Yisrael went to Ashur (Assyria),
and sent to the great king there.
But he can't cure you
or heal your wound,
14 because I'll be like a lion to Yisrael,
and like a young lion to Yehudah's descendants.
I myself will tear them apart then go away.
I'll carry them off and there'll be no one to rescue them.
15 I'll go and return to my place,
until they acknowledge their guilt and strive to do what I've told them—
until in their distress, they make a sincere decision to obey me."
6:1 "Come on, let's return to Yahweh.
He tore us apart, but he'll heal us.
He struck us down, but he'll bandage our wounds.

Insincere repentance · Northern kingdom

2 After two days he'll revive us.
He'll raise us up on the third day,
so that we can live in his presence.
3 Let us know—let's press on to know Yahweh.
His arrival is certain as the dawn.
He will come to us like the showers—
like the spring rains that water the earth."
4 What will I do with you, Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim)?
Yehudah (Judah), what will I do with you?
Your love is like a morning cloud that doesn't last long—
like the dew that quickly disappears.
5 That's why I've cut them to pieces by means of the prophets.
I've killed them with the messages that I've spoken.
My judgement is like the light that shines out.
6 because I desire loyal commitment rather than sacrifices,[10]
and knowledge about God rather than burnt offerings.
7 Like Adam, they broke the agreement.
They were unfaithful to me.
8 Gilead is a city full of evildoers
leaving behind bloody footprints.
9 Just like a band of raiders lie in wait for a man,
so the priests band together to commit murder on the way to Shekem.
Surely they've committed shameful crimes.
10 I've seen a horrible thing among the Israelis.
Yisrael's prostitution is there—Yisrael (Israel) is defiled.
11 A harvest has been appointed for you also, Yehudah (Judah),
when I restore my people's fortunes.
7:1 Whenever I'd heal Yisrael, Yisrael's sin is exposed,
as well as the evil actions of Shomron (Samaria).
Yes, they're deceitful, plus thieves break in,
and a group of raiders robs people in the streets.

10 RV 6:6 · Cross-ref. Mat 9:13; 12:7.

Readers' Version

2 But they don't realise in their hearts that I remember all their evil.
Now their past actions surround them—they're staring at me in the face.

The betrayal of people of King and teacher ran · Northern kingdom

3 They make the king glad with their evil,
and the leaders with their lies.
4 They're all adulterers, like an oven overheated by the baker.
He shouldn't have stoked the fire from the kneading of the dough until after it's risen.
5 On our king's day, the leaders became red in the face from the wine.
Then he joined in with those who were mocking.
6 Because with their hearts like an oven, they get closer to implementing their plot.
Their anger smoulders all night—in the morning it bursts into flame.
7 All of them are hot as an oven and they devour those who rule over them.
All their kings have fallen—none of them called to me for help.

Yisrael and the other nations · Northern kingdom

8 Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim) mixes itself among the peoples.
Yisrael is a flat cake that's only been cooked on one side.
9 Foreigners have devoured his strength, but he hasn't realised that.
Gray hairs are now mixed in, but he hasn't noticed them.
10 Yisrael's pride testifies against it,
yet they haven't returned to their god Yahweh,
nor have they tried to obey all his instructions. 11 Yisrael is like a dove, heartless and foolish,
calling to Mitsrayim (Egypt) for help, then trying Ashur (Assyria).
12 When they go there, I'll spread my net over them.
I'll bring them down like the birds in the sky.
→I'll discipline them according to what they report back to their council.
13 They won't end well because they've strayed from me.
Devastation will hit them because they've rebelled against me.
→I would have bought them back, but they told lies about me.
14 They don't cry to me from their heart, but they wail on their beds.
They gather together for grain and new wine, but they turn away from me.
15 Although I trained them and helped them become strong,
they still plot evil against me.
16 They return, but not upward.
They're like a slack bow.
Their leaders will die by the sword because they've been so insolent.
That's why Mitsrayim (Egypt) will mock them.

Yisrael's rejection of God · Northern kingdom

8:1 "Blow the trumpet—
someone like a vulture is swooping over Yahweh's residence
because Yahweh's people have transgressed my covenant
and rebelled against my law.
2 They call out to me,
'My god, we in Yisrael (Israel) know you.'
3 Yisrael has rejected what's good.
An enemy will chase after them.
4 They appointed kings, but not through me.
They've appointed leaders but I didn't know about it.
They've made idols for themselves with their gold and silver
so they'll end up being destroyed."
5 "Your calf has been rejected, Shomron (Samaria).
My anger burns against them.
For how long will they be incapable of innocence,
6 because it came from Yisrael (Israel)—a craftsman made it.
It's not God.
That calf in Shomron will end up in pieces,
7 because they sow the wind and harvest the whirlwind.
The standing grain has no heads—it yields no flour.
If it were to produce, strangers would grab it anyway.
8 Yisrael is swallowed up.
Now they're among the nations like a cup that no one likes
9 because they've gone up to Ashur (Assyria)—a wild donkey all alone.
Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim) has hired lovers for herself.
10 Even though they hire lovers among the nations, now I'll gather them together.
They'll begin to diminish under the burden of the king of princes.
11 Since Yisrael has set up multiple altars for sin offerings,
they have become altars for their sinning.
12 Even if I wrote down my instructions for them ten thousand times,
they would regard them as something strange.
13 As for my sacrificial gifts, they sacrifice meat and eat it,
but Yahweh doesn't accept their sacrifices.
Now he will remember their disobedience
and punish their sins.
They will return to Mitsrayim (Egypt).
14 Yisrael (Israel) has forgotten his maker and has built palaces.
Yehudah (Judah) has fortified many cities,
but I'll send fire into their cities—
it'll devour their fortresses.

Punishment coming for Yisrael · Northern kingdom

9:1 Don't celebrate, Yisrael (Israel), with joy like the peoples,
because you've prostituted yourself—forsaking your god.
You've loved the wages of a sex-worker on all the threshing floors.

Readers' Version

2 The grain threshing floor and the wine-pressing pit won't provide enough
and the grape harvest will fail them.
3 The people won't remain on Yahweh's land,
instead, Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim) will return to Mitsrayim (Egypt),
and they'll eat non-kosher food in Ashur (Assyria).
4 They won't pour out wine offerings to Yahweh,
and their sacrifices won't please him.
To them, it'll be like the food at a funeral—
everyone who eats it will become defiled.
Their food will only be for themselves to eat—
it won't be allowed into Yahweh's residence.
5 So what will you do on the day of a scheduled celebration,
and on the day of a festival for Yahweh?
6 Listen, even if they avoid destruction,
Mitsrayim (Egypt) will gather them.
Nof (Memphis) city will bury them.
Nettles will possess their valuable silver.
Thornbushes will be in their tents.
7 The days of punishment have come.
The days of retribution have come.[11]
Let Yisrael (Israel) know these things.
The prophet is a fool,
the man of the spirit is insane,
because of the extent of your disobedience
and your intense hostility.
8 The prophet is the watchman over Yisrael with my god,
but the bird-catcher's traps are on all of his paths,
and there's hostility in his god's house.
9 They have deeply corrupted themselves as in the time of Giveah.[12]
He will remember their iniquity.
He will punish their sins.

The consequences of Yisrael's sin · Northern kingdom

10 I found Yisrael (Israel) like someone finding grapes there in the wilderness.
Like the first fruit on the fig tree in its first season, I saw your ancestors.
But they came to Ba'al-Pe'or and they devoted themselves to that shameful thing.
They became detestable like that which they loved.[13]
11 As for Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim), their splendour will fly away like a bird—
no birth, no pregnancy, and no conception.
12 Even if they bring up their children, I'll cause them all to die one by one.
Yes, it certainly won't end well when I turn away from them!
13 Yisrael, as I have seen, is like Tsor (Tyre) planted in a meadow,
yet Yisrael will bring his children out to the slaughterman."
14 Give them something, Yahweh—what will you give?
Give them a womb that miscarries, and breasts with no milk.

God's judgement of Yisrael · Northern kingdom

15 "All their evil is in Gilgal—indeed I came to hate them there.
Because of the wickedness of their actions, I'll drive them out of my house.
I won't love them any more—all their leaders are rebels.
16 Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim) is stricken—its root has withered so now it can't bear any fruit.
Even if they give birth, I will kill the precious ones of their womb."

The prophet's message about Yisrael · Northern kingdom

17 My god will reject them because they haven't listened to him.
→They will become wanderers among the nations.
10:1 Yisrael (Israel) is a luxuriant vine that produces his fruit.
→The more his fruit increased, the more altars he built.
As his land prospered, he improved his sacred pillars.
2 Their heart is deceitful.
→Now they must bear their guilt.
He will break down their altars.
He'll destroy their pillars.
3 Now they'll say, "We don't have any king,
because we don't respect Yahweh,
and what advantage would it be to us to have a king?"
4 They speak mere words.
They make agreements with worthless promises.
So judgement springs up like poisonous weeds in the furrows of a field.
5 The inhabitants of Shomron (Samaria) will be afraid about what will happen to the calf of Beyt-Aven.
Indeed, its people will mourn over it, as will its idolatrous priests who had rejoiced over it
and over its splendour because it's departed from them.
6 The thing itself will be carried to Ashur (Assyria) as tribute for the great king.
Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim) will receive shame,
and Yisrael (Israel) will be ashamed of its idol.
7 The king of Shomron will be removed,
like a twig getting carried out of sight by a river.
8 The high places of Aven, the place of Yisrael's sin, will be destroyed.
Thorns and thistles will grow up on their altars.
Then they'll say to the mountains, 'Cover us!'
and to the hills, 'Fall on us.'[14]

11 **RV 9:7 · Cross-ref.** Luk 21:22.
12 **RV 9:9 · Cross-ref.** Jdg 19:1-30.
13 **RV 9:10 · Cross-ref.** Num 25:1-5.
14 **RV 10:8 · Cross-ref.** Luk 23:30; Rev 6:16.

Readers' Version

God coming punishment for Yisrael · Northern kingdom

9 "Yes, Yisrael (Israel), you've been sinning since the time of Giveah.[15]
There they have remained.
Won't the war against the sons of injustice overtake them in Giveah?
10 When I'm ready, I'll discipline them,
and the nations will be gathered against them when they're taken in chains for their two sins.
11 Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim) is a trained heifer that loves to thresh and I spared her fair neck,
but I will harness Yisrael.
Yehudah (Judah) will plough.
Ya'akov (Jacob) will harrow the ground for himself.
12 Sow righteousness for yourselves.
→Harvest in accordance with loyal commitment.
Break up your fallow ground because it's time to seek Yahweh,
→until he comes and rains righteousness on you.
13 You have ploughed wickedness and harvested injustice.
You've eaten the fruit of lies
because you trusted in your own way—in your many warriors.
14 Therefore a confused alarm will sound among your people and all your fortresses will be destroyed,
just like Shalman destroyed Beyt-Arbel on the day of battle when mothers were dashed to pieces with their children.
15 Then it will also be done to you, Beyt-El (Bethel), because of your great wickedness.
At dawn, Yisrael's (Israel's) king will be destroyed."

God's love for his disobedient people · Northern kingdom

11:1 "When Yisrael (Israel) was a child I loved him,
and I called my son out of Mitsrayim (Egypt).[16]
2 The more the godly people called them, the more they went away from them.
They kept sacrificing to the Baals
and burning incense for idols.
3 Yet it was me who taught Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim) to walk.
I took them by their arms, but they didn't know that I healed them.
4 I led them with ropes of human kindness—
with iron bands of love.
I was to them like someone who loosened the yoke on their jaws,
and I bent down to them and fed them.
5 They won't return to Mitsrayim (Egypt),
but Ashur (Assyria) will become their king,
because they refused to return to me.
6 The sword will whirl against their cities,
and destroy the locking bars on their gates,
and devour them because of their own plans.
7 My people are insistent on turning away from me.
Though they call to the highest one, he won't lift them up.
8 How can I give you up, Yisrael?
How can I hand you over, Yisrael (Israel)?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I make you like Tsevoim?[17]
My heart is turned over within me—
all my compassions are aroused.
9 I won't put my fierce anger into action.
I won't destroy Yisrael again,
because I'm God
and not a human,
the holy one among you,
and I won't come in anger.
10 They'll decide to follow Yahweh—he'll roar like a lion.
When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west.
11 They will come trembling like a bird from Mitsrayim (Egypt)—
like a dove from Ashur (Assyria).
I'll settle them in their homes
That's what Yahweh declares.

Judgement on Yisrael and Yehudah · Both kingdoms

12 Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim) has surrounded me with lies,
and the people of Yisrael (Israel) with deceit,
but Yehudah (Judah) still goes about with God,
and is faithful to the holy one."
12:1 Yisrael feeds on the wind
and pursues the east wind all day.
He multiplies lies and violence.
They make a covenant with Ashur (Assyria)
and olive oil is carried to Mitsrayim (Egypt).
2 Yahweh also has a dispute with Yehudah (Judah),
and will punish Ya'akov (Jacob) for what they've done.
He will repay them according to how they behaved.
3 In the womb he took his brother by the heel,[18]
and in his manhood he struggled with God.
4 He struggled with the messenger and prevailed.
He wept and begged for his favour.
He found Yahweh at Beyt-El (Bethel)
and he spoke with us there.
5 Yahweh, the god of armies.
Yahweh is his famous name.
6 But you must return to your god.
Keep loyal commitment and justice,
and wait continually for your god.

15 **RV 10:9 · Cross-ref.** Jdg 19:1-30.
16 **RV 11:1 · Cross-ref.** Exo 4:22; Mat 2:15.
17 **RV 11:8 · Cross-ref.** Deu 29:23.
18 **RV 12:3 · Cross-ref.** Gen 25:26.

Readers' Version

The other still judging · Northern kingdom

7 A merchant has false scales in his hands.
He loves to oppress.
8 Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim) said, "Fantastic. I've become rich.
I've found wealth for myself.
In all my labours they won't find disobedience in me,
which would be sin."
9 "I'm Yahweh your god since I rescued you from Mitsrayim (Egypt).
I'll make you live in shelters again,
as in the days of that particular festival.[19]
10 I spoke to the prophets,
and gave them many visions.
By the hand of the prophets I gave parables."
11 If there's disobedience in Gilead,
surely they're worthless.
In Gilgal they sacrifice bulls.
Their altars also will be like piles of stones beside the furrows in the fields.
12 Ya'akov (Jacob) fled to Aram (Syria).
Yisrael (Israel) worked to earn a wife,
and for a wife, he kept sheep.[20]
13 Yahweh used the prophet Mosheh (Moses) to bring Yisrael out of Mitsrayim (Egypt),[21]
and so Yisrael was preserved by a prophet.
14 Yisrael has provoked bitter anger,
so his master will hold him to account for bloodshed
and will turn his insults back onto himself.

Final judgement on Yisrael · Northern kingdom

13:1 "When Efrayim (Ephraim) spoke, there was trembling.
He promoted himself in Yisrael (Israel),
but he became guilty through Ba'al and died.
2 Now they disobey God more and more,
and they make cast metal images for themselves—
idols skillfully made from their silver—
all of them the work of craftsmen.
They say about them, 'Those who sacrifice people, kiss calves.'
3 Therefore they'll be like the morning clouds,
and like the dew that goes away early,
like the chaff that swirls from the threshing floor,
and like smoke exiting an open window.
4 But I'm your god Yahweh who brought you out of Mitsrayim (Egypt),
and you were to consider no god except me,
because there's no saviour other than me.
5 I knew you out there in the wilderness,
in the region of drought.
6 When they had their pasture, then they became full.
They were filled, and their heart became lifted up,
so they just forgot me.
7 So I will become like a lion to them.
Like a leopard, I'll lurk along the path.
8 I'll attack them like a bear that's been robbed of her cubs.
I'll rip open their chests and devour them there like a lion—
like a wild animal would tear them apart.
9 He destroys you, Yisrael (Israel).
because you're against me—against your helper.
10 Where's your king now to save you in all your cities,
and your other leaders
that you'd talked about, saying, 'Give me a king and princes'?[22]
11 I gave you a king in my anger,[23]
then I took him away in my rage.[24]
12 Yisrael's (Israel's; Heb. Efrayim) disobedience is wrapped up.
His sin is stored up.
13 Pains of childbirth will come on him,
but he's an unwise son,
because he fails to present himself at the right time when the womb opens.
14 Will I ransom them from the hand of the grave?
Will I redeem them from death?
Death, where are your plagues?
Grave, where is your destruction?[25]
My eyes won't be displaying any compassion."
15 Though he flourishes among his brothers, an east wind will come.
Yahweh's wind will come up from the wilderness.
His fountain will dry up,
and his spring will be parched.
It will plunder every precious object from his treasury.
16 Shomron (Samaria) will be held guilty,
because she's rebelled against her god.
They will fall by the sword.
Their young children will be dashed to pieces,
and their pregnant women will be ripped open.

The mercy of Hoshea of Israelis · Northern kingdom

14:1 Yisrael (Israel), return to your god Yahweh,
because you've stumbled as a result of your iniquity.
2 Prepare what you're going to say and return to Yahweh.
Tell him, "Take away all our disobedience and accept what is good,

19 **RV 12:9 · Cross-ref.** Lev 23:42-43.
20 **RV 12:12 · Cross-ref.** Gen 29:1-20.
21 **RV 12:13 · Cross-ref.** Exo 12:50-51.
22 **RV 13:10 · Cross-ref.** 1Sam 8:5-6.
23 **RV 13:11 · Cross-ref.** 1Sam 10:17-24.
24 **RV 13:11 · Cross-ref.** 1Sam 15:26.
25 **RV 13:14 · Cross-ref.** 1Cor 15:55.

Readers' Version

so that we can offer praise from our lips.
3 Ashur (Assyria) can't save us.
We won't ride on war-horses.
Nor will we say, 'Our god,' again to anything that we've made ourselves
because this fatherless nation finds compassion in you."
4 "I will heal their waywardness.
I'll love them freely
because my anger has turned away from them.
5 To Yisrael (Israel), I will be like the dew.
He will blossom like a lily flower
and take root like a cedar tree in Levanon.
6 His shoots will sprout.
His beauty will be like that of olive trees,
and his fragrance like the cedars in Levanon.
7 Those who live in Yisrael's shadow will return.
They will revive like the grain
and blossom like the grapevine.
His fame will be like the wine of Levanon.
8 Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim), what more do I have to do with idols?
It's me who answer and look after him.
I'm like a flourishing cypress tree—
your fruit comes from me."

Conclusion

9 Let those who are wise, understand these things.
Anyone who's discerning, let them know them
because Yahweh's ways are right,
and righteous people will follow them,
but transgressors will stumble in them.

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