

(Note: The following e-mail study-commentary by C J McKnight on the subject of **THE MINOR PROPHETS (Jonah, Hosea)** covers the time it was begun on December 11 2007 to May 24, 2008 .)

MINOR PROPHETS:

JONAH 1.

INTRODUCTION. Jonah, meaning dove or pigeon. Old Testament names were often expressive of the nature of the person so named. He prophesied in the days of Jeroboam II. 2 Kings 14:25 The son of Amittai, meaning the truth of Jehovah. He originated from Gath-hepher, meaning, the wine press of the two wells, or the double portion. The double portion is indicative of revival, and Jonah most certainly was involved in one. There are two great experiences recorded in the book concerning his life and ministry. The Three day and three nights spent in the belly of the great fish and the repentance of a city. Both of which, are miraculous.

Chapter 1: Jonah called, fled only to be caught by a fish.

Chapter 2: Jonah repented, consequently was delivered.

Chapter 3: Called a second time. Willing and obedient.

Chapter 4: Nineveh repented. Jonah frustrated and rebuked.

JONAH CALLED, DISOBEYED, CONSEQUENCES.

Chapter. 1:1 NOW, THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME. The call of Jonah was by the book, the Word of the Lord. What better assurance could one have than that of a call based on the Word of the LORD or Jehovah. There is nothing more assuring, when faced by discouragement, than to know that we can turn to the Word, that with which He has called us, for reassurance. He was the spokesman of the Lord proclaiming to the people the will and Word of the LORD. His message to Nineveh was powerful, convincing and straight forward. Because of the call of the LORD, his message was convicting and had a profound effect. His preaching was successful because he was called of the LORD to the task. Ministry is not a profession, it is a calling conveyed by the Holy Spirit. Those standing behind pulpits who have not had a definite call to ministry should find employment somewhere other than in the church. The call of the Lord may

be after a spectacular manner or can be a still small voice. It might even be by means of a word of knowledge which the Lord drops into our heart. Whatever method the Lord may use it is still very real to the person called into the service of the King of kings.

JONAH 2

The call and commission of Jonah was one of great responsibility. He was to take a message of judgment to a city of such extreme wickedness that their vileness had been noted by the Lord. So wicked had they become that it had entered into the presence of the Lord. Go to Nineveh. Jonah 1:2 This city was the capitol of Assyria. Asshur, a descendent of Ham was it's founder and builder. Gen. 10:11 The same condition was stated concerning Sodom and Gomorrah. Gen. 18:20 The like situation will prevail in the harlot church in the end of the age. So much so, that her reward will be a double portion of judgment. Rev. 18:5-6 The record of the scriptures show us that when unrighteousness prevailed, the Lord would send a prophet with a powerful message to the people. In mercy, they would warn them of impending events of judgment, except they repent. The end of the age will see a strong ministry of the Word, leading to repentance.

Jonah rose up to flee. Not necessarily an unusual reaction. His purpose was to get as far away from the call and presence of the Lord as he could possibly go. Fleeing from the LORD is not an unusual thing. Many have fled from Him trying to avoid salvation as well as the call of the LORD. How foolish. Who can successfully flee from the presence of the living, Omnipresent God. There is no hiding place available to mankind. Ps. 139:7-12 Jonah is on the brink of learning the greatest and most important lesson of his life. Not a pleasant season for certain, but when he obeyed the LORD there were tremendous results. A life lived in disobedience can be very stormy and filled with turmoil.

Jonah is now headed in the wrong direction. His path is leading him downward, for he went down to Joppa. Joppa, means to shine or beauty. Being situated on the Mediterranean it had an appeal to him as a city where he could lose himself in it's natural beauty. Then too, it was a port city and by boat, he could get yet farther away from the call of the Lord. He found himself a ship sailing for Tarshish, just the opposite direction from

Nineveh. It is most unfortunate for him that this move places him in direct conflict with the Lord. Not a pleasant position for anyone. Solomon had a fleet of ships which were named after this city. They brought gold, silver, ivory, apes and peacocks to him, every three years. 1 Kings 10:22 In an age where so much emphasis is placed on the riches of the world, from the pulpit it is difficult not to take special note of ancient reputation of the ship and its destination. Paul associated those who have a great desire to be rich as people who are drowning. How interesting. "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 1 Tim. 6:9

JONAH 3

Jonah paid the fare. Jonah 1:3 Did he ever. What ever he paid in shekels or the money used by him, he had no conception of the most unique experience which was ahead of him. Had he any notion of what was to happen to him, he would never have boarded a boat of any kind. To obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken than the fat of rams. 1 Sam. 15:22 It is not possible to run from the will of the Lord and not have to pay the price for such actions. Jonah made his second turn down when he went down into the ship. Foolish steps made by a man who was running from the will of the Lord. There is but one direction of travel for those who find themselves outside of the will of the Lord, and that is down. While most cry out for the presence of the Lord and find it a very desirable state of affairs. Every individual who runs from the Lord will be most miserable.

The resistance of Jehovah against such actions was to use a great and extremely strong wind (Hebrew. Ruach, breath, wind or spirit). Jonah 1:4 That wind presence of the Spirit may be damaging or beneficial. On the day of Pentecost, it was a mighty rushing wind that was present when they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:2 The presence of the Lord is depicted as walking upon the wings of the wind. Ps. 104:3 The word tempest has as its root word a whirlwind, a hurricane. It is questionable that the captain and the crew had ever been in such frightening seas. The creaking, the groaning of the boat would elicit great consternation. The wind and the waves were so strong that the ship was about to be broken up by the great tempest. This was a storm such as only the Lord could create. Be certain that it was unusually strong.

The sailors recognized the uniqueness of the storm. Even though they were most likely seasoned sailors, great consternation and fear gripped them. Like most people, in the storms of life, they prayed to their gods. They must have represented a multiplicity of gods, yet there was no answer from any of them. And, reasonably so, for this was a mighty gale sent by the Lord God. There is no god which can be victorious over His power and will. Such great fear took hold of them that they threw the cargo overboard. This would create financial loss for them. Face to face with fear and death, nothing in this world has any value but the will to live.

But Jonah. Totally unaware of the storm which he had caused. Was somewhere, below the deck, DOWN in the ship, soundly asleep. Actually, the Hebrew word indicates one who is stunned, stupefied or deadly asleep. Jonah was completely out of touch with reality. Foolishly, he was of the opinion that he had thwarted the purpose and call of the Lord and was well on his way to a complete escape. He was acting under a disillusion which was about to end. Jonah. 1:5 He was in deep trouble.

JONAH. 4

Jonah was confronted by the angry and worried Captain of the ship and was rebuked for his actions under such dire circumstances. The shipmaster wanted to be certain that each and every man was calling on his God, whoever and whatever that might be and that certainly included Jonah. The Captain was in such desperate straits that he was ready to believe in any God, which ever one worked and could save his ship and their lives. He was like the person who will support any religious cause, with the hope that somehow they will have given to the right God, and when it comes to eternal life, their alms will be remembered. Sorry, it does not work that way. Jonah 1:6 The shipmaster does not recognize any difference between the gods of the sailors and the God of Jonah. The Hebrew word used for both is the same, i.e. elohiym. The fact that the God of Jonah is capitalized would acknowledge the true God, if the Captain used it in that manner.

The suspicious crew, with the common superstition of that day, had come to the idea that someone on the ship was indeed responsible for their horrible circumstances. Whoever it was, must have committed some terrible and heinous crime. So the decision was made to cast lots as a way

of determining who the guilty party might be. Jonah, of course, was chosen. For certain this was one occasion where the hand of the Lord was involved in the revelation of the individual who was the cause of their fearful situation. Jonah 1:7

Having settled on Jonah as the source of their problem, they began the inquisition. Their very first question was to get a confession from Jonah as to the cause of the tremendous storm. Jonah 1:8 His confession of guilt and cause is found in verse 12. He acknowledged that the great tempest was because of him. However, prior to his confession, he stalled and answered their other questions first. He proclaimed himself to be a Hebrew. One who feared, revered the LORD. That was a religious misstatement. Were it true the story of Jonah would not exist. His running from the LORD showed his lack of reverence. He did differentiate between their gods and the God of creation, the God of heaven. The Master of the seas and the Creator of the same and the dry land. Jonah 1:9

His testimony created great fear in the hearts of these seasoned sailors. Why, O, why have you done such a thing? Their lives were placed in jeopardy by the rebellious actions of this man who was called to be a prophet of the Most High. Why was he running? Perhaps he had a personal grudge against the people of Nineveh. It could well have been racial. As a prophet in Israel he may have received more attention and praise among his own. Whatever his cause. He was out of step with the LORD.

JONAH. 5

The confession of Jonah was full and complete. He revealed to the crew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD. Jonah 1:10 Out of their deep fear they continue to question his motive. Why would anyone attempt to run from the LORD, or even attempt to resist Him, as did Saul. He found himself unable to resist the mighty strength and constant goading of the Lord. Acts 9:5, 26:14 To attempt to go contrary to the will of the Lord is to lose the battle and to suffer affliction.

The problem, what to do with Jonah. One who is out of the will of the Lord is a constant source of irritation and is always creating a problem for themselves and others who are around them. Jonah knew and gave the solution to them. Just throw me overboard. Jonah was not about to commit

suicide by jumping over the side of the ship himself. The sailors did not want to commit murder by casting him overboard. They had one huge problem. The winds and waves did not let up but intensified. They were in the midst of a mighty storm with hurricane winds and waves tossing in every direction. Jonah admitted that it was because of his attitude toward the call of the Lord that they were in this predicament. Jonah 1:11-12

Not wanting to take Jonah's life and desiring to save their own, they rowed all the harder trying to beach the ship. All to no avail for the winds only increased and the waves rose higher in resistance to their efforts. Most likely they were losing ground rather than gaining headway. Jonah 1:13 They learned that it is impossible to fight against the will of the Lord. He does that which pleases Him. Ps. 115:3 Under any circumstances, Jonah was going to Nineveh. The Lord would see to that

Men who apparently had a variety of gods among them suddenly pray to the LORD (Jehovah). They cried, called out or shouted to the LORD. Not in disrespect but under the pressure of the conditions in which they found themselves, they prayed earnestly, sincerely and fervently. It was most definitely time to seek the LORD, they had a real dilemma on their hands. Their prayer was unto the LORD (Jehovah) the God of Israel. They approached the LORD by using His name. They were acknowledging Him as God. Their own gods were forgotten or shunned for the true and living God. It was a prayer of repentance and seeking forgiveness for the action they were about to take against Jonah. It was most definitely a prayer of sincerity and humility before the Lord. People who are desperate usually pray. Unfortunately, it is seldom a prayer of repentance but one seeking help and deliverance out of a distressful situation. Consider also, that in their prayer they let the Lord know that He had placed them all in the circumstances under which they now found themselves. Their only possible solution was to toss Jonah into the raging waters. Jonah 1:14

JONAH. 6

With Jonah cast out of the ship and into the sea, there was an immediate calm. What a shocking turn of events that must have been for the crew. They had been in the midst of a tremendous tempest with great seas and

then, absolute calm the minute Jonah hit the water. When they threw him from the deck to the sea, it was another step DOWN for Jonah. Jonah 1:15 The reaction of the crew was one of great, exceeding fear. They were awe stricken at the manifestation of the great power of the Lord. At the same time, all that they had been through demonstrated to them that there was a true God and they had great reverence for Him. So much so, that they made a sacrifice of thanksgiving unto the LORD. They also made vows or promises unto the LORD. If they had not been convinced that the LORD was the true God, they were now. They were Jonah's first converts on his missionary trip. He really did not have much to do with their decisions, he was just the cause. Jonah 1:16

In lieu of catching the fish, Jonah was caught of the great fish. All argument as to the species is laid aside in view of the fact that the LORD prepared a fish. Jonah 1:17 Matthew quoted Jesus as having called it the belly of a whale, a huge fish. Mt. 12:40 It would have been a simple matter for the Lord to have prepared a large fish with a stomach large enough for Jonah. Then too, Jonah may not have been a large man.

The prophets of old were used of the Lord to introduce certain Messianic statements and events. Jonah was to be in his coffin, the fishes stomach, for three days and three nights. This is not a Jewish idiom but a statement of fact. Jonah spent a full seventy two hours incarcerated in the cavity of this great fish. The statement, three days and three nights, embraces the total period of time, or seventy two hours. Jonah 1:17b

Jesus gave extreme importance to this particular three days and three nights by stating that it was to be the only sign to be given to His generation of Israelites. For as Jonah spent a full three days and nights in the belly of the fish, so, the Son of man, the Lord Jesus would spend three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The language is very plain, For as Jonah, so the Son of man. The Lord Jesus was to spend an identical period of time in the tomb. There is no indication, whatsoever, of this period of time being shortened from a total of seventy two hours. To make it to be anything less is to put a lie in the mouth of our Lord. It is time to be set free from traditions and untruths and believe the word of the Lord, for it alone is truth. Buy the truth. Prov. 23:23 To embrace the truth of the Word may cost

much more than silver or gold but there is great joy in knowing the truth and embracing it.

JONAH 7

Few, if any, have a problem accepting the fact that Jonah spent a full three days and nights in the belly of the great fish. As we have noted, Jesus said that He would spend the same period of time in death. Mt. 12:40 He used the incident with Jonah as an example of the time that He would experience in the grave. In no way can a time expressed as being three days and three nights be misconstrued into being a portion of three days. Jonah was a full three days and three nights in the fish. Jesus was a full three days and three nights in the tomb. That amounts to a hourly measurement of seventy two hours.

Jesus is our Passover. 1 Cor. 5:7b Jesus was crucified on the day of preparation for that was the day on which Joseph of Arimathea requested and received the body of Jesus for burial. Mark 15:42-45 This day is called the day before the Sabbath. However it was not the weekly Sabbath but the special Sabbath noted as being "an high day." John 19:31 In the week of His crucifixion there were two Sabbaths, this special Sabbath and the weekly Sabbath. The fourteenth day, at even was the beginning of the feast of Passover, the fifteenth day was the beginning of the feast of unleavened bread and was the day called the Sabbath. Lev. 23:5-8 Jesus was crucified on Wednesday and was resurrected some time after sundown on Saturday, after the weekly Sabbath. He is not a man that He should lie. Num. 23:19 The linking of His time in death to Jonah was to be the only sign given. There are other ways of expressing partial days and nights. The statement of Jesus is positive and definite, a complete three days and three nights. That cannot be accomplished with a Friday crucifixion, no matter how the days are twisted into being three days and three nights.

(THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS)

WEDNESDAY - (THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY) - SUNDAY

Crucified	night-day 1	night-day 2	night-day 3	He is risen
	Special		Weekly	
	Sabbath		Sabbath	

Because the Jews of that day reckoned the night first and then the day we have followed that in the simple chart above. Jonah, the dove was a type of the Lord Jesus, the gentle one, in His death, burial and resurrection. We dare not dismiss the afore going fact of three days and three nights less we misguide the body of Christ into the traditions of men and not the pure doctrine of the Lord Jesus.

JONAH 8

A prayer of desperation. How confident was Jonah when he told the crew that the answer of a calm sea was to cast him into it. He obviously faced certain death for the waters were rough and raging. Then, to be swallowed by a great fish and be plunged into total darkness in its stomach. Jonah prayed (who wouldn't). Jonah 2:1 From his prayer, which was most certainly a prayer of utter desperation, he anticipated an answer of deliverance. Jonah was for all practical purposes, dead. Yet, his spirit had not left his body. His experience was unique. The Lord gave him a special dispensation. The Lord at times allows certain situations to develop in our lives so that out of a spirit of anguish we might call upon Him. How pathetic that we allow ourselves to come to a place where prayer is the only escape hatch available. Jonah 2:1

In the fishes belly. The stench would have been horrible and nauseating. The amount of space limited. He was awash in the gastric juices of the fish. In verse five Jonah stated that he wore a turban of weeds, for the seaweeds were wrapped around his head. The condition in which he found himself was anything but comfortable. The Lord was really putting pressure on him. Let's not wait for adverse circumstances to develop in our lives before we pray and make the necessary commitment to the Lord. Why wait until we are chastened to pray. Isa. 26:16

The prayer uttered by Jonah was not a silent prayer but a cry, a calling out loudly. A prayer of travail, and anguish. Imagine yourself in the same kind of a situation, how desperately would you react? It was a prayer born of adversity and great distress. The Lord did not put Jonah up in the best hotel in town but placed him in the most dire of circumstances. Jonah called it the belly of hell (sheol, the pit, grave or hell). He heard, the Lord

heard him. In spite of the condition in which he found himself, Jonah was assured that his prayer had been heard and that the Lord would deliver him. Jonah 2:2 Note that twice in this verse he declared that the Lord had heard him. Truly, the Lord delivers us from all our troubles. Ps. 54:7

Jonah continued by giving us a running account of his emotions and reactions to his predicament. He was cast DOWN, by the Lord, into the deep, the bottom, the muddy place. The fish may well have been a bottom feeder and Jonah would have received the full benefit of the muck from the bottom. He felt himself to be in the very heart of the seas. He could hear the throb and roar of the surging waters and the surf. The flooding waters surrounded him, the billows and the waves passed over him. David, though not in the stomach of a fish, felt the same way as he faced the many difficulties of his life. Ps. 69:1-3 Men used of the Lord have great experiences, both positive and negative. Beloved think it not strange. 1 Pet. 4:12

JONAH 9

Jonah felt as if he were in the belly of hell. The extremely expressive language and explanation which Jonah gives of his condition shows that he felt completely enclosed. He was in the heart of the seas. Floods of water surrounded him. The surging and constant activity of the water around and about him, as it had its effect on the fish, made him feel all the more desolate. Jonah 2:3

Faith and a hope in the Lord are able to conquer all circumstances, regardless of how dismal and seemingly hopeless they are. Jonah, looking at his multiplied problems felt deserted of the Lord. A condition of, out of sight out of mind. Life's difficulties can seem so great in our lives that we feel forsaken of the Lord and alone. However, Jonah had not given up. He anticipated that somehow he would once again look toward the holy temple of the Lord. He expected to be delivered and to live again. Jonah 2:4 We find that other Old Testament saints had the same blessed hope of life after death. For instance, we have Job. He knew that with a resurrected body, he would see God. Job 19:26

David is another who gave testimony of his hope in resurrection. Ps. 17:15 Though David's situation was not the same as Jonah. There was certainly a commonality of the emotions and the manner in which they are expressed. David, the waters have come in unto his soul. He found himself mired in the depths of mud. He too, found that he was over whelmed by the floods of deep waters. While Jonah's problems were actual, David's were symbolical. Nonetheless, they were problems and trials which were overwhelming to him. No Christian is exempt from times of testing and difficulties, but we have the promises of the Word in which we may trust. Many afflictions but deliverance assured in the midst of them all. Ps. 34:19

DOWN, once again we emphasize the direction of the travel of Jonah as he ran from the Lord. He has now lost all independence and is totally at the mercy of the Lord. He found himself to be at the depths of the sea, at the very base of the mountains. He was well aware of his situation and realized that if the Lord did not deliver him, he would be eternally imprisoned. For all practical purposes he was dead. Yet, he possessed a hope of deliverance. He trusted in the Lord not to allow him to enter into mortification and the corruption of his flesh. Jonah 2:6 His words predict the power of resurrection demonstrated in the Lord Jesus Christ. David's words were a Messianic prophecy when He cried out, you will not "suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." Ps. 16:10 There was not one iota of deterioration in either the body of Jonah, or of the Lord Jesus. The power of the Lord maintained their bodies in perfect condition during their ordeal.

JONAH 10

O JEHOVAH, my God. Jonah 2:6 A beautiful acknowledgement of the LORD in whose hands he was now completely surrendered. But for his stubbornness and resistance to the call of God on his life, we would not have the history of his experiences. Nor the example that is all too common to all. Deep, deep trouble and difficulties in life cause people to turn to the Lord for help. Fortunately for humanity, The LORD is a refuge and help during those hard conditions that we face in life. Ps. 9:9

His soul fainted. His physical functions came to an abrupt halt. He could no longer breath. No oxygen was being supplied to his blood. He was actually suspended in a living death. Alive, yet dead. Dead, yet alive. Jonah 2:7 The

same Hebrew word is used by Isaiah in reference to the youth who had fainted, having been caught, as a wild bull, in the net of the Lord. The cause was an utter lack of spiritual emphases. Therefore, “they are full of the fury of the LORD and the rebuke of thy God.” Isa. 51:20 Most definitely Jonah was suffering the consequences of rejecting the will of the Lord. He was dealing with a God who was most displeased with his decisions and actions. Be sure your sin will find you out. Num. 32:23

I remembered the Lord. Strange how so often the Lord is the last source of help to be sought. He would still have been on the run had the Lord not placed Jonah in the current most unhappy circumstances in which we find him. The Lord had not forsaken him, he had forsaken the Lord. Jonah is assured that his prayers were heard and that they had been received of the Lord. Jonah 2:7

Jonah made a terrific observation of that which had brought his current problem upon him. The individual who follows after and believes a lie, in the ultimate, has forsaken their opportunity to rejoice in the mercy of the Lord. Jonah 2:8 Jonah lied to himself in believing that he could disobey the will of the Lord and escape the consequences of such an act. The thoughts and ways of man are empty and futile when compared to the thoughts of the Lord. A prophet is one who must have the true word of the Lord in his heart to declare it to the people. Jonah’s heart and self will deceived him and brought upon him the judgment of the Lord. The instructions of the Lord are that the prophet with the word, is to speak that word faithfully. Jer. 23:38 Jonah had learned his lesson very well. He is now experiencing a complete turn about. He will now, verbally offer sacrifices of praise and worship unto the Lord. We take note, that in his horrible state of affairs, he has vowed to do the will of the Lord. He also recognized that his only hope of a deliverance of any kind was in the hands of the Lord. Therefore he declared that salvation was of the Lord. His hope of liberty and freedom was in the Lord’s hands alone. Jonah 2:9

JONAH 11

“The LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry ground.” Jonah 2:10 What a momentous moment. For the fish, it was good riddance. Jonah, as a rebel, would have been a stomach full and the fish

was relieved to rid itself of him. The fish, gladly obeyed the command of the LORD. Jonah was unceremoniously spewed, vomited from the mouth of the fish. It was a happy moment for both Jonah and the fish. They were now delivered, one of the other.

The sun probably never looked so good to Jonah as when he was released from the darkness of the belly of the fish. Seventy two hours in the gastric juices of the stomach of that fish could have bleached him pretty good. At the very least, there was a strong fish odor about him. The fresh ocean air and the solid footing of the beach were as a joy and delight to him. Just think of the alarm had someone been near to observe his disembarking. The second time, the word of the LORD came to Jonah. The command and the message were still the same. The call came this time to a changed Jonah. He was more than willing to hear what the Lord had to say to him. His response and obedience was immediate. He had spent three days and three nights in death and was now a resurrected Jonah. It changed his life. Jonah 3:1

Every member of the body of Christ is called upon to follow the Lord Jesus into His death, burial and resurrection. Thus, the life of Jonah not only was a type of the Lord Jesus, but becomes an example for us in many ways. Among them, being buried with Christ. Paul taught water baptism to be a burial and a resurrection, whereby the people of the Lord would be able to walk in newness of life. Rom. 6:4 Water baptism is not a church ritual, it is an opportunity to identify with Christ in His experience of death and resurrection. When properly executed it is death to the old carnal nature and a bursting forth into to glorious new life in the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith in the Lord. Faith that when we are baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we identify fully and completely with Him in every aspect of His life. Faith says; that all that Christ is, in every measure, in every aspect is now mine because of water baptism and identification with Him in His death and resurrection. Col. 2:12

The Word teaches us that we should spiritually, be crucified with Christ. Rom. 6:6 Buried with Him. Rom. 6:6 Col. 2:12 His promises include being, now, raised with Him. Eph. 2:6 The same Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead is the Spirit which dwells in the Spirit filled of today and will

demonstrate that Spirit of life in us, if we but believe. He is the quickening power of the Lord which He has made available to all even today. Rom. 8:11

(Note: the following entry was written on Christmas Day, 2007)

Have a day of rejoicing and good tidings, celebrate Jesus.

JONAH 12

Go to Nineveh. Tell them what I tell you to tell them. The Lord had a specific message which He wanted delivered to the people of the city. Jonah 3:1-2 Jonah, in complete obedience to the word of the LORD made his way to Nineveh. No doubt the large fish had vomited him up close to the city, so he did not have far to go. No more cruises, no more ships.

The city of Nineveh was a large city. Jonah 3:3 Its roots were in Babel, Nimrod and Asshur, making it an ancient city, even in the time of Jonah. Gen. 10:8-11 Its location was on the eastern bank of the river Tigris. It is called an exceeding great city which would have made it to be of extensive size. Added to that is the fact that it took Jonah three day to traverse the city and deliver his message. Interesting, is it not, that it took three days, especially so, when Jonah's experience was a type of the Christ in the tomb and his subsequent resurrection. The city would have been somewhere between fifty five to sixty miles long. The population of infants of the city numbered 120,000 (Jonah 4:11) which causes some to estimate the total number of inhabitants to be in the neighborhood of one million. Indeed, a great gathering together of people for those days.

Jonah entered into the city a days journey and began to declare his message. I would surmise that he found a market place, which is the usual place of the dissemination of news where there is no radio or TV. Had Jonah stopped many places to preach his message, it still would have been impossible for the word to have reached all the population. His message was carried by the people as they returned home from making their purchases or selling their goods. In such a fashion it was spread abroad throughout the city. I dare say, that the very first day most of the city had heard about him and his preaching. By the third day, they were well informed.

A message such as his would be a shock to any city. Forty days away from the destruction of the city. Jonah 3:4 There is no opposition mentioned against his words of destruction. The people sincerely and seriously believed God. They had confidence in the message and its messenger. They took action. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth to show their sorrow and repentance from their sins. Remarkably, one hundred percent of the city followed this pattern of seeking the Lord for forgiveness and deliverance. This vast amount of people included all, beginning with the greatest to the very least among them. Jonah 3:5 What a mighty move of the Spirit of the Lord, and that in what was a heathen city. What preacher of today would not rejoice in such a tremendous act of humility and seeking after the true God in response to a message that he had ministered to the people.

JONAH 13

Nineveh in the time of Jonah's visitation was governed by a very wise man. He quickly recognized the situation as one that was potentially catastrophic. He made the only move that he could make to alleviate the impending destruction. In absolute humility he left his throne, the seat of authority and sat in ashes. His robe, the sign and insignia of his high position, he exchanged for sack cloth. All of his actions indicated the whole hearted humbling of himself and his surrender to a higher authority. He also issued an edict that neither man nor beast would eat or drink. All must be clothed or covered in sackcloth. Jonah 3:6-8

Beyond the physical and self denial actions taken was the king's call to the people to call mightily upon God, Elohiym, the true and the living Lord. They were not asked to call upon their gods, whoever and whatever they may have been. To turn from the ways of evil doers is to come before the Lord in repentance. Their city was obviously one of evil and violence. Their reasoning was, that there was a possibility that the Lord would change His mind when He saw their true repentance. Clever king. They knew that if the Lord changed His mind they would be delivered from the catastrophe of which Jonah spoke. Jonah 3:8-9 What He had spoken about Israel and His relationship with them He also applied in this case. He heard their cry and

turned from the punishment that He had determined for them. He is mercy personified. Ps. 106:44-45

What a terrific result and answer to their prayers. The Lord reversed His plan to bring judgment upon them because of their heart felt and sincere repentance. He is a God of mercy and will show mercy to all who will truly seek Him with their whole heart. Jonah 3:10 Jesus used this situation of Nineveh as a rebuke to those of His generation. They reacted and repented at the preaching of Jonah. Now that a greater was in their midst, they would not listen to Him nor repent. Luke 11:32

Jonah was certainly of a different nature than most, at least we hope so. It is unimaginable that the Lord would have an angry prophet on His hands. The deliverance of approximately one million people from disaster would be great joy for most people, even prophets prophesying dire happenings. But not Jonah. He became angry with the Lord. Exceedingly displeased and greatly angered. A strange, strange attitude. The Lord has quite a mixture in His arsenal of weapons, including Jonah. Jonah 4:1 To see one react in this manner is most shocking. To be angry with the Lord is most definitely an extreme emotion. Something which might be found amongst the ungodly, but a prophet? It makes Jonah appear to be a very heartless person, desiring to see Nineveh punished greatly for whatever reason.

JONAH 14

Jonah had a prayer or a conversation with the Lord. In it, he voiced his objection to the whole trip to Nineveh and his reason for his reluctance to go. "I told you so." Jonah 4:2 While yet in my home country I told you exactly what you would do and that is what has happened. He is making the very nature and character of the Lord to be his excuse for fleeing to Tarshish. Any way we look at his words, he is faulting the Lord for being gracious, the very God of grace. Merciful, the essence of compassion. Slow to anger, longsuffering, not quickly angered. One who possess and is manifesting great kindness to all. In this instance, the Lord reversed His decision to destroy the city, because of the cry of the people for mercy and compassion.

Jonah knew very well the mercy of the Lord which had frequently been manifest toward Israel. Even though they had tried to flatter the Lord with their lying words. The meantime their hearts were far from Him and they did not keep covenant with Him. Being the fullness of compassion, He did not destroy them but forgave them and minimized His anger against them. They were fully deserving of sever punishment but He remembered that they were but dust. Ps. 78:36-39

How angry, how frustrated can one become, especially with the Lord. Jonah had reached his limits and requested that the Lord take his life. His extreme disappointment at the words of his prophecy not being fulfilled had caused him to come to a point of utter aggravation. His success at being a true prophet and as one whose prophecies were right on, he was being challenged, and he could not take it. Jonah 4:3

The Lord responded to Jonah's anger with a question, Do you have a right to be angry? Jonah 4:4 Wrath is one of the manifestations of the carnal man, the natural, fleshly man. Gal. 5:20 While the anger of the Lord may be tempered or even set aside. His anger is a righteous or a just anger. His anger is something which is provoked by sin and disobedience. The anger of man may be motivated by almost anything, for instance, something as simple as a difference of opinion. The anger of man may well lead to undesired circumstances. The anger of the Lord is displayed only after a season of His patience and call for repentance. He is longsuffering, goodness, truth and mercy. Ex. 34:6 Were He not so, mankind would long ago been annihilated from the earth. Anger in the human heart is an extremely destructive force. It destroys both the one who is angry and the individual against whom the anger is directed. Jonah had forgotten that he was just the vessel bearing the message of the Lord. The judgment of Nineveh was not in his hands. He was only the mouth piece of the Lord making known the feelings of the Lord toward the city.

JONAH 15

Jonah went outside the gates of the city and found himself a place where he could sit and observe the city. Why would such action be necessary if he did not continue to expect judgment to come upon the city. The east to the Hebrews and to Jonah was the forefront, the rising of the sun or the

forepart, the face of the city. The entrance to the garden of Eden was toward the east. It was there that the Cherubim and the flaming sword were placed to keep mankind from returning to the garden. The only way whereby we can return to that Paradise is through the Triune God. The Father and the Spirit, who are typified by the Cherubim and the flaming sword, the Lord Jesus. Gen. 3:24 The tabernacle and the temple were built facing the east or sun rising. The wise men came from the east. They followed His star and not another. The Lord Jesus will return from the east. Mt. 24:27 The east in the scripture is special and of great importance.

Jonah built himself a booth, a shelter, made of the limbs of trees. Jonah 4:5 The imagination is piqued by his building of the booth. It could well have been a common practice of those who were in a journey away from home and needed a temporary shelter. Or, was it the time of the year during which they kept the feast of tabernacles? During this feast they were to live outside of their homes, in booths, commemorating their deliverance from Egypt. Lev. 23:43 The feast of tabernacles was the third major feast of Israel in the year. It was the time of harvest and is a type of the last day revival and the harvest of the earth. Rev. 14:15

It could well have been that Jonah spent forty days, in the booth, waiting for the prophecy which he had delivered to come to pass. The people of Nineveh had corrected their status with the Lord by repenting, and forsaking their wickedness. Now, it is Jonah who is out of step with the Lord. Forty days is an intriguing subject in the scriptures. Moses, twice was up on mount Sinai receiving the Law. Ex. 24:18 Deut. 9:18 The spies spent forty days spying out the land. Num. 13:25 Elijah was forty days on mount Horeb. 1 Kings 19:8 Jesus fasted forty days and forty nights prior to His temptation. Mt. 4:2 Then He was seen, after His resurrection for forty days. Acts 1:3 Looking at the experiences of these men we see a number speaking to us, not only of testing and trial but glorious mountain top encounters which reveal the glory and power of the Lord. The ministry of the Lord Jesus opened with a period of temptation, over which He was triumphant. His earthly presence concluded with a resurrection and manifestation of the glorious power and majesty of the Lord. The Lord has a great work that He will accomplish in this generation. The world is destined for a massive body of people repenting and turning to the Lord, just as they did in the days of Jonah.

JONAH 16

Another miracle of the Lord took place in the life of Jonah. The booth was very likely far from being a pleasant shelter. The LORD prepared a special tree to provide instantaneous shade and protection for him. Jonah 4:6 The precise species of the plant is not known. As always there is much speculation as to what it may have been. The important thing is that we consider that the LORD God, Jehovah Elohim was the one who produced this special plant for the comfort of Jonah. Also to teach him a lesson. The Lord is the great teacher and is always causing situations to develop in the lives of His children to teach them His ways. Not only did the Lord cause it to spring up, but He directed its growth. It became a shelter over the booth which Jonah had built for himself. Jonah is manifesting a stubborn and self-willed spirit before the Lord. It is as if he were trying to force the hand of the Lord to carry out the prophecy which he had given in Nineveh.

Jonah's booth was most definitely not the best accommodation to be had in Nineveh. Jonah had placed himself in a most uncomfortable position. Not only physically but spiritually as well. It was certainly not the will of the Lord for him to be sitting just outside the gates of the city, watching and waiting for some harm or disaster to strike a city which the Lord had pardoned and delivered. Jonah was greatly discomfited for the Lord prepared the plant to "deliver him from his grief." Jonah 4:6 In spite of his contrary attitude and actions the Lord was demonstrating His mercy and care for Jonah.

The Hebrew word *ra'* may be translated to be adversity, affliction, calamity, distress and so on. As a noun it may also be translated, evil. (Strong's). Jonah was in a most miserable place, all of his own making. Had he accepted the will of the Lord in forgiving the people of Nineveh, he could have gone his way rejoicing in a mission accomplished. His mood was foul, his booth deplorable, all because he wanted things his own way. He is in line for correction and rightly so. The beauty of correction is that it is a sign that the Lord loves the individual being corrected. Heb. 12:6 Jonah was exceedingly glad for the added protection from the weather which was given him of the Lord. However, there is no acknowledgement by him to the fact that this is a miraculous thing and is the blessing of the Lord. The works of the Lord should never be taken for granted. This is a good time to apply the scripture, "In every thing give thanks." 1 Thess. 5:18 Jonah

should have been in line for the blessing of the Lord and a commendation of a job well done. Likewise the very special thanks of the population of Nineveh for the warning he brought them and their subsequent release and deliverance from the judgment of the Lord. Jonah could have been recognized as a hero had he accepted the workings of the Lord in the whole thing. How close he was to a great blessing, yet missed it, because of a wrong attitude.

JONAH 17

For the third time the Lord prepared something special that He might teach Jonah a lesson. He brought a worm with an insatiable appetite. The comfortable position in which Jonah had found himself, in the shade of a God provided plant, was about to change. Jonah 4:7 Jonah's shelter, the most welcomed shade provided by the Lord, as quickly as it had sprung up, was just as quickly to die and become totally useless to him. The subject 'worm' is an interesting one in the scriptures and has several meanings.

DESTRUCTIVE. It is used by the Lord to show His disapproval on certain rebellious acts of men. Such as we see with Jonah. It is noted again as a punishment to those who do not obey the voice of the Lord. The disobedient were to have their crops eaten by worms. Deut. 28:39 When the children of Israel gathered manna in the wilderness, they were to gather sufficient for just one day, except for the day before the Sabbath, when they were to gather twice as much, or a double portion. Those who disobeyed and gathered more found that in the morning it had bred worms and had a stinking odor to it. Ex. 16:20 That manna is a type of the Word, the Lord Jesus, the Word made flesh. John 1:1, 14 Herod, when the people proclaimed him to be a god, was eaten of worms and died. Acts 12:23

DERISION. The sinfulness of man, in the sight of the Lord, places them in the category of a worm, a maggot. All have sinned and come short of the glory of the Lord. Rom. 3:23 When the Lord looks upon humanity in such a fashion, it is an astonishing thing that His love would be extended to anything so repulsive. What a place to find a Messianic statement, for the title, Son of man, is one that Jesus used concerning Himself. Job 25:6, John 3:14 Thus it is portrayed, how fully, how deeply the Lord Jesus took our place as a sinner and became like us that we might be made like Him.

The man who did not sin, knew absolutely no sin whatsoever, the Lord Jesus. Him, God made to be sin, the sin of the ages, the sin of the whole world, the sin of all men. The filth, the degradation, the utter humiliation, the guilt, the condemnation of six thousand years of the sin of mankind was suddenly his at Calvary. 2 Cor. 5:21 No marvel that His Father forsook Him. That hideous cesspool of the total ungodliness of mankind was accumulated in one place at one time. While we each, individually, bear the responsibility for our sin, He who did not ever sin, took the accumulated unrighteousness of us all. Paid the penalty and purchased our forgiveness, total and full pardon. David, a type of the Lord Jesus, speaking in a Messianic vein, stated that he was a worm. Despised and was a reproach of men. Ps. 22:6 These words could well have been spoken by the Lord Jesus.

JONAH 18

THE UNDYING WORM. This worm is spoken of as an eternal everlasting entity, but not in a pleasant manner. Isa. 66:24 It is an element of the ungodly dead that will forever find it's place with eternal fire. There is that, even in the unrighteous dead, that will continue to exist, for it is undying. Scientist have delved into the mysteries of creation and have discovered a substance of life called DNA. When Isaiah prophesied that they were to look at those who had transgressed against the Lord and to take note that "their worm shall not die." Was he talking about DNA which is found in every living organism on the face of the earth? Each to their own kind. DNA contains the genetic code which determines the functions and development of that which is living. It has the appearance of a coiled rope. Is this what was referenced to by Isaiah, as their worm? Jesus, referred to the words of Isaiah and quoted them in Mark 9:44, 48, thus verifying the authenticity of everlasting existence, even in hell.

SCARLET. Scarlet is associated with the worm for the color scarlet was obtained from a pea shaped insect (Heb. Tola, worm). Called scarlet or crimson, its message is one of salvation through the precious blood of the Lord Jesus. The experience of the two spies in Jericho and their subsequent escape with the help of Rahab prompted them to promise deliverance for her and her household, if she place a scarlet thread in the window. Joshua 2:18-19 They were saved from the destruction visited upon

the rest of Jericho. She is later to be found in the genealogy of the Lord Jesus. Mt. 1:5 We wonder some times concerning the origin of many of the adages used in every day conversation. This one is very obvious, saved by a thread. Many others have their origin in the Bible. Can you name some?

CLEANSING. The cleansing of a leper required five items. Lev. 14:4-7 Five is the number of atonement. The living bird was bound to the cedar (the cross). Then dipped in the blood and running water, (washed in the blood and baptized in water). The living bird was then loosed to fly freely bearing the message of the cross. The blood was applied to the leper seven times and he was pronounced clean. The blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7 The color scarlet was used extensively in the garb of the high priest as a witness and testimony to atonement by blood. Ex. 28:6-15 Scarlet was one of the colors used in the pomegranates that decorated the hem of the garment of the high priest. Ex. 28:33-35 The woman with the issue of blood need but touch the hem of the garment of Christ and she was made whole. Mt. 9:20 In the land of Gennesaret they brought all that were sick and diseased and they were healed as they touched the hem of His garment. What a multitude this must have been, Mt. 14:36

JONAH 19

The plant that the Lord prepared for Jonah, He just as quickly destroyed. Jonah 4:7 Jonah failed to be thankful unto the Lord for the blessing of the added shade which had been provided for him. A lack of recognizing the gifts of the Lord by way of thanksgiving and praise can result in their loss. Nothing that the Lord does for us should ever be taken for granted. Advantages gained, may be removed, because of a failure to give praise unto the Lord, for all that He has done. Consider, Mark 4:24-25

The worm spent the night feasting on the roots of the plant that the Lord had so graciously supplied. Like the little foxes, it's actions would spoil the vine. SOS. 2:15 This brings to mind the parable spoken by the Lord Jesus of the sower who sowed good seed, but some of it fell on stony ground and it's root withered in the heat of the sun. Mark 4:5-6 Jonah. Even though a prophet of the Lord, is not manifesting a very pleasant attitude. There is a root in him which will bring destruction to his spiritual life if it is not corrected. It is also a problem that each of us face in life. There are so

many things which wound and hurt us in this life. Consequently, the possibility of developing a root of bitterness, toward a person, or a group, exists. Whole families and churches can be greatly effected by a root of bitterness. Heb. 12:15

With the dying of the plant and the rising of the sun, Jonah faced yet another great problem. Here too, it was an act of God which created a predicament in his life. The Lord usually deals with us according to our nature. Not all would have to face the difficulties that Jonah faced. However, if it be necessary, very dire circumstances may develop as in the life of Jonah. Once again the Lord took action and commanded the wind to blow from the east. The sirocco, or the exceedingly, dry hot wind that is common to the area is well known. As devastating as the usual hot wind might be, this was a special wind from the Lord. A wind of judgment and correction. From the force of the wind and the terrific heat of the sun, Jonah passed out after having a death wish and praying to die. He was in the throes of a mighty correction from the Lord. His attitude toward the repentance of the people of Nineveh and the subsequent stubborn spirit manifest by him was totally displeasing to the Lord. While correction, or chastisement is a sign of Lord's love, Heb. 12:6. It is at the same time a fearful thing to find oneself in the hands of the Lord and in the process of correction. Heb. 10:31 It is far better to hear the Word of the Lord and respond to the call of the Spirit of the Lord than to have to go through a process such as the Lord brought upon Jonah. It is time to take stock of our Spiritual standing before the Lord and do some self correction. Not forgetting that to him that knoweth to do right and doeth it not, it is sin. James 4:17

JONAH 20

Jonah, the prophet of the Lord. There can be no question about his calling to the office of a prophet. When he was in obedience the Lord blessed him with the warnings of the Lord to the people. Consequently, he was responsible for the deliverance of the whole city of Nineveh. The book of Jonah pictures him as having a rough and tough disposition. Not much polish in his personality. The Lord never hides the character of those whom He uses. Jonah was no exception. Jonah 4:9

The Lord confronted an angry Jonah. No wonder the Lord had dealt with him in such an extreme measure. He thoroughly understood the man whom He had called to be a prophet. Hopefully, a new testament prophet would have much more of the grace of the Lord in them and in their ministry. We do not look for the message to change but definitely delivered by one who had fully partaken of the mercy of the Lord. Did Jonah really have a right to be mad about the death of the plant. It was his ease and comfort which had been disturbed. The plant was just another plant and nothing more.

Always ready to justify his emotions and actions Jonah was to insist, before the Lord, that his point of view was correct. He was convinced that he had every right to be perturbed about the plant and was all set to argue his point of view. Is there anything which sounds familiar about this? Self justification does not get very far with the Lord.

The Lord said; you can show pity on a plant (we even have such today) But you show no pity on a large city with one hundred twenty thousand Infants dwelling in it who as yet are unable to care or fend for themselves. Note Deut. 1:39 The closing statements of the book of Jonah magnify the mercy, the grace, and the compassion of the Lord toward mankind regardless of their sinful condition, if they will but turn from their wicked ways. It is interesting that the Lord would use the number one hundred twenty here. This number is typical of the completed work of the Lord after a last day revival, such as took place in Nineveh. Solomon having finished the building of the Temple and having brought the Ark into the most Holy Place, removed the staves by which they carried it. Signifying that it had reached its final resting place. One hundred and twenty trumpets plus the singers blended their voices and sounds together in perfect harmony and unity, as one man. As they made one sound in blessing and praising the Lord the glory of the Lord entered into the Temple and the Lord acknowledged that it was accepted by Him. 2 Chron. 5:7-14 We see in this number the completion and dedication of the house of the Lord, the body of Christ as His bride. The perfect and absolute unity which can only be accomplished by the Spirit of the Lord. The Lord has tremendous plans for the end of the age. **Finis**

MINOR PROPHETS:

HOSEA. 1

Hosea, means salvation of deliverer. His name was also shared by others in the Bible and should not be confused with them. A name that was fitting to his calling as a prophet. While he ministered mainly to Israel (The ten tribes) he was also called upon to prophesy to Judah. We know that he was a contemporary of Isaiah 1:10, Micah 1:1 and of Amos 1:1. It is noteworthy that his inspiration came from "the word of the LORD," as it did with many of the prophets. This statement is frequently recorded in the introduction of their prophecies. Hosea 1:1

The very beginning of his work for the Lord depended upon his obedience to the Word of the Lord. His first action was to take unto himself a woman who is termed to be a "wife of whoredoms." The Lord was placing Hosea in the same position which He felt that He was in. The LORD declared Himself to be a Husband to the people whom He delivered from Egypt. However, they broke covenant with Him. Jer. 31:32 Their actions as a wife forbade them from returning to the LORD, nevertheless, He called them to return unto Him. Jer. 3:1 In their waywardness the LORD gave them a bill of divorcement and put Israel away because of her backsliding caused by idolatry (harlotry). Judah (resident of Jerusalem and environs. Two tribes, Judah and Benjamin plus the Levites who were the priesthood). Judah failed to learn from her sisters doings and committed the same sin. Jer. 3:8

The question now becomes, what exactly, was this woman which he was to find and marry? Was she a harlot or was she an Israelite who had committed idolatry with the rest of the nation.? Consider the emotions of the Lord in this matter. Israel had been commanded, when making peace with any land which they conquered to make certain that all idols were destroyed. Ex. 34:12-13 Jehovah alone was to be worshiped and He is a jealous God. An attribute of the Lord that is not often referred too. But, for a God who so strongly loves, it should be expected that His jealousy would be just as strong. The offense would come when Israel would fail to destroy the objects of heathen worship and they themselves begin to utilize them for their worship. It seems to be in the nature of mankind to substitute things spiritual with objects or practices which are not pleasing to the Lord.

They did it in that day and it is being done in this day. Ex. 34:14-17 The people of harlotry, both in that day and in the modern church, especially that of the immediate future, regardless of what deliverances are accomplished will turn again to their own ways. The church of compromise is the great harlot. Rev. 17:1-2 She will have amalgamated all the religions of the world into one religious order. As long as Moses was alive, Israel walked the straight and narrow but the Lord told him that after his death, they would go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land. Deut. 31:16

HOSEA. 2

Because the land was filled with idolatry and was obnoxious to the Lord He placed Hosea in the same position that he might prophesy and know the feelings of the Lord. Hos. 1:2 Hosea was placed in the position of having to live in a family of idol worshipers. In Psalms one hundred six there is a thumbnail history of the children of Israel. Their deliverances and their down falls are listed. Among them is this, they mingled among the heathen and served their idols. Ps. 106:35-36 They went so far as to offer human sacrifices which were an abomination to the Lord. Ps. 106:37-38 By these works of worship they became defiled in the sight of the Lord. So much so, that the Lord allowed their enemies to rule over them and bring them into servitude. Ps. 106:39-42

Hosea found a wife in a person name Gomer. As a true worshipper of the Lord it must have been repulsive to him to enter into a mixed marriage. Pathetically, many in this life could have been spared heartache and sorrow had they but waited for the Lord's choice and not married an unbeliever. The names are certainly significant. Gomer comes from a root word meaning, to end or bring to a completion or failure. Thus, we see that the emphases is placed on the destruction of the Northern Kingdom. It also foretells the utter destruction of the false church, the harlot church, that church of all religions which is surfacing even now and will be utterly destroyed. The name Dibliam, means to double, or a double portion. Hos. 1:3 We find here a shadow of the last days, for Babylon, the harlot church is destined to receive a double portion. She will be rewarded according to the measure of her wickedness and that doubled. Rev. 18:6-9

The first born of this marriage was a son whom the Lord named Jezreel, Meaning, God sown, or scattered. A hint of the coming complete scattering abroad of the ten tribes known as Israel. Also a promise that the Lord would punish Jehu for his bloody attack against Ahab and his force. Note the details in 2 Kings nine. Ahab was to be punished, of the Lord, with death because of the killing of the Lord's prophets by Jezebel, his wife. 2 Kings 9:7 Hos. 1:4 He was also a sign that the nation of Israel, the ten tribes, would soon come to an end. They had so completely turned from the Lord and were worshipping the gods of others, that the Lord was about to bring them to a conclusion as a nation. As always with the Lord, He would come with mercy, and plead with those whom He was about to punish. An opportunity for repentance was extended to them through the prophets which were sent unto them. Because Israel had defiled the land with their abominations, He rejected them, afflicted them and delivered them in to the hands of the plunderers, until He has removed, cast them out of His sight. Forcibly He split Israel from the house of David for Israel had committed a great sin in not following the Lord and in idol worship. 2 Kings 17:20-23

HOSEA. 3

The Lord had a day and a time scheduled where the nation of Israel, the ten tribes, would no longer exist as a nation. Their bow, their ability to defend themselves, to make war was in the hands of the Lord. The Lord's promise of destruction and desolation is just as positive as His promises to care for and bless a people. He assured them that they would come to the valley of dispersion, where and at which time they would be scattered abroad. Hos. 1:5

The second child is born, this time a girl. The Lord determined her name to be Lo-ruhama, a name declaring the emotions of the Lord toward Israel. He proclaimed that He would no longer have pity upon them. His love, His compassion for them had reached it's end. His watchful care for them would be completely taken away. Hos. 1:6 Was it fair? Jeroboam literally forced Israel away from the Lord. It is a great question as to how willing they were to follow. He committed great sin and caused Israel to walk in the same pattern. Therefore, the Lord removed Israel out of His sight by allowing the king of Assyria to come and take them captive.

2 Ki. 17:21-23 The Lord was more than kind and patient with them. They were warned by the prophets as well as being able to see the drama of Hosea's life played out before them.

Even though Judah, the two tribes dwelling in Jerusalem, were not far behind them in displeasing the Lord, He chose to have mercy upon them. He saw in Judah the hope of a people who would follow Him and desert their idol worship. Their deliverance would not be by the armaments of an army, such as a bow, a sword, a battle or by horses nor yet by their riders. The Lord was not about to let others become the deliverers of Judah. It was a matter which He wanted to settle, that they might thank and worship Him for His mighty works. The third child born to this marriage, is a son. His name is to be Lo-ammi, which means, not my people, not my nation. How left out one should feel when so totally rejected by their God. Their sins had separated them from their God. Isaiah said, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear. Isa. 59:2 How distressful to be cast aside, pushed out of the land promised them and to have to go into captivity. It is on the other hand, a tremendous warning for those of this day. All these things were written as examples unto us. Oh, that we might read them and comprehend that we may apply the principles of the Lord to our lives, even today. Those who love the world will find that they are not the children of the most High. 1 John 2:15 This Lo-ammi group are those who have had great opportunities to fully serve the Lord and have failed to do so.

HOSEA. 4

In spite of the separation between Israel and the Lord and their subsequent removal from the land of promise, their numbers were to increase. The Lord declared their number would be as multitudinous as the sand on the sea shore. A number which cannot be measured or numbered. As a nation, especially one favored by the Lord, they were to be completely separated from His presence and His mercies. Hos. 1:10 However, in His love for people the Lord will gather from them and of all nations of the earth a very special people. The harvest of the nations is the gathering in of the individuals who make up those nations. Salvation is not of race but is of grace. Regardless of their roots, the last day church will be composed of the called out ones. They were not a people until the Lord brought them

unto Himself and made them His people. They are the recipients of His great mercy and grace. 1 Peter 2:10

Destiny in a unified nation. The Lord in assembling His church will bring the two elements, Judah and Israel into His new, spiritual nation. What is accomplished here is not after the political ploy and manipulations of mankind, but is an act of God. The fact of one head, one leader is key to that which will be completed. The concluding statement of verse ten is that which gives us a time element. "ye are the sons of the living God." Hos. 1:10 That this is a New Testament theme is self evident in the scriptures. Those who believed on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ were granted the power of the Lord to become sons of God. It is very apparent that the Lord is referring to a spiritual people in whom His promises will be fulfilled. The Spirit of adoption whereby we are granted the privilege of calling the Father God, Abba Father, is certain proof of a Spiritual people being formed. Those who are guided by the Spirit are proclaimed to be sons of God. It is the witness and testimony of the Spirit in our lives which assures us that we are the children of the Lord. Rom. 8:14-16

It is through the manifestation of the His gracious love in our lives that He has chosen to call the redeemed, sons of God. He constantly demonstrates that love and high calling which is in Christ Jesus. 1 John 3:1 This acceptance into His great family is not for a time in the future but is a divine benefit bestowed upon us now. At the time of His appearing we shall have already assumed His nature and being and will like Him 1 John 3:1 All those who are His sons and daughters will have the same character as is demonstrated in His life. It is His divine purpose to have a people who are identical to Himself. 2 Cor. 6:18 He will see to it that where the message of separation was sounded, the message of redemption and salvation shall be heard by, and received of a united people. Rom. 9:26 Thus the mercy and grace of the Lord Jesus will gather His own unto Himself.

HOSEA. 5

Two nations reunited in Christ Jesus. The true gathering together of them is to be found in the workings of the Spirit in bringing into being as the church of the Lord Jesus. Coming together, they recognize the leadership of but one. The Lord Jesus is the reason for their coming together and their unity.

Hos. 1:11 Their growth and keep falls on the shoulders of one shepherd. The Lord Jesus will be their shepherd. David was a type of the Lord. Therefore his name is used in the place of the Lord Jesus. It is Jesus who is the shepherd that will feed His sheep. They will know His voice which they hear coming to them from the Word of the Lord. John 10:27

All humanity has gone astray. Israel and Judah were moved out of their land but now the Shepherd and Overseer of the souls of all men has turned to those who respond, and will cause them to become one in Him. 1 Peter 2:25 This man Jesus is the one and only shepherd of the one fold. John 10:16 He introduced Himself as the good shepherd. Unique, pure, holy, righteous, the true Shepherd of the sheep. His care for them is far greater than any other shepherd. He was willing to lay His life down to purchase His sheep. John 10:11 He knows each and every one of His sheep and calls them by name. They also know His name and adore Him because of who He is and for the meaning and virtue of His name. John 10:14 He is also the great, the exalted, the exceedingly high and lifted up Shepherd of the sheep. None greater in time or eternity. Heb. 13:20 Among the various titles which are bestowed upon Him we find that the Lord Jesus is also the Chief Shepherd. A Shepherd to the shepherds. 1 Peter 5:4 For all His authority and power He is the most gentle of all. His watchful care is most tender. Isa. 40:11

A different message to be heard. Where previously it was stated that the Lord brought up the children of Israel from Egypt, it will be said that the LORD has brought Israel from the lands where He had driven them. Jer. 16:14 When speaking of Israel, Jeremiah was pointing toward the ten tribes who had been completely removed from the land. Now He is speaking of their restoration and declaring that He will send many to search them out and bring them unto Himself. Jer. 16:14-16 Surely, the fulfillment of a prophecy of such nature is spiritual. The descendants of that ancient Israel would be far too many to occupy modern Israel. Again, this proclamation of the Lord must have its completion in the end days. Having dealt with their sin the Lord will cause them to know His power and His might. The Gentiles also are included in the eternal plan of the Lord. Jer. 16:19-20 The Lord is not blinded by race or gender. He treats all of mankind after the same manner. All have been called unto Him for salvation and redemption. It is

the responsibility of each and every individual to accept or reject the proffered abundant life found in Christ Jesus.

HOSEA. 6

There is but one who has a world wide following and the ability to unite in one a people gathered from all tongues, tribes and nations. He is even now, the head of the church universal. The God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory has positioned the Lord Jesus in this place of eternal leadership. Eph. 1:17 Only those who recognize His divine leadership will have a place in the true church, in the end of the age. Eph. 1:22 He is, all in all, to the whole of the body of Christ, His Bride.

Hosea proclaimed a "gathering together" of Judah and Israel. The spiritual unity of both nations, plus the heathen. Hosea 1:11 The call to salvation is no longer to one nation or people. Now all are invited to partake of the salvation which He has purchased for us. 1 Tim. 2:1 The anticipation and working of the Lord in relationship to those whom He calls His people is declared in 1 Peter 2:10 Where they were at one time not related nor unified, nor were they from one segment of the human race, now, in Christ Jesus they are made to be one. Those who may be termed His people are those who have obtained the great and wonderful mercy of the Lord, in salvation through His shed blood. Their characteristics are spoken of in 1 Peter 2:9 These are the divine requirements for all who will be in that group called the people of God.

Ezekiel likewise prophesied of an everlasting covenant of peace involving all twelve tribes, and their joining together under one head. Eze. 37:24 David was to be king over them. David is a type of the Lord Jesus who was called the son of David by the multitudes welcoming Him into the City of Jerusalem. Mt. 21:9 Therefore, when Ezekiel stated that the kingdom would be ruled over by David, his reference was to Jesus. The earthly, the natural tabernacle and temple with all of their ceremonies were but a shadow of things heavenly. When we read these prophecies we must be aware of this and recognize that we are seeing shadows not the object creating the shadow. We must then recognize the spiritual counterpart and its fulfillment in the church of the last days revival. Heb. 8:5 Will there be a restored temple and worship as it was conducted under the Law? If it should happen

it would be an insult and an act of blasphemy toward the Lord. The emotions of the Lord and His complete rejection in relation to animal sacrifice after the offering of His son, the Lord Jesus is to be found in Isa. 66:3 Only the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is acceptable as an offering and for forgiveness from the sins of mankind. The shadow, the Law, the Old Covenant demanding the sacrifice of animals was totally unable to take away the sins of men. When we have found the true sacrifice and worship, why should we re-establish that which failed? Heb. 10:4 The kingdom of God is not in meat and drink; but is in righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Rom. 14:17 It is a spiritual kingdom.

HOSEA. 7

That the Lord will have one people is evident from the words of Ezekiel and it is Peter who identified them as being those who are redeemed by the Lord Jesus. Ezekiel proclaimed one nation and one king. A people no longer divided. Again, if these promises pertain only to the natural nations, then the ten tribes must be identified and included. Their destiny is one of sanctification and purity. Eze. 37:23 He will only be God to a people who have been cleansed from their sin. There is only one way to obtain the standard established by the Lord and that is by following His will. The Lord Jesus (of whom David was a type) will be the eternal king ruling over them. The prince, king of whom Ezekiel spoke is an everlasting King and will rule forever. Eze. 37:25 Note also that He is called my servant,. The Lord Jesus, Though He was the son of God was at the same time the servant of God. He was the chosen, the well beloved, the one who pleased the Father. The one in whom the Father placed His Spirit without measure. The one bringing justice to the Gentiles. Mt. 12:18

These who have the true David, the Lord Jesus as their king find that with His kingdom come the sure mercies of David. They are not promises after the flesh but after the spirit. It would appear that many today are making the same mistake they made in the time of His first coming. They continuously questioned Him as to when He would establish His kingdom. They sought a natural kingdom. Jesus is not coming to establish or to continue an earthly kingdom. The citizens of His kingdom on earth will only be those with whom He has established a covenant of peace, through His blood. His sanctuary, His presence, will be in their midst. They shall be His

people. Eze. 37:26-27 The ultimate plan and purpose of the Lord will be consummated when He has gathered the stones of the New Jerusalem and made them into a city, in which He will dwell, eternally. Rev. 21:2-3

The promises of the Lord given to David of a continuous and eternal throne are completed in the redeemed of the Lord. Isaiah spoke of the promises as being the "sure mercies of David." Isa. 55:3 These promises center on the person of a king possessing an eternal kingdom. The King is Jesus. The one given as the gift of God. A witness, a leader and commander of the people. Isa. 53:4

It is in this prophecy that again we find the Lord reaching out to the heathen nations of the world as well as to Judah and Israel. They are determined to be a new nation, a nation whom the Lord had not recognized nor had He proclaimed them to be His own. However, this nation will be a people who seek after the Lord in all sincerity. Isaiah said it beautifully, they will RUN unto the Lord. The hunger of their hearts to know and obey the Lord is very evident in the description of their searching after Him. Isa. 55:5 The Lord was to speak through Isaiah once again and proclaim that He was sought out by a people who had not previously called on Him. Also that He was found of them. Isa. 65:1

HOSEA. 8

The day of Jezreel, the name of his first born. The name is commonly taken to mean scattered or sown of Jehovah. An act of God. In the beginning of the book of Hosea he was a sign that the Lord was going to scatter Israel. Hos. 1:4 However, in verse eleven, we see an entirely different matter. The day of Jezreel is declared to be a great day and is used in conjunction with the gathering together. It conveys a sense of revival, or harvest time. Where there is a sowing of seed, there is an ultimate harvest. This generation will know a moving of the Spirit, second to none. The Lord is faithful in warning of impending judgment and visits with mercy prior to judgment. There will be a great last day revival prior to the great tribulation. It is the great day of Jezreel.

A plea from the heart of the Lord directed at the children of this adulterous marriage. Hos. 2:2 A segment of the nature of the Lord revealed which is

most unusual. Really not expected, but thoroughly understood under the circumstances. The Lord made manifest that which He had already had acknowledged concerning His personality. He is a God who is jealous, as a matter of fact He has made it known that His name is Jealous. Ex. 34:14 Worship directed toward any other than the Lord God creates a jealousy in the heart of the Lord which burns like a fire. Those who are active in such false worship will find the severe punishment of the Lord upon them. Deut. 29:18-20

Gomer (a type of the ten tribes, Israel) is called upon to change her adulterous life style. The Lord has been longsuffering and patient but now things are about to change. Her possessions, even the land given her by the Lord will be taken from her and she will be left naked. Like a wilderness and dying with thirst. Even her children who were influenced by her worship of idols are to be included in the penalty placed on her by the Lord. Hos. 2:2-4 She was determined to continue with her idolatrous practices for she attributed to them, the supply of the needful, the daily necessities for her life.

A very special act of the Lord. Her way to be hedged in. When the Lord closes the way, who can open it. The Lord met Saul and stopped him in the midst of his journey to persecute the church. The Lord warned Saul that it was hard to kick against the goads. How can one win when the Lord steps in to hinder or stop our actions. The Lord was bringing pressure to bear on Gomer and was closing her path with thorns. Her ways were to be walled in. Her inordinate desires for worshiping idols were to be cut off in such a manner that she would no longer be able to follow her wayward paths in seeking after her lovers. Hos. 2:6 Who can fight against the Lord and win.

HOSEA. 9

Her idolatrous ways caused her to seek in a desperate manner after those gods with which she was committing idolatry. Hos. 2:7 The futility of such conduct became very evident. She could find no satisfaction from seeking them. After all they were but dumb idols and have no way of responding. They are but the work of mans hands and imagination. Molded or carved, covered with, or made of gold or silver but without breath and the ability to respond to those who seek after them. Hab. 2:18-19 For all her chasing

after them and desperately seeking for them, she eventually came to her senses and realized that she had been far better off with her husband. She determined to return to him. Hos. 2:7

Hosea (the Lord) had been faithful in supplying Gomer (Israel) with all that was needful for her life and that very likely in great abundance. In her blindness and burning desire to seek other gods, she did not recognize the source of her provisions. Isa. 1:3 Note that there are five (the number of atonement) things which had been faithfully supplied her, in her husband's house. There was corn, wheat or grain supplied her daily. A type of the Word of the Lord. Wine, a type of the joy of the Spirit of the Lord. A full provision of oil, a type of the anointing of the Spirit. Silver, redemption and gold, the glory of the Lord. Having a constant and full supply of these vital elements it is a wonder that she ever strayed in the first place. Forsaking the true and living God was not at all unusual for Israel and Judah. The Lord constantly warned them not to go after the gods of their neighbors. Hos. 2:8

The final statement of verse eight is a confirmation of the type of adultery which was being committed. Israel took all of that which the Lord blessed them with and used them to worship Baal. Baal, means lord. He was the god of the Canaanites. The history of Israel is like that of Gomer. They were known for their worship of Baal and not the true God, Jehovah. Now the Lord has promised that He will come and remove the things which He had so abundantly supplied for them. Because of her wickedness the items listed would be removed and she (Israel) would be bereft of all that which the Lord had so abundantly supplied them. Hos. 2:9 Furthermore, in the sight of all, her lewdness, her extreme wickedness, would be totally exposed before her lovers. In judgment, the Lord would not show mercy to them and none could in any way release her from the actions of the Lord. Similar words of punishment are uttered against Jerusalem which give a more comprehensive understanding of the emotions of the Lord in such a situation. Eze. 16:36-38 Note that in the sentence laid down by the Lord He mentioned the fact that He is reacting in fury and jealousy. V. 38 The worship of an idol is an abomination before the Lord, whether it be an idol created by the hand of man or a living, human who is made to be an idol.

HOSEA. 10

The Lord promised to return to Israel, but not to bless them. He would visit them according to their sin and worship of other gods. They were to go through a time of great loss and difficulty. The Lord would remove all the things with which He had blessed them. From the harvest of the fields to their flocks there would be complete failure. The joy of religious orders and ceremonies would be taken from them. Her lewdness was to be exposed to all. Her fruit trees would cease to bear fruit. All that she had attributed to the blessing of Baal and other heathen gods was to be utterly spoiled. Read Judges chapter two in connection with the attitude and actions of the nation brought up from Egypt, into the land given them by the Lord.

Further evidence that the sin of Israel was that of idolatry. They were about to reap the harvest of the time spent worshiping Baal and their adorning of themselves to worship false gods. In all this they forgot the true and living God. The Divine principle of reaping what is sown is very definitely applied here. Gal 6:7 Not only does this apply to Israel of that day but it is very true of our lives today. Hos. 2:13 After all this, can the Lord change His mind? The Lord does not excuse sin, but He is merciful and will exhibit His mercy wherever possible. He will react to all situations according to His nature and character.

The prophetic utterance found in the remainder of this chapter is utterly amazing. It is a full and complete manifestation of the mercy and grace of the Lord toward those who will serve Him. Can He who possesses the infinite mind, forget? The Lord has stated that He will never remember the sin which has been confessed and forgiven. He is the one who will blot sin out and completely forgive. Isa. 43:25 Those who have been forgiven should know that the Lord has cast all our sins behind His back. Isa. 38:17 In loving kindness He has forgiven and covered all the sins of those who are His people. Ps. 85:2 So according to His character, as the God who delights in mercy, He passes over the iniquity of His people. Furthermore, He does not continue angry forever, because He is the God who delights in mercy. Micah 7:18 He will turn, He will forget His anger and demonstrate compassion on His people. He will return and call to Israel with compassion. He will bring their iniquities into submission, that is, make them to triumph over sin. Then He will cast the sins of His people into the

depths of the deepest sea. The deepest is found in the Pacific Ocean known as the Mariana Trench and is some 6.8 miles, 11 kilometers deep. Micah 7:19 How far is the east from the west? Ps. 103:12 Micah anticipated that truth and mercy would be revealed and demonstrated to the descendents of Jacob and Abraham. Mercy and truth originate with the Father and the Son and are committed to all who embrace the Lord Jesus as Savior. 2 John 3

HOSEA. 11

Suddenly, the tenor of the prophetic utterance changed. Where there had been a stern warning and a promise of dire circumstances, the voice of the Lord through the prophet is completely different. Hos. 2:14 Through the voice of Isaiah the Lord had expressed His patience and longsuffering. He said He would wait, not put off their punishment, but wait for them to change their hearts attitude. In spite of His utter disgust with the actions of the people, He was still going to wait until He could manifest His graciousness to them. It demonstrated the fact that He loved them and wanted to do good to them. He still loved them and had compassion on them, even though they deserted Him. The Lord is a God of justice and will always deal fairly with all, especially with those whom He loves, and who love Him. Isa. 30:18 Incidentally, those who wait upon Him are they who will be blessed of the Lord.

Therefore, after the time of correction, there will come a drastic change in the manner of the Lord's dealings. Behold, look, see, understand the Lord is about to do a new thing. He will deal with His people after His nature, His character of love. He is the very essence of Love. There is no love like His. He loves with true love because He is love. 1 John 4:16 He will allure her, or attract her with His own being. In the Lord Jesus there is an attractiveness which supersedes all others. His glory, His majesty, His voice found in the Word of the Lord are all elements which draw those who participate in that love unto Him. The work of salvation which is the experience of those who follow Him cannot be equaled by anything else, in this world or the world to come. Neither time nor eternity can produce such tremendous love as that which is found in the Lord Jesus. There is no greater love. John 15:13-14

While God loved the inhabitants of this world. John 3:16 The Lord Jesus, by whom the church is saved, loves the church. He died for the forgiveness of the sins of every individual who will accept His great sacrifice. However, His ultimate purpose was to prepare a bride for Himself. Eph. 5:25 The greatest love story, the love story of the ages of time is yet to be consummated. The Lord will have a glorious church. Eph. 5:25-27 The love of the church for Christ is not an earthly, human, carnal type of love. It will demonstrate the real meaning of love. It is Agape love, love as only God can love. A love that is imputed to His church and reaches its climax in the marriage of the Lamb. Rev. 19:7 This marriage is the real, the true marriage. All others are but a type and shadow of that which is reality itself. The language of the scriptures makes this magnificent wedding so very real happening. Paul saw the church as a body of believers who were to be married to Christ. Therefore he made the statement that he had espoused them as a chaste virgin unto Christ. 2 Cor. 11:2

HOSEA. 12

In the scriptures we periodically find that a prophecy has a dual time fulfillment. Inasmuch as it may be directed to a particular people at a particular time, it is obviously for them. However, it can also be projected out into the future and may have even a greater fulfillment. Take for instance, the words of Isaiah, "The LORD sent a word against Jacob and it has fallen on Israel Isa. 9:8 Sent to one, but hit the other. When the Lord delivered Israel from Egypt He took them into the wilderness or desert. There He constantly demonstrated His ability to supply all their needs. His mighty power was a daily factor in their lives. All the events which Israel experienced in that time are recorded as examples for us. 1 Cor. 10:11 It is no wonder then, that their experiences find their counterpart in the dealings of the Lord in His church, particularly in these last days.

That makes the wilderness to be a place of extreme importance. For, as then, the Lord will once again take a people of His love into a wilderness experience. The beauty, the majesty of the Bride of Christ is portrayed as a Woman of great light. The light bearing bodies are a designated part of her wedding gown. The display of light, seen as a part of her wedding gown, crown and footing is surpassed by none except the Lord. Rev. 12:1

The wilderness is the Lord's place which He has prepared for her. The time of her protection in the wilderness is measured to be one thousand two hundred sixty days, which is the exact length of the tribulation period. The wilderness is a place of refuge and rest for her where the Lord will make Himself very real to her in divine comfort and protection. It is a refuge, a place of peace and safety which the Lord has prepared especially for His Bride. Rev. 12:6

The Lord likened the deliverance of the children of Israel to being carried on eagles wings. Ex. 19:4 To His Bride there will be granted the same power of transport. Two wings of a great eagle. Rev. 12:14 Wings of power. Wings which enabling the eagle to mount up on high and sail on the thermal currents, and the wind. Those who spend time before the Lord are promised that they will have the ability to soar with eagle wing power.

Isa. 40:31 The deliverance of the Bride from the great tribulation is assured. The Lord will fulfill His promise that His very own will not participate in the judgments of the tribulation but will only view them from afar off. Ps. 91:8 It must be considered that in order to get away there must be present in the lives of those escaping the full power of "eagles wings." Wings which represent the awesome and mighty anointing of the Holy Spirit. The last day church may not be great in numbers but she will be mighty in the power of the Spirit.

HOSEA. 13

There is much which may be written concerning the wilderness experience, but we will just touch on it a bit by referring to Isaiah's words concerning the wilderness being like the garden of Eden. The name Eden, means delight, or pleasantness. He said, that the Lord would be a comfort to Zion. Isa. 51:3 Let us settle in our thinking that he is speaking of the New Testament Zion, the spiritual people. The people who are mentioned as being members of the heavenly order, on earth. Heb. 12:22-24 These verses leave no doubt that there is a spiritual people who are called the people of God. The emphasis needs to be placed more on that which is spiritual than that which is natural.

The Word of the Lord plainly states that the wilderness will be like the garden of Eden. The desert like the garden of the Lord. It is a simple matter for the God of creation to prepare a place for the Bride. Everything in it will

compare in beauty to the original garden of Eden. More importantly will be the spiritual enjoyment of the Bride and Bridegroom. The great joy of the Lord will prevail there. There will be gladness and rejoicing such as never witnessed on the earth before. Songs of happiness, of worship, of praise, of love and blessedness will be heard, songs composed instantly of the Spirit and sung in the Spirit. It is heaven on earth. Isa. 51:3

The Lord has set and established His schedule according to His own purposes and desires. There is a day, when that which He has designed will be fully accomplished. In that day it will be said to the Jerusalem which is above (Gal. 4:6), have no fear. Why should she fear? The great red dragon stands before her and would destroy her and her offspring, if possible. Rev. 12:3-4, 12-17 Zion, do not become weak. Zeph. 3:16 She will definitely face the power of the great red dragon but will be delivered, thank the Lord. The Lord of might and power dwells within her. He is her savior. In keeping His Word and maintaining agape love He has promised the might and glory of His presence dwelling within. John 14:23

There will be heard there the voice of the Lord, singing a song of romance and love such as has never been heard. It is a song of true love, of eternal love. Just imagine the Lord singing to His people. It is a song of His rejoicing over His Bride. A song speaking of His delight in her. A song that will quite her spirit and bring great comfort and joy to her. Zeph. 3:17 Every song that we sing should be an expression of love and appreciation unto the Lord. It is not just singing along with the congregation but it is singing unto the Lord which moves His heart. Singing with love, with joy, with thanksgiving unto Him will stir His heart and ours too. However, in the wilderness the Bride of Christ will be the recipient of the song of songs. Solomon did not write this one, it is fresh from the heart of the Lord.

Brother McKnight's January 27, 2008 note prefacing Hosea. 14: Due to illness of wife (improving, doing good) and computer problems will not be sending studies for a few days. Looking forward to serving you in the immediate future.

HOSEA. 14

The words, the conversation of the Bridegroom with the Bride are words of love, adoration and comfort. Hos. 2:14 I have a marginal reference which translates it, comfort, as to the heart or friendly. Even now, so many times our comfort and the assurance that all will be well comes to us from the

Word of the Lord. The Word speaks volumes of the love that will be displayed to the church. According to Isaiah, it will be a time of song and rejoicing. Isa. 49:13 After having overcome the greatest power of darkness to ever have been assembled against the church, she has now safely arrived to the place prepared by the Lord, the wilderness. Rev. 12:6, 14

But not without having faced persecution. Rev. 12:13, 15 There is no greater gathering of Godly people than that found in the Bride of Christ depicted here in Revelation twelve. Prior to her transportation she will experience difficulties and persecution. All who would live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. Not the great tribulation but persecution. 2 Tim. 3:12 The dragon, the devil knows the full meaning of all that will take place with the birth of the child. The child is the crowning work, the fulfillment of the Divine power of the Almighty God. The child is sinless and without the possibility of ever committing sin. He is immediately caught up to heaven. The firstborn of an eternal, everlasting, righteous race. He is of Royal standing, for part of his responsibility is to rule and reign. Rev. 12:5

The valley of Achor (trouble) as a door of hope. What a strange situation to use as a door of opportunity. However there is a startling truth to be learned here. It is the revelation of the enemy within the ranks. Achan, the source of trouble), is a type of the antichrist. Joshua 7. The beginning of one who creates trouble in the midst of the people of the Lord started in heaven with Lucifer. A created being who walked in perfection before the Lord until iniquity was found in Him. Eze. 28:15 With Jesus it was Judas. Jesus knew in choosing him to be His disciple that he would be the trouble maker. Follow his doings and see. John 6:70-71 Ps. 55:13-14 Paul warned of perilous days, and gave an outline of the problems of the church of the last days. 2 Tim. 3:1-6 A perfect situation for the division of the body of Christ because of a lack of knowledge of the Word of the Lord. 2 Tim. 3:7 Paul warned of winds of doctrine, the cunning craftiness of the methods used by men to deceive those who are lacking a true knowledge of the Word of the Lord. Eph. 4:14 The splits, the divisions, that we see in the church world today are but the beginning of a division that will be accomplished by the antichrist. Many will follow him in his day even as many now come under the influence of unscrupulous individuals, who claim to follow Christ but are false apostles and prophets. Mt. 24:24

HOSEA 15

Deliverance by redemption. Redemption is possible only by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Redemption is the assurance of right standing before the Lord. The person receiving the work of atonement, is straight way justified. While at the same time confessing their unworthiness, they are fully accepted into the family of the Lord by His infinite grace. Rom.3:24 Through the blood of redemption, the precious blood of Christ, our sins have been washed away and we are now partakers of the riches of heaven. The great bounty of His grace. Eph. 1:7 All, and only those redeemed by His shed blood can be accepted into the beloved. Eph. 1:6 The people, the family of the Lord is constituted only of the redeemed.

Redemption brings one into fellowship with the Lord. There is but one door, one way and that is always His way. Those who were at one time far from any association with the kingdom of God are now citizens of that glorious kingdom. All through the blood of redemption. Eph. 2:13 If there is another way, then the whole life, death, burial and resurrection of Christ was in vain. Jesus died for all of mankind. Past associations are no longer valid. He has opened up a new way, not of the works of the Law but of His all powerful blood and grace. The wall of separation He destroyed at Calvary. He has combined all the peoples of the earth into one great family. He brought the law of commandments to a halting conclusion by bearing the sins of the world in His own body on the tree. Mankind, He has combined into one. A great nation, of all peoples. Scattered all over the face of the earth, yet associated as one body in Christ. That which is accepted by the Lord is the new man, the new creation. Those born of the Spirit and the Word. Eph. 2:14-16

She shall sing there. Her song is a song of joy, gladness and adoration unto the Lord. She has been delivered from the sorrow and darkness of the great tribulation. Consider Isaiah's statement of the earth being in great trouble and darkness, fear and gloom prevailing with the inhabitants being controlled by the prince of darkness. Isa. 8:22 That is a thumb nail picture of the tribulation but by no means describes the total horror of that three and one half years. But, she shall sing. Her song is a song heard in the wilderness, at the same time that the world is in gross spiritual and physical darkness. Her song is a song of the light of the world. She is clothed with

the glory of the Lord which is likened too and of greater light the sun. She has come to the mountain of the Lord, the apex of spirituality. She is the consummation of all the Lord Jesus desired in a Bride. Her song will be unto the mighty One, the Rock (NIV), of her salvation. Never has there been a song like unto her song. A song of appreciation, a song of the very epitome of true love, a song magnifying His great love and grace. Isa. 30:29

HOSEA. 16

Deliverance from Egypt is a type of deliverance from the bondage of sin. The heart which had no song is made to sing with gladness and joy because of the liberty obtained when set free from sin and sinful habits. There is a second time of liberation determined by the Lord. It will be motivated by the revelation of the root of Jesse, the Lord Jesus. A sign, a banner for all the nations of the earth. They will seek after Him and gather together because of Him. That they are Spirit filled is self evident for they enter into His rest. Isa. 28:11-12 "In that day", the day of spiritual awakening. The day of gathering unto Christ. The true people of God are a people of abounding faith in the redemptive work of Christ. Heb. 4:1-3 The Lord will institute a second exodus. Isa, 11:10-11. The fulfillment of such action is recorded in Rev. 12:6,14

That day will be a day where those who are delivered from the great tribulation will call the Lord, Ishi or husband, my man. Consider how close the association is between the woman and this Husband, whom in her love for Him, she is privileged to call Him, my Man, my Husband. This is a true relationship and sharing together. Hos. 2:16 Now, in martial bliss, she will no longer call Him Baali, or Lord, Master. She is subject to Him but because of their deep love for each other they are to become one. The great mystery is this beautiful and complete relationship between Christ and His church. Eph. 5:30-33 The names of others, who may be objects of worship, whose name was used by the people, will no longer be heard. In using these names they had committed spiritual adultery, a practice which will completely cease.

A covenant made with the creatures of the wilderness. The New Covenant, promised and consummated in the Lord Jesus contained the promises of

peace and tranquility. The wilderness will be a refuge of absolute rest, safety and peace, regardless of what happens in the rest of the world. Hos. 2:18 Betrothed, engaged to be married with the Lord, the Bridegroom making exceeding great and precious promises to His beloved. Hos. 2:19 There are five elements to His promise to her. The marriage is eternal. It is not for just a season, but it is everlasting. The Lord has been building all the time for eternity. Their marriage is the marriage of all marriages. Never has there been one like this nor will there ever be another. It is a marriage of true holiness. Both individuals are equally holy and just. Their marriage satisfies every aspect of true holiness as demanded by the Word. The kindness, the favor, the God like love bestowed upon her is like none other has ever known. The mercy, the compassion which will be displayed toward her exceeds all other manifestations of love and kindness. It is a true marriage. A marriage of faithfulness and total commitment.

HOSEA. 17

You are my people. Hos. 2:21-23 A new nation of the redeemed who are possessed by the Lord and of the Lord. They are His, fully and completely. There is not a nation on earth which will not have some of its citizens among these who are termed, "my people." This is not a reference by word or prophecy pertaining to Israel after the flesh. They are not excluded from the privilege of being a part of the new nation. However, these people are a people who have been born of the Spirit. Paul when writing to the Romans quoted this portion of scripture from Hosea. He included both Jew and Gentile as being a part of this company. Rom. 9:24-26

The Lord and His people are to be involved in an era of real and precious communication, where each is heard of the other. It is a situation where those who have ears to hear will hear clearly, with complete understanding. Too often, now, in this life we hear words and know that there is a voice but we do not comprehend because we do not hear with the ears of the Spirit. The corn, symbolic of the word of the Lord, the wine, the joy of the Spirit and the oil, the precious anointing of the Spirit to be preeminent in the earth during the millennial reign of Christ and His church on earth. She (the church) shall be sown in the earth as the seed of the Lord and will produce a harvest for His glory and honor. The Lord will show forth His mercy and love upon those who had not been called as a special race of people. Now,

that nondescript, mixed multitude have been blended together into to a unit. One people, the people of God, the glorious church. Eph. 5:27

Hosea is found 'playing out' the emotions of the Lord toward unfaithful Israel. He is instructed to take a woman, his former wife, and to bring her back into his care and home. Hosea is the friend who had loved his wife, the mother of his children but she had left him and found herself another lover. In spite of her unfaithfulness and adultery, Hosea is to receive her again. Immediately, the scene is turned from Hosea's personal problems to the situation of Israel. The heartache, the sorrow of having been turned aside for another, yet, still loving the individual is an illustration of the extreme emotions of the Lord in having been deserted by Israel. Even so, His love is still extended toward them. Hos. 3:1 Amazing and marvelous is the love of the Lord. He reacts according to His nature and character in all things. God is love. 1 John 4:16 His love is agape love. Love as only the Lord can love. The fullness, the very essence, the completeness of love is found in Him. In this case there is a manifestation of corrective love. Ah yes, love is not simply a cover up, but real love as He loves will cause all who need it to be chastened and disciplined. Heb. 12:6 If you are being corrected, rejoice in it. It is a certain sign that He loves you.

HOSEA. 18

Israel forsook the Lord and looked to other gods. In so doing they brought upon themselves many and great difficulties. Mind you, it was self inflicted. They could have continued to serve the true and living God but they chose the hard way. Pr. 13:15 They poured out flagons of wine and they made pressed cakes of dried grapes to offer unto the gods of the heathen. Here, we find the diametrically opposite reaction and emotion of the Lord. Their actions angered Him. The Lord asked, "do they provoke me to anger?" Jer. 7:21 Did they ever.

The Lord required that they obey His commands for in so doing He would be their God and all would be well with them. He desired that they would walk in fellowship with Him. That way in every aspect of life, they would be blessed of the Lord. When we take into consideration all the promises of the Lord to them, they had it made. However, they had a problem. A matter called disobedience. They would not listen to the voice of the Lord as He

spoke to them of His will. They did their own things. They walked according to the counsels of their own evil hearts. All the while going backward and not forward. Jer. 7:24 There is much here that must be taken into account lest we find ourselves in the same predicament. The Lord had been faithful in sending prophet after prophet to them but they would not listen. They continued to harden themselves against the warnings and calls for repentance.

Surely, in utter exasperation the Lord named them to be a nation which would not obey the voice of the Lord. They rejected correction. The truth was no longer known or spoken by them. Jer.7:28 He then characterized them as being the generation of His wrath. Because of their attitudes and actions He rejected and forsook them. If a person is going to live according to the Law, then they must meet the requirements of the whole Law. That is not only to be applied to those of that day but also to people of today. Disobedience to a jot or tittle of the Law is disobedience to the whole of the Law. Jesus fulfilled the Law, what then is there to reinstate or keep of the Law? Mt. 5:17 The Law had one purpose and that was to make sin to be exceedingly sinful. By the Law is the knowledge of sin. However, the Law cannot justify any person in the sight of the Lord. Rom. 3:20 God's righteousness is revealed outside of the Law. Rom. 3:21 What the Law failed to accomplish is carried out through faith in the Lord Jesus. To embrace the Law and have expectation of salvation through the keeping of the Law is a sign of having fallen from the grace of God. Gal. 5:4 The Lord derived no pleasure, enjoyment, or satisfaction from the multiplicity of sacrifices offered under the Law. Heb. 10:8 No one can possibly be justified by the works of the Law. Faith, belief, trust, confidence in the saving faith of the Lord Jesus is the only way of finding eternal life. Gal. 3:11

HOSEA. 19

Israel, the wayward wife and adulteress, worshiping the gods of the heathen had thoroughly forsaken the true and living God. Hosea is now required to buy her back from those to whom she was in servitude. She was to be purchased with silver and barley. Silver, typifies redemption. Barley was the harvest of Passover and the main diet of the poor and animals. The Lord Jesus is our Passover. 1 Cor. 5:7 The total value of Hosea's purchase of her fidelity was thirty pieces of silver. Half paid with

silver, half with barley. Hos. 3:2 It was the price paid for a servant, a slave who had been gored by an ox. Ex. 21:32 The price Hosea paid for her foreshadows then redemption which is found in Christ Jesus. Judas sold Him for thirty pieces of silver. Mt. 26:15 In so doing he fulfilled the prophetic utterance of Zechariah as to the price paid and the eventual usage of that money. Zech. 11:12-13 Fulfilled in the purchase of the field of blood, how significant. Mt. 27:3-8

In the dedication of a person making a special vow unto the Lord silver was the metal to be used in purchasing that vow. In the case of a female the price was thirty pieces of silver. Lev. 27:1-4 Jesus came to the Israelites who were so far removed from the Lord that they had been four hundred years without the voice of a prophet until John the Baptist. John called their leading religious men, a generation of vipers. His was a strong cry for repentance. Though not exactly in a complementary manner. Mt. 3:5-8 Any question as to whether or not the story of Hosea and Gomar relates to the relationship between the Lord and Israel is dispelled by the words of the Lord Jesus, when He called the people of His day an adulterous generation. Mt. 12:39, 16:4

The Lord Jesus came to His own, having been born the King of Israel and acknowledged by the multitude. John 12:13 He came to His own people with a message of reconciliation and redemption. But they refused Him. John 1:11-12 The kingdom of God is a kingdom of those who have been redeemed by His blood. Remember it is a kingdom of grace, not race. Unfortunately, they were looking for one who would establish a worldly kingdom. Very much as it is being taught today but His kingdom is not of this world. His kingdom is heavenly and eternal. Then, as now, the hands of the Lord are stretched out, to a disobedient, stubborn, obstinate people. Rom. 10:21 For all that Jesus taught concerning the kingdom of God and it's Spiritual existence, they still were looking for a king and kingdom which would be of this world. Acts 1:6 The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, that is of a natural sense but rather, righteousness, peace and joy in the blessings of the Spirit of the Lord. Rom. 14:17

HOSEA. 20

A vow of faithfulness pledged by Hosea. While Gomar is required to prove herself devoted and loyal. A season of separation from all other lovers with total dedication to be made to her husband. She was to remain celibate and refrain from all idolatry or spiritual harlotry for many days. A time of testing and proving. She was to bear the shame and punishment for having strayed from the true and living God. Hos. 3:3

Verse four gives evidence that the problem is not a personal situation with Hosea but the focus is on the nation of Israel. They were to be without divinely appointed leadership for many days, actually many years. No guidance of a king among them. No prospects of a future king or a prince could be found. Sacrifice and offerings would cease. They would be void of an image or a pillar of memorial. Joshua set up a great stone as a witness of the promises made by the people to be true unto the Lord. Thus we see it as a memorial a reminder of their vows and originally not an idol. Josh. 24:26 Jacob took the stone which had been his pillow for the night and made it into a pillar or memorial. There he had seen the staircase, the way to heaven and heard the voice of the Lord making promises to him. He anointed the rock and called it Bethel, the house of God. Gen. 28:18-19 This stone, with it's anointing, was a type of Christ. Mt. 21:42

They were to be without an ephod. A shirt like garment worn originally by the high priest indicating the office to which he had been called. To be lacking an ephod would indicate that they would be without a God appointed and anointed priesthood. The special materials and colors used in making the garment were five, the number of atonement, indicating the responsibility of the high priest in making atonement for the people. Ex. 28:4-6

At the same time they were to be lacking teraphim, that is, idols and images used as objects of worship. It was to be a time of total separation from all forms of worship, good and bad. Hos. 3:4 Their houses, their lives were to be emptied and made ready for a new start. Strange as it may seem, religious objects and images are not uncommon today among some who claim to be followers of Christ. They are relied upon to bring good luck (?), protection, and special anointing. Objects, of wood, stone, cloth and

even plastic which cannot in any way perform the duties which they are called upon to execute. The command is to refrain from creating images involved any likeness, of things found in heaven, or objects found on the earth and in the sea. Ex. 20:4 That will covers every possible person or item that can be thought of, even God Himself. We walk by faith not by sight. 2 Cor. 5:7

HOSEA. 21

Afterward, in the future from the time of the giving of the prophecy. Israel shall return. In returning, they will seek the Lord. This is a Messianic prophecy, pertaining to the ministry of the Lord Jesus and the early church. Jesus stated that He had been sent to the lost sheep of Israel. Mt. 15:24 Jesus sent His disciples forth with the command that they likewise go to the lost sheep of Israel. Mt. 10:6 Their opportunity to return to the Lord was through the Lord Jesus and that little band of disciples. They were the voice of the Lord calling unto Israel. John the Baptist was also an instrument used as a forerunner of the Lord Jesus. His ministry was to turn many of the children of Israel unto the Lord. Lk. 1:16 The sudden spurt of spiritual activity in their day was an opportunity for Israel to return again unto the Lord according to the statement of Hosea.

The early church was comprised basically of Israelites. Thousands of the Jews had come to Christ. Acts 21:22 The day of Pentecost saw the conversion of some three thousand. Acts 2:41 After the healing of the lame man at the temple Peter and John saw a great crowd come to the Lord. Their number was given as being about five thousand. Jerusalem was the hub from which the gospel was to be preached to all the nations of the world. Racism was so strong in the city and opposition to the preaching of the truth was fiercely disputed That Paul and Barnabas declared their intentions of turning to the Gentiles. Acts 13:45-46, Acts 18:5-6

Religious intolerance and bigotry were present in that early assemblage. Hearing that Peter went to the Gentiles they called him to task for having done so. Acts 11:2-3 On hearing his explanation they accepted the fact that the Lord was also working among the Gentiles. Acts 11:17-18 Paul's experiences with this spirit are recorded in Acts 15. Some wanted them to be circumcised and keep the Law. The deliberation and the message of the

Elders in Jerusalem was positive. The Gentiles were accepted into the church. That opposition was overcome and the gospel went forth in power and glory. The Word of the Lord was being consummated. The great light was shining upon the Gentiles and they were coming to Christ. The glory of the Lord had come to Israel, even as the Lord had promised. Luke 2:32 The Messiah had come and had accomplished all that was necessary for mankind to find repentance and salvation. The tribes of Israel and of Judah were associated and made one in Christ. The people were coming together, with weeping to seek the Lord. The perpetual covenant, the New Covenant, the true, the everlasting was now in effect. The Covenant sealed and ratified through the blood of the Lord Jesus is the only Covenant whereby any and all may be saved. See Jer. 50:4-5 There is but one way of salvation and that is through the precious name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 4:12

HOSEA. 22

Seeking David their king. Obviously not David who slew the giant, but the son of David, the Lord Jesus Christ. We are introduced to His name as the son of David in His genealogy recorded in Mathew the first chapter. This was not a name applied solely to Him, but then, neither was the name Jesus. When Jesus was called the son of David it had great implications. He was the son of promise. Seeing His miracles and experiencing them, the people began to call Him the son of David, with the thought in mind that He was the Messiah. Mt. 12:23 Adding to that they called Him, Lord, the son of David. Mt. 12:23, 15:22, 20:30 Thus acknowledging Him as the one whom they had anticipated. The Son of God, their Lord and Savior. In their royal welcome to the city of Jerusalem they proclaimed Him to be the son of David who had come in the name of the Lord. Mt. 21:9, 21:15

Jeremiah prophesied of a people whom the Lord would raise up and they would have David to be their king. Not a resurrected king David of Israel but the son of David, the Lord Jesus. Under His guidance the people would serve the Lord. Jer. 30:9 The throne of David was to have a consistent occupant, one who was to be perpetually established as the eternal king. The unbreakable, irrevocable covenant was to be established with Him. His seed would be as innumerable as the sand on the sea shore and stars of heavens. This promise had first been made to Abraham, then to Isaac and

was reiterated to Jacob. However, here the promise is to the seed of the Son of David. Jer. 33:17-22

Most unfortunately, the anticipation of the people was that the Messiah was coming to reestablish the kingdom of Israel on earth. Not a good deal unlike some believe today. Jesus very plainly stated that His kingdom (then and now), is not of this world. John 18:36 Jesus avoided the multitude when they came to make Him to be their King. John 6:15 Most men would have jumped at the opportunity to follow the will of the people and to be made their king. Jesus declared that the kingdom of God is within you, in other words it is a spiritual kingdom. Luke 17:21

Jeremiah thirty-three is a chapter of promise and restoration. All of which is founded upon the Son of David the Lord Jesus. It foreshadows a last day revival which will culminate in the church of perfection, the Bride of Christ. There was to come a Branch, a branch of righteousness. Jer. 33:15 Not only is the branch righteous, but He is the very essence of righteousness. All those who are joined to Him will be of the same spirit and nature, altogether righteous. He is also called the Sun of righteousness. Mal. 4:2 The shining forth of the light of righteousness. A light leading His people into His righteousness and holy character. The true people of the Lord are destined to bear His image and likeness. Rom. 8:29

HOSEA. 23

The Branch of righteousness, the Lord Jesus, is to rule in justice, equity and righteousness. Jer. 33:15 In those days, Judah and Israel are to be united according to the promises of the Lord. Jer. 33:14 Are we looking at A work of the flesh or the Spirit? A natural or a spiritual nation? This David, the David who fit's the prophetic utterance is positively identified by Jeremiah. He called Him, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. We know this to be one of the compound names of Jehovah, Jehovah Tsidkenu. It is indicative of the eternal work of sanctification which He accomplishes in the lives of those who follow Him.

Just who is a scriptural Jew? Paul, an Israelite and hard nosed proponent of the Law, after salvation, wrote, "He is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew,

which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter, whose praise is not of men, but of God. Rom. 2:28-29 He likewise wrote that there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek. Rom. 10:12 What really counts with the Lord and is the object of His love is the new creature. Gal. 6:15

The grand and glorious manifestation of His love is toward His church, His Bride. The one whom He has purchased with His own blood. Acts 20:28 The church of His great and tremendous glory. Eph. 5:27 The Joy and rejoicing of His heart. So absolute and complete is the Bride made one with the Lord Jesus that she too is to bear the name, THE LORD, our righteousness. Jer. 33:16 Here it is not King David but His wife who is the subject of the prophecy. Note that it is, SHE, who shall be called, THE LORD, our righteousness. All that He is, has been imparted to her and she will His glorious Bride. United, made to be one with Him.

Only the Lord can make an everlasting covenant. Men make covenants and break them. The covenant of the sure mercies of David is the true covenant. Isa. 55:3, Acts 13:34 As He is king David to His people, He will exercise His exalted position as a commander and a leader. His authority is unlimited. Isa. 55:4 He is also to be the true witness of His Father to this world. Jesus testified before Pilate, that He was a king and that He had come into the world to be the witness of the truth. John 18:37 He is also called the faithful witness. The first resurrected of the redeemed of the Lord. He is the prince and ruler over the kings of the earth. Rev. 1:5 Among the names and titles which have been applied to Him is that of Amen, the true and faithful witness. Rev. 3:14 As the king David of prophecy, He is the beginning, the first born of those who will be resurrected. He is the beginning of that eternal body of believers, the church. Col. 1:18

HOSEA. 24

The wickedness of an immoral nation of people declared by the prophet. Thus, the Word of the Lord came to them. The Lord was in opposition to them and was about to bring about some correction. Three vital elements for a peaceful society were greatly lacking among them. There was no truth, where there is no truth, all is a lie. Their religious lives, their daily communication with one another was not based on truth but a lie. They

were habitually liars, in all things. From those who lead them, to the beggar on the streets, there was to be found no truth. Hos. 4:1 Isaiah is found addressing that sort of a situation but before he gives, in vivid detail their sin, he reminds them that the Lord can save and will forgive. Isa. 59:1 Having proclaimed and listed their great wickedness. Isa. 59: 2-15 Isaiah prophesied concerning the coming of the Messiah. Isa. 59:16-21

Most definitely where there is no truth, mercy likewise will not be found. Mercy is a companion of truth and is dependent on the same. Mercy and truth blend together and walk together on the pathway of the Lord. Ps. 25:10 Mercy and truth bring about a separation from sin in the lives of those who embrace them. Creating a reverence for the Lord and a departure from wickedness. Pr. 16:6 Solomon gave testimony that his father David was shown great mercy by the Lord for he walked before the Lord in truth. 1 Ki. 3:6 May mercy and truth reign in our hearts.

Void of the knowledge of the Lord. A supposed religious nation, but ignorant of the one who had brought them into existence. They would not acknowledge Him, let alone make Him the object of their worship. I find it most difficult not to draw a parallel with our nation and the world in which we live today. Even church members have no, or at least little knowledge of the Lord or of His Word. Most unfortunately among them there is a condition of gross ignorance of the divine truths found in the Word of the Lord. Paul noted this condition in his letter to the Corinthians when he wrote that some of them did not possess the knowledge of God. 1 Cor. 15:34

The Lord will reveal Himself to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. The Lord uses the two very basic circumstances which occur constantly in our lives, that of hungering and thirsting as a measurement to be used in seeking Him. To gain knowledge of Him, we must have a gnawing hunger and a great thirsting in order to overcome the frailty of the flesh. He has promised that those who hunger and thirst shall be filled. Mt. 5:6 A failure for His promises to be consummated in our lives is not on His part. The break down is on our part. We are too casual about spiritual things. A luke warm, spasmodic seeking of the Lord will not produce the desired results. The entire heart and being is required. Jer. 29:13

HOSEA. 25

The earth to suffer for the wrong doings of the people, as a consequence of their rejection of the Lord. The land is presented as a living thing, which is in mourning . The promise of continued life from the land depended upon their willingness to follow and serve the Lord. The inhabitants of the earth seen as those who are sickly and lacking energy. The effect of their sin was to cause the diminishing of the animals, the birds and the fish of the sea. Hos. 4:3 How can we help but compare this with the warnings which scientist are constantly giving concerning our present world. They can only predict doomsday. They say that it is inevitable that the earth will experience tremendous changes in the time to come. The Bible tells us of the impending happenings, but it gives us a way of escape and deliverance from the consequences of the wickedness of mankind.

Isaiah presented the same situation but in more detail and much stronger terms. As a cause, he offered the same extreme sinful condition of the people. They have morally defiled the earth. They have defied the laws of the Lord, even ridiculing and making fun of them. They bypass and ignore the decrees of the Lord, that is His Word. They have violated and refused the covenant of the Lord. In the case of Israel, it was the Law. Today the covenant is found in Christ. Isa. 24:5 The promises of the Lord are beautifully fulfilled in the lives of those who seek Him. However, because of the great wickedness of humanity the curse has been loosed on the earth. Deut. 28. Sin will exact it's consequences.

The earth to be emptied. Depleted of humanity and of all of their works on the face of the earth. It will be utterly void of inhabitants. It will be completely removed from it's axis, the north pole becomes the south pole, the south the north, it will be turned upside down. Isa. 24:1 Jeremiah will further enlarge on the tremendous destruction that is inevitable. To him it was shown that the earth would return to the chaos before creation, without form and void. Gen. 1:2, Jer. 4:23 This is the result of the second coming of the Lord Jesus. The heavens, the ozone layer will be rolled up as a scroll allowing the oxygen, so necessary to life, to escape. Rev. 6:14The mountains will be completely leveled, the valleys become filled. Lk. 3:5 Peter also spoke of the complete destruction wrought by the coming of the Lord Jesus, when He comes as a thief. On the occasion of this event there

must be total, absolute annihilation. Not a thing could escape the catastrophe of the earth, its inhabitants and all of their works on the earth. 2 Peter. 3:10 He is coming in vengeance, the earth and it's inhabitants will experience a horrendous reprisal from having rejected the only way of salvation. He is coming in flaming fire. The effect on the earth will be far beyond that of any comet striking the earth. 2 Thes. 1:8

HOSEA. 26

Under such circumstances, a fall guy is sought. Hos. 4:4 Someone upon whom the blame may be placed for the predicament into which they have placed themselves. Arguments arise, disputing of all sorts prevail. Where the works of evil exist there is nothing but confusion. Everyone trying to justify themselves. James 3:16 Refusal to obey the voice of the priest, the Lord Jesus, can bear but one result and that is death. In this case, both natural and spiritual. The soul that lives in sin has the sentence of death upon it. Each and every individual will stand responsible for themselves before the Lord. Eze. 18:20

In the face of the pronounced judgments of the Lord, the prophet who would dare to blatantly prophesy contrary to the proclaimed Word of the Lord, will fall or be destroyed along with those who are appeased with his false prophecies. Certain destruction is pronounced upon Israel, the harlot. Hos. 4:5

A cause for alarm, the lack of knowledge among the people of the Lord. Where there is no vision the people perish. The deficiency of the knowledge of the Lord among them was because they had rejected the Word. Hos. 4:6 Worse yet, they put the branch (the Lord Jesus) to their noses and made as if though it's odor was objectionable. Eze. 8:17 It is little wonder that we see such a display of emotions coming from the Lord. He said; "All day long I have stretched forth my hands to a disobedient and gainsaying people." Rom. 10:21 He constantly called them unto Himself with love, compassion and correction but they persistently rejected Him. It is time for His patience to come to an end and He will now reject them. The ability to approach Him as a priest would also be removed. There would be no mediator. Not only have they forgotten the Law but they had abandoned it for other gods.

The nation grew and increased in numbers but as they increased numerically they also added to their sin and iniquity. Therefore the Lord would remove their glory from them and replace it with shame and reproach. When they had walked with the Lord, He had been the glory in their midst. Hos. 4:7 He had made them a mighty nation and a powerful people. Now, His presence which had made them to be the head and not the tail was totally removed from them. They were overwhelmed by the nations around and about them. To their shame they followed after the gods of the heathen who were but dumb idols, neither hearing or speaking. They forsook the true and living God and embraced gods that were not gods. They exchanged their glory for that which is despicable and vain. Jer. 2:11

HOSEA. 27

Israel of Hosea's day had become exceedingly sinful. They lived for one purpose and that was to continue from day to day in their riotous living. The sin offerings became the property and food of the priest after it had been offered to the Lord. Lev. 6:26 As the people increased, their sin increased, their sin offerings increased. Consequently, the food supplied to the priest increased. They lived on the sins of the people. From the statement made here the priest's were well supplied and "ate up the sins" of the people. While at the same time the hearts of the people were determined to continue their life style. Hos. 4:8

The priesthood failed to provide a leadership of righteousness but followed the example of the people by living in sin. Their offerings and worship before the Lord was a mere ritual, a cover up. The priest, regardless of his calling and office will not be exempt from the same judgment as the people. Hos. 4:9 There is a reward for sin. The wages of sin is death. Rom. 6:23 The Lord gave Jeremiah a strong word of rebuke for the prophet and priest. The Lord not only sees the actions which are taken, He also knows the motive behind such doings. The prophets were accused of having prophesied falsely, after their own hearts and with a message which pleased the people. The priests having become rich at the expense of the people were now using their wealth to control the very people who had

made them rich. Jer. 5:31 Where is there any difference between then and now?

Sin cannot satisfy. The very greatest of the pleasures of sin are but for a fleeting moment. Then, the desire, the longing, the hunger returns and drives the person into even deeper sin. It is impossible for sin to establish a lasting satisfaction. In the ultimate it but drives the individual deeper and deeper into a life of dissatisfaction. The soul is left empty, the gnawing hunger continues to prevail. It is indeed, a vicious circle. Hos. 4:10 Their spiritual adultery with the gods of the heathen would continue and not cease. They would not hear the Word of the Lord. The Lord gave Isaiah a Word which most certainly fit those of that day and all who would cast aside the Word of the Lord. He said; they take counsel, but not of me. They cover with a covering, but not of my spirit. All with the purpose of continuing and adding to their sin. They are indeed rightly called rebellious children. Isa. 5:2 In the midst of all this strong language directed against Israel we must remember that this is a visitation of mercy. The Lord is giving them an opportunity to return unto Him. He had not as yet executed the judgment that He had promised. This is Divine action for the Lord to come with a warning before He fulfills His promise of His impending judgment. He is a God of correction and love.

HOSEA. 28

Wine and whoredom remove the heart and restraint against sin. Their ability to comprehend the difference between right and wrong was dulled by their sin. They were inquiring, seeking direction from their wooden idols. Expecting their wooden staff to show them the way in which they should go. An adulterous spirit (ruwach) had come upon the people, replacing the spirit of the Lord. They were committed, totally given over to this spirit and were controlled by it. A spirit of this nature would naturally lead them astray and away from all that was righteous or holy. Hos. 4:12 In their gross disobedience they had opened their spirit being to this unclean spirit, a spirit of the world, and were now under it's full control. Eph. 2:2

Their places of worship, of the burning of incense were many. The prophet mention the names of five places where their sinful activities were carried on. Interesting, five being the number of atonement. Does it leave a

message that the Lord was willing to forgive and receive again a repentant people? Because of their wayward activities and the example set before them, the youth followed the same pattern. Adulterous acts became rampant and the norm. Hos. 4:13 Woe to a person, a people or a nation when the conviction of the Lord is removed. He will no longer execute punishment on those who follow this path of sin. The condition described by Paul in the first chapter of Romans would certainly apply here. "Wherefore God gave them up to uncleanness." Rom. 1:24 As now, so then, the people lacking knowledge of the true and living God, would fall and be destroyed. Hos. 4:14

A warning from the Lord. Though Israel, (the ten tribes of the northern kingdom), have become wholly offensive with their false worship, let Judah (the two tribes, plus the Levites), refrain from following them and falling into the same trap. Human kind, even Christians are prone to add to their worship, places which are historic in their Christian experience, inanimate objects (such as a cross), physical activities, mannerisms, prayer cloths, shawls, closets, towers and mountains, all of which are substitutes for the presence or moving of the Spirit of the Lord. We have seen people dance in the Spirit of the Lord and it is beautiful and exalting to the Lord. Now, we do not wait for the moving of the spirit but have dancing girls in churches. If I wanted to see a dance or a ballet there are sufficient dance troupes who travel from city to city and display their talents. I could go there, though I have no interest and consequently do not go. In church, it becomes a fleshly substitute for the real thing. True worship is in the Spirit and not in the flesh. The righteousness of the Law cannot be revealed in a people who are not walking in the Spirit of the Word and of the Lord. Rom. 8:4 Ritualistic, habitual worship, though in the name of the Lord will not accomplish the will of the Lord. Those who do HIS will find a place in heaven. Mt. 7:21

HOSEA. 29

Backslidden Israel. Likened to a heifer refusing to be obedient in perform it's duty. Manifesting a spirit of rebellion and stubbornness in turning from the Lord. They had likened the Lord to the image of a calf, now He was calling them a heifer of disobedience. 1 Kings 12:28 Israel always refusing the voice of the prophets sent to her. She is about to be removed out of her

land and scattered abroad. Like a lamb lost in the areas into which the Lord will send them. Hos. 4:16 Ephraim, another name for the ten tribes. Perhaps called so because they were the most dominant of the ten tribes. Ephraim means double fruit, in this case it has a negative connotation. The great harlot of the tribulation period will have her punishment doubled unto her. Rev. 18:6 Israel, Ephraim was about to be separated, torn from the land she loved because of her many idolatrous actions. They were forsaken of the Lord and were to be left to their punishment. Hos. 4:17

Their drink is sour. The joy has been removed from their idolatrous form of worship. To worship without joy is drudgery. They were simply going through the motions and were bored with the monotony of their worship. They continued in their wayward paths knowing all the while that they were walking contrary to the will of the Lord. They were not innocent or without understanding in their vain worship of gods, who were not gods. Isa. 44:8 The word sour (cuwr. Heb) means to turn off. No pleasure may be derived from the worship of any deity, other than the true and living God. That they were unhappy with their gods there is no question, but it had become a way of life with them and so they continued in that style of worship. Hos. 4:18 Further evidence of their unhappiness is the fact that they worshiped with shame. They were not ignorant of the will of the Lord. They well knew that their actions were greatly displeasing to the Lord. Like the horse leach, with it's cry of give, give (Prov. 30:15) the dissatisfaction of false worship demands more and greater effort, without ever giving in return.

The wind (ruwach, wind, air, spirit), the spirit of whoredom has become a bondage to Israel. Their wings are useless. They cannot open them and soar on the thermal columns arising from the earth. They are earth bound when created to fly. The power of truth, eagles wings power has been removed from them. The Lord had demonstrated that ability in their deliverance from Egypt. Ex. 19:4 The gods of the heathen whom they now worship are powerless. They do not have the ability to protect them from their enemies, therefore the Lord will allow them to be utterly removed forever from their land. They are now the ten lost tribes of Israel. Shame, heaped upon shame will be theirs when they realize that they have paid the ultimate price for their rebellious spirit against the Lord. Their trust, confidence and worship of false gods brought only failure.

HOSEA. 30

A special prophecy directed at the leadership of Israel, the priest and the king promised that judgment would come upon them. Likewise, the nation of Israel was not excluded. Religiously and politically they had been a snare to Mizpah, meaning the watch tower. Their vision of the true and living Lord was dead. They no longer were on guard against false gods. They had spread a net over Tabor, meaning broken or fragile. They had taken advantage of, and misled the weak by ensnaring them in their false worship. Hos. 5:1 These who have departed from the truth, (the revolters), defying the will of the Lord, are prolific in their sacrifices trying to appease their gods. The Lord in His faithfulness had chastised and reproved them many times. However, they persisted in their waywardness. Hos. 5:2 The extreme to which they had gone may be noted in the words of Jeremiah. They are called grievous, harden and persistent rebels, whose purpose was to slander and blaspheme the Lord. With their corrupt way they had hardened themselves against the Lord like brass and iron. Jer. 6:28

There is nothing hidden from the eyes of the Lord. Hide their sin as they may, mankind cannot keep the Lord from knowing that which is executed in the secret place. He took into consideration their actions and determined that He would destroy them. Amos 9:8 He knew the defiance of Israel/ Ephraim and their defilement of the sin of adulterous worship. Hos. 5:3 There was no need for the Lord to justify the actions that He was about to take for their great wickedness was blatantly conducted in view of all.

There was no mind among them to change their vile way and return unto the Lord. The spirit of idolatry had so completely overwhelmed and conquered them that they could not escape its deadly hold. Any real knowledge that they had possessed of the Lord was erased from their memories. Their pride, their unwillingness to rightly assess their deplorable spiritual condition was to be the cause of their down fall. Hos. 5:4 They fit the condition found in Ps. 10:4. To save face, they will not admit to their unclean ways. Any and all thoughts of the Lord, they reject from their minds. They are about to know the rejection of the Lord in casting them out of their country. Pride precedes destruction and a prideful, haughty spirit is a sure sign of a fall to come. Prov. 16:18 Most unfortunately, not only will they fall and be separated from the Lord but they will also have great

influence on Judah/Jerusalem and as a result will cause them also to fall. Hos. 5:5 Everyone has a sphere of influence, perhaps some smaller than others but even so our actions will have an effect on one another. May it always be for good.

HOSEA. 31

The idolaters were facing the absolute worst of circumstances, which they had brought upon themselves. They had exhausted the patience of the Lord. The day of grace was removed from them, even though they would go to seek the Lord, they would not be able to find Him. Hos. 5:6 The Lord would have no more of their backsliding ways. He had called unto them in every possible way, but they would not return unto Him. His hands had been outstretched in calling and willingness to receive them but they persisted in performing their rebellious, sinful and obnoxious acts of idolatry. They were free thinkers, doing whatever came to mind. The multiplicity of sacrifices in a great variety of places only angered the Lord. Their total disregard for the dietary teachings of the Law was an action which they flaunted in the face of the Lord. Their attitude was that they were holier than others who were defiled in their sight. Their works, their offerings, rather than being a sweet smelling savor to the Lord, became an irritating, obnoxious smoke in His nose. They grossly polluted the spiritual atmosphere. Isa. 65:2-5

The Lord withdrew Himself from them. In other words He cut them off from being the people of God. They had violated every statute of righteous that He had presented to them. There was no longer an acceptance on His part for the sacrifices and offerings which they would make. He was satiated with them. He found no appeasement or delight in their offerings. He would not, nor could He find pleasure in them appearing before Him. He looked upon their keeping of days, months and Sabbaths as iniquity, for their hearts were not in their actions. The Lord said that He would close His eyes to their acts of worship and prayers. For their hands were full of blood. Isa. 1:11-15 What an indictment the Lord laid before them.

When the Lord chooses to secrete Himself from a people, He said that He would not hear them and will hide His face from them. The very possibility of such a situation developing is frightening. That was the status which

Israel had reached. Mic. 3:4 He will make Himself obscure by hiding in a cloud. Covering Himself so that the prayer of the back-sliding unrighteous nation cannot penetrate it. Lam. 3:44 Even a prayer of desperation and loud shouting will not be able to attract His attention. Israel had no one to blame but themselves. They knew that worshiping idols and all the actions which accompanied it would provoke the Lord to fury. The Lord declared that He would not spare them nor have pity on them. Eze. 8:18 The sin of Israel had reached such huge proportions that they had completely exhausted the patience of the most patience being in the whole of the universe. His mercy and His grace has a boundary beyond which He will not tolerate the vile actions of mankind, even those which are called His people. When the cup of iniquity reaches it's full, there is judgment. Rev. 17:4

HOSEA. 32

Israel had broken covenant with the Lord. Jer. 31:32 Hos. 5:7 The Lord considered Israel to be His wife. He had joined them unto Himself in holy matrimony. Jer. 3:14 As the One who was their creator, in creating mankind and in creating a nation, it was the Lord who had brought them into existence. Isa. 54:5 In acting treacherously against the Lord they separated themselves from Him like an unfaithful wife leaves her husband, therefore He had given them a bill of divorcement and totally departed from them. Jer. 3:8

After all their unfaithfulness and deplorable spiritual condition, the Lord has seen fit to include Israel, the ten lost tribes, in the New Covenant. The true covenant, made by and sealed by the blood of the Lord Jesus. The promises of reconciliation and restoration are not after the flesh nor of a particular race. Jer. 3:14-17 These are the people who are spiritually Jews, the natural must be exchanged for that which is spiritual and embraces all peoples. Rom. 2:29 The covenant, the kingdom of God in the end of the age is to be related to a new nation, comprised of all the nations of the world who have been born of the Spirit of the Lord. The covenant is revealed and consummated in the new birth. The kingdom of God is invisible to those who are not born again. It is a spiritual kingdom and not of this world. John 3:3 The old covenant is just that, it is old and decayed. It

no longer has value nor will it ever be restored as far as the Lord is concerned. Heb. 8:13

The Lord promised that in restoring, as individuals, not the entire nation, and as a nation that He would give them pastors who have the heart of God. Men who are dedicated to the Lord who have the good of the flock at heart. They will feed the sheep with the knowledge and understanding of the word of the Lord. The revelation of the Spirit will rest upon them. Jer. 3:15 It is worthwhile to consider that at that time, the most vital piece of furniture in both the tabernacle and temple will not be in use, nor even be remembered. Jer. 3:16 Which is another indication that the old order will not be restored nor can it ever be accepted by the Lord again. The Lord Jesus Christ is the end, the completion, the consummation, the conclusion of the Law, all for us. Rom. 10:4 The most important cause for the exclusion of the old and the inauguration of the new is that the mercy seat is no longer a lid on a box but now it is found to be the most important person in the universe. The Lord Jesus is our propitiation (Gr. hilasterion, mercy seat) the one who has made atonement for all. He is our mercy seat and none other. Redemption is by His blood and by His blood alone. There is no other acceptable sacrifice. Rom. 3:25 The Law and faith are in conflict and void out one another. Rom. 4:14 The two covenants, the old and the new, cannot be mixed.

HOSEA. 33

How great is the protection of the Lord? Among the many promises given to Israel was the assurance of divinely appointed peace. Their enemies were to be filled with fear of them, as long as they walked with the Lord. Ex. 23:27 But now, that protection of the Lord had been revoked. They were on their own, trusting in gods that were none existent. The Lord used a threefold method of warning to alert them of the impending judgment. Therefore sound an alarm. Invasion is imminent if not already commenced. The sophar, was to be sounded, but in vain, for they were no longer under the canopy of the Lord. Hos. 5:8 When they walked with the Lord the sounding of the ram's horn translated in to victory for them. Josh. 6:5 In this instance it was a warning of impending defeat and captivity. The silver trumpets were used in much the same way, for an assembly, in preparation for traveling and in a warning of impending danger. Num. 10:1-9 The third

warning was in the shouted warning of the prophet of the Lord. The Lord had been faithful in alerting them to the consequences of their backslidings. The time for the penalty to be enjoined upon them had arrived.

While the main emphasis is on Israel, Judah is not excluded from being effected. With the special warning given to Benjamin it would appear that the invasion began in their territory. Ephraim (Israel), to be laid waste as an act of chastisement from the Lord. Thus, and in this method the Lord will reveal to them the truth and effectiveness of His Word. Hos. 5:9 As the Lord had previously warned, (Hos. 5:5) Judah, most unfortunately had followed the same pattern as Israel and therefore would not escape correction. They had removed the religious border and were involved in the worship of Baal commingled with Jehovah. Seeing as there was a curse upon those who removed the landmarks of their neighbors property, (Deut. 27:17) how much greater would the punishment be for those who cheated on the Lord. Note Jer. 23:27 Judah was to receive correction like floods of water. Ephraim will know violence and be removed, scattered abroad and find that they have been violently separated from the land of their inheritance. All because, they willingly walked by human concept. NKJV Natural, carnal intelligence and spiritual concepts do not agree. What is presented by the natural mind may sound reasonable, but only to those who do not know the reasoning's of the mind of the Spirit. Their acceptance of the doctrines of the heathen around and about them is the cause of the trouble in which they found themselves. Rom. 8:5 The difference between the two is equal to life and death. Rom. 8:6 The Lord in utter disgust had turned away from Israel and declared that He would be like a destructive moth. At the same time He would be to Judah as rottenness or decay, as though they were being eaten by a worm. Certain and positive signs of great problems because they had forsaken the Lord.

HOSEA. 34

Both Ephraim (Israel) and Judah to be made aware of their sin by being smitten and wounding. Rather than turning to the Lord for help, Ephraim went to King Jareb of Assyria. Fittingly enough Jareb means, he will contend. The spirit and character of Assyria was a contrary spirit, especially against Israel and Judah. Because of their spiritual condition, they were bound to make the wrong decision in seeking help. To ally ones self with a

contentious person can only produce more trouble and most certainly wrong advice. Once the path is chosen to walk contrarily to the will of the Lord all choices made only add to the problem. The only choice and real solution is to turn to the Lord. Hos. 5:13 The futility of seeking such an alliance and the results are found in 2 Chron. 28:20-26 Their hearts were set on false worship and practices. Their reasoning was clouded by their sinful spiritual condition. Prov. 15:9

The fierceness of the anger of the Lord was to be as a ravaging lion against both, Israel and Judah. Though they were separated and had become two different nations, it is very apparent that Israel had a profound effect on Judah. The punishment of both nations was certain and none would be able to rescue them. The Lord was about to snatch them out of their land and inheritance. There would be none who could rescue. Hos. 5:14 It may sound redundant but their only hope was to turn to the Lord. The solution to many problems which many face is very simple, yet made complex by a stubborn nature. Just repent and return unto the Lord. A full hearted seeking after the Lord will produce tremendous results. He wants to help. He wants to reveal Himself. Jer. 29:13

The Lord would totally withdraw Himself from them and leave them to their seeking of none existing gods who could not assist nor help them in any way. He would wait until they would come to themselves and return unto Him with repentance and confession. The Lord afflicted them that He might get their attention and turn to Him. Hos. 5:15 Not all the problems that are faced in life are of the devil. We may be quick to accuse him of our negative situations, but the Lord uses hardships as a means of grabbing our attention. It is a shame that the Lord has to go so far as to bring troubles and problems into our lives, but He does and He will. What does it take for us to return to the Lord? Drastic measures such as recorded in, Ps. 78:34? We reckon happiness to be when everything is bright and rosy and our problems at the worst are minor. The man of God is happy, when he is corrected of the Lord. Job 5:17 The real evidence of belonging to the family of the Lord is when we are disciplined. Heb. 12:5 The chastening of the Lord is not always easy or light. It can hurt and humble, but the end result is in a life of holiness unto the Lord. It's payoff is tremendous. Heb. 12:11

HOSEA. 35

A call for a turning back unto the LORD. Spiritual healing will be found in Him and in Him alone. They had been scattered abroad and wandered aimlessly. Eze. 34:6 The intentions of the Lord are expressed by His promise to seek the lost and those who were driven away, to bring them once again into contact with Himself. He promised that He would seek them and bind that which was broken, giving strength to the sick, while at the same time punishing those who had taken advantage of them. Eze. 34:16 There is the sound of a Messianic prophecy to be found here. Jesus came ministering to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Mt. 10:6

After two days. A day to the Lord is as a thousand years to mankind. Ps. 90:4, 2 Peter 3:8 That is understandable when compared to eternity. We are coming to the conclusion of the second day or the end of two thousand years since Christ. We are living in the sunset of that second day. The day ends with a great reviving and manifestation of the power of the Lord. It is harvest time. This world is yet to know the greatest revival ever. The resurrection of the righteous dead will take place at the conclusion of the second day. The dead in Christ and the living will be caught up to meet Him in the air. 1 Thess. 4:16-17 This will introduce the third day (a thousand years) which will be spent here on this earth, it will be the Kingdom of our God and of His Christ. These are those who come up in the first resurrection and reign with Christ for the thousand years. Rev. 20:6 The ungodly dead are not seen again until the conclusion of the thousand years and then are briefly loosed from the grave and judged. Rev. 20:5

A people of knowledge, not the knowledge of this world but a full and complete comprehension of the will and workings of the Lord through the Holy Spirit. A demonstration of the pure and holy power of the Lord in miraculous signs and wonders. Jesus promised a season of greater works. John 14:12 To follow on, Hebrew, radaph, means to pursue, to run after, to chase, to hunt. The intensity of the word is indicative of the great desire of a people who have a tremendous craving for more of the Lord. A reaching out, a pursuit, a running after Him, more than anything else in all of this world. They have the same hunger and vision that was expressed by Paul when he spoke of his reaching forth, striving after, pressing, pushing on for the finish line and the prize which the Lord had prepared for him. Phil.

3:13-14 There is to be found in his declaration of purpose and objective the determination that is to be found in any champion who has their mind set on winning. There must be a drive, a great zeal manifest in the life of that one who would be a winner and gain the crown of victory. Only those who have a great passion for winning will wear the victors crown.

HOSEA. 36

“As the sun rises.” Hos. 6:3b NIV. “His rising is fixed” (Keil and Delitzsch) The time of the first visit of Christ to this earth was predetermined by the Lord, so His second coming is established. The Father knows the day and will send forth His Son once again. Mt. 24:36 In His first coming, at the time of His birth, he came in the fullness of time, or at the set time. Gal. 4:4 The birth of the Lord Jesus was the beginning of the visitation of the heavenly dayspring or the dawning of the day. Luke 1:78 It was to be a new day. The light of the world had come. John 8:12 A light to lighten the Gentiles, the manifest glory of Israel. Luke 2:32 The nature, the Spirit of the Lord is light, absolutely no darkness may be found in Him. 1 John 1:5 He came as the Sun of righteousness, bringing with Him the ministry of light and healing. Mal. 4:2

He will return at the precise moment of the completion of the schedule of the Lord. There is nothing that any person can do to hurry or deter that day. The Lord is not waiting for conditions to be just right. When that set moment arrives, He will come. Paul called it the dispensation of the fullness of times. When all that the Lord had planned for this earth, prior to the second coming of the Lord Jesus, has reached its conclusion, then He will come. Times, Gr. Kairos, a set time or the arrival of the moment. Eph. 1:10

His return will be with the greatest display of light ever seen. Not only will He lighten the atmosphere of the earth but He will be seen coming from the moment He leaves heaven. There will be a tremendous display of celestial light at His return. His coming will be a shining forth, like the flashing of lightening. He will come with both the light giving effect of lightning and with the speed of lightning, or light. Mt. 24:27 For as the lightning flashes out of one part of heaven and shines to the other, SO ALSO will be the Son of Man in His day. Luke 17:24 NKJV. The Lord will be seen over them. The flashing of His arrows is like lightening. The true, the full light of the Lord

will be seen and cause great consternation in the hearts of men. The trumpet will be sounded. Zech. 9:14 The eyes of every person who has ever lived on the earth will see this tremendous display of light and the glory of His coming. Even those responsible for the physical act of crucifying Him. Rev. 1:7 How visible is His coming? How visible is a building on fire? He is coming in flaming fire to execute judgment on those who do not know Him and have absolutely no intention of obeying the gospel of the Lord Jesus. 2 Thess. 1:8 What a display of might and power His coming will be. The antichrist is to be consumed by the brilliancy of the coming of Christ. 2 Thess. 2:8 If he is to be destroyed by the coming of Christ, who comes first?

HOSEA. 37

A word and work of mercy before judgment. The Lord is the very personification of mercy. Ps. 62:12 He visits with mercy before the sentence is implemented. The messages of the prophets were direct and filled with warnings of the impending consequences of their sin. First the warning, the word of mercy, then the punishment. An example of His dealings with His people after this manner may be found in Jer. 25:1-11

The positive promises of the Lord are effectual in the lives of those who obey Him. Through Hosea He has promised rain, a symbol of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon those who are His people. Israel was promised rain in it's season. Deut. 11:11-14 The abundant supply of water was dependent on their obedience. Rain speaks to us of the sufficiency and the abundance of the blessing of the Lord descending from heaven. Heb. 6:7

As much as some have a problem with doctrine, the Lord said; that His doctrine would drop as the rain and His spoken word as the dew, as the mist and the showers upon the grass of the field. Deut. 32:2 Jesus came teaching, preaching, proclaiming the Word of the Lord and it is recorded that His Words were doctrine. Lk. 4:32 His words were anointed by the power of the Spirit of the Lord, therefore were powerful. Again, understanding the scriptures and their instructions to us depends upon obedience. A will to do the will of the Lord. John 7:16-17 The doctrine of the Lord is infallible. It is that which is the beginning of the chain of life. It descend from on high and waters the earth. The end results are food for

those who have sown. It is a beautiful type of His Word which will never be without a harvest. He will bless it and cause it to prosper in all of its promises. Isa. 55:10-11

Take into consideration that a people who embrace the Word, and are not afraid to publish and live it will be blessed. If we relate this portion of scripture to the deliverance of the Bride as seen in Revelation twelve we see a last day revival and the blessing of the wilderness. The woman of Revelation twelve, though pressed and pursued by the dragon, will yet go out with joy, filled with the peace of the Lord. In as much as she is being taken into a place prepared by the Lord (Rev. 12:6), the beauty of His creation will burst forth around her and she will spend the tribulation period in a place likened to the garden of Eden. Isa. 51:3 She will experience the blessings of heaven and earth in the divine presence of the Lord while all around her, in this world there will be strife and turmoil. Some may question, "Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?" Ps. 78:19 The response is, "Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." Ps. 23:5 Not only can He, but He most definitely will.

HOSEA. 38

If the promises of the Lord which pertain to nature have their conditions which must be met. How much more are there requirements for their spiritual fulfillment. In order to have consist rain which would produce their crops, it was necessary that Israel, hear very plainly and with understanding the words of the voice of the Lord. They were to be very attentive to His commandments and incorporate them into their daily life. Then they would become a great nation. Wealthier and more powerful than any other. Deut. 28:1 In so doing, they would acquire access to the treasure house of the Lord. They would be blessed of the Lord with seasons of the year which were stable and trustworthy. Consequently they would be the head of all nations. Deut. 28:12-14 Remain in constant contact with the Word and follow it to be blessed of the Lord.

To please the Lord, to be in His very special favor, is like a cloud of the latter rain, the rain of spring, a rain of awakening and life. Doing that which pleases Him will bring the moving of the Spirit in to our lives. Prov. 16:15 The later rain, in the beginning of the year, came after the fall crops had

been harvested and prepared the land for planting. It was in the beginning of the year, therefore is typical of the day of Pentecost and the introduction of the Holy Spirit to the church. Acts 2:1-4 The former rain came in the fall of the year and represents the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the last century. The beginning of a mighty move of the Lord which has, and continues to sweep the world with the gospel message. It was the harvest rain, bringing the crops to their maturity. As long as Israel walked with the Lord they were assured that there would be rain in the proper seasons and the consequences of that rain, would be an assured harvest. Deut. 11:14

Here is an amazing promise. It is bringing to us a message of a last day revival. A move of the Spirit unequalled in the history of the church. The Lord has promised a rain which will be, in volume, equal to the two normal periods of rain. He will combine the two and send them in the first month. Joel 2:23 The first month is the month of beginnings. Ex. 12:2 It was the month of the Passover. The Passover is celebrated in the church in the taking of Communion. There is yet to come a much deeper appreciation of the Communion table. It is not to be a ritual. It is a living and life giving factor in the life of the church. Is it not the communion of the blood and body of Christ. 1 Cor. 10:16 Communion, Greek, koinonia, partnership, fellowship, participation or the communication of the body and the blood of Christ. It is the link, the coupling together of Christ and His church, made possible by His body and His blood. We are to be one with Him. Flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone. Eph. 5:30 Now, ye are the body of Christ. 1 Cor. 12:27 He has yet to reveal the glory and majesty of that glorious church, but He will, and that right soon.

HOSEA. 39

The combined rains of the first month represent the double portion or the full amount. The double portion was that which was to be given to the first born son. Deut. 21:17 In the case of Jesus, He was given the Spirit without measure. John 3:34 The anointing of the Spirit which He received was in it's fullness. Far beyond that of any others who had been anointed by the Lord. Heb. 1:9 The church, which is the work of His hands, has been privileged to become an heir of God. Not for just a portion of His riches, we are joint-heirs with Christ. Rom. 8:17 Therefore, we share and share alike. The church has yet to receive the full inheritance left to her. The combined

rain, the complete sharing of His inheritance is yet to come. We have not by any means exhausted the power and the glory of the Spirit. The manifestation of the Spirit will reach a crescendo and come to a absolute fullness of power and glory in the end of the age. Acts 2:17-18

We have an Old Testament type in the relationship of Elijah (Christ) and Elisha (the church). They started out at Gilgal (rolling). 2 Kings 2:1 It was here that the reproach of Egypt was removed from them. It was a time of circumcise. Josh. 5:9 For the people of the double portion, it is a complete separation from the flesh. Col. 2:11 Elisha was then further tested as to his resolve to continue to follow Elijah. Stay here in Bethel, (house of God), tarry within your comfort zone. The moving of the Spirit will not be accepted by all. We may find ourselves alienated from former associations. It has been done in the past and will definitely happen again. The life of the Apostle Paul is a great example. It was here that Elisha's contemporaries, the sons of the prophets added to his testing. 2 Kings 2:3

Jericho (fragrance) was next to be visited and as in each instance, Elisha was again urged to remain in this city. 2 Kings 2:4-5 It's name is translated by some to be, moon city, in other words they worshiped false gods. To most people sweet fragrances are pleasant. Elisha was about to lose the leadership of Elijah and be come the one who would bear the responsibility of a prophet. Not an easy task. Here again he faced more sons of the prophets. They added to the complexity of his decision to follow Elijah, regardless of circumstances and the goading of others.

Jordan, (the descent, flowing downward), generally considered to represent death. The Bride of Christ must die to all that is worldly and be totally the Lord's. Life beyond Jordan, is real and eternal. Gal. 2:20 There is a place, in Christ, where we die to self and the world. Elijah smote the river with his mantel and it dried up for them. So much so that they went over dry shod. No mud on their feet. 2 Kings 2:8 They were observed by fifty, (the number of Pentecost), sons of the prophets. They looked on, but did not participate. Hmmm. 2 Kings 2:7

HOSEA. 40

Elisha, what are you seeking? What is your purpose in demanding so strongly to follow me? What can I do for you before I am taken away? 2 Kings 2:9 Elisha had proven his devotion and great desire to follow Elijah every where and anywhere. He was not without a spiritual goal in mind. It was not a case of blindly following a leader. Elisha knew what he wanted and asked for it when given the opportunity. His desire was to have a double portion of the Spirit. An anointing which was to be applied in an unlimited measure. There are twice as many recorded miracles from Elisha's ministry as there are from Elijah's. He wanted the fullness of the power of the Lord manifest in his work and ministry. There is a like portion of the fullness of the Spirit for this end of the age. Eph. 1:23

The request was not an easy one to satisfy. The anointing was not Elijah's to give, nor was he called upon to appoint his successor. That anointing was to be passed on to a man with a vision. If you see me. A true revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ will produce a consecration and a dedication of which the end result is a divine anointing. The whole of Elijah's future hung on one thing, seeing Elijah's departure. I would venture to say that he did not remove his eyes from him. 2 Kings 2:10 The two of them walked together. Both having the same pattern of life. Elisha walking in the shadow of Elijah while keeping him in his full sight. He was determined to have an anointed ministry to the glory of the Lord. As they walked they communicated one with the other. Could it be that their conversation centered on the anointing? It was certainly uppermost in the eyes of Elisha.

The moment of their parting and the exit of Elijah arrived, and it was spectacular. Imagine horses of fire and a chariot of fire. Elisha later was to pray that the eyes of the young servant be opened that he might see the protection of the Lord around and about them. When they were opened he saw the mountain was full of the chariots and the horses of fire sent by the Lord. 2 Kings 6:17 Elisha's answer was, those who be for us are more than those who are against us. The Lord chose to manifest His glorious power and might following the warfare of that day. The chariot and horses were the tanks of that day and were feared. The Lord is not keeping a stable in heaven. He may manifest Himself or His power in any way or form that He would want to choose.

Elijah was carried into heaven by the whirlwind. To Ezekiel the Lord revealed Himself in a mighty whirlwind coming out of the north. Eze. 1:4 Job heard the voice of the Lord out of the whirlwind. Job 40:6 The Lord escorted Elijah into heaven in the very vortex of His strength and Spiritual energy. 2 Kings 2:10 The mantel, the anointing of Elijah became the mantel of Elisha even as the mantel of Christ has been passed on to the church.

HOSEA. 41

A glimpse into the heart of the Lord. As with any parent He does not enjoy the sever correction which He had exercised and was to continue upon Ephraim (Israel) and Judah. What more could He do to cause them to turn from their wickedness and idolatry. Their attention of the Lord was like the mist of the morning, as soon as the sun has risen, the cloud is evaporated. They had no time for the Lord. Hos. 6:5 Because of their utter neglect of the Lord He sent them prophets with words like a sharp sword and slew them. Words of prophecy, which when fulfilled brought death upon them. Their time of judgment was as definite as the shining forth of a light. It was certain, and would not be removed from them.

The desire of the Lord was diametrically the opposite. He desired to be the object of their kindness and love. He longed for them to seek Him. To focus their entire attention on worship directed at Him. Even as today He is looking for a people who love Him above all else in this world. Sacrifices, the offering of animals did not satisfy His longing to be the object of their affections. Hos. 6:5 The Lord was satiated with the abundance of their sacrifices, to such a degree that He wanted no more of them. Isa. 1:11-15 Restored animal sacrifices, or a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem is blaspheme in the sight of the Lord and against Him. Isa. 66:1-4 The Father has called the world unto Himself through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus. There never has been nor will there ever be a sacrifice equal to His. The daily ministrations of the priest of the tabernacle and temple could NEVER take away sins. It took the blood of the Lord Jesus, the blood of God Himself, to bring forgiveness and cleansing from sin. Heb. 10:11-12 Even those who came to the Lord under the first testament, i.e. the old testament of the Law and animal sacrifice, could not enter heaven except by the blood of Christ.

There is only one sacrifice acceptable to the Lord and that is the perfect, holy sacrifice of the Lord Jesus. Heb. 9:15

More actions and vain words were offered toward Him from hearts that were far from Him, while He longed for a people who really knew Him. Ritualistic worship does not impress the Lord. Vain repetitions are obnoxious to Him. Lip service is quickly discerned by the Lord and is rejected. He is looking for a people who will worship Him from their hearts and not just their mouths, with words which do not originate from a sincere and earnest heart. Isa. 29:13 Must we be such puny, weak emaciated Christians that we sin every day in word, though or deed? Not according to the Apostle John. He said; that if we abide in Christ we will not sin. Reasonable, is it not. If Christ rules, sin cannot have a place in the life of such a person. Furthermore, John said that if we habitually sin, we have not seen Christ nor known Him. 1 John 3:6 Hard words, nevertheless true and worthy of all acceptance.

HOSEA. 42

The Lord required that Israel be obedient to Him and to the Law which He had given them. When all is considered they had an ideal situation. All that was necessary would be supplied them. Rain in it's season was assured. Their crops would continue from year to year, without fail. They would have been the strongest nation among all nations, for the Lord was their strength. They were to be the head and not the tail. Deut. 28:13 The Lord had made a sure covenant with them. Foolishly, stupidly they broke the covenant , and transgressed against the Lord. Like men, (some versions say Adam), their dealings with the Lord were deceitful and unfaithful. Hos. 6:7

The city of Gilead is singled out as a particularly city of gross wickedness. A place contaminated by the shedding of blood. Gilead means, a heap of witness. It was here that Jacob and Laban gathered and made a heap of stones as a witness of the peace pact which they had made. Gen. 31:46-49 It was a city which had been chosen to be one of the cities of refuge. Josh. 21:38 Of all cities it should have been one of the most peaceful. However, in the sight of the Lord the city was anything but peaceful. Their life style

was completely contrary to the life that the Lord had called them to enjoy. All because they worshipped false gods. Hos. 6:8

The priesthood had become vile and wicked. They are declared to be robbers and murders. They formed gangs and were the mafia of that day. The roads were unsafe for those who were traveling from city to city. Hos. 6:9 They murdered by consent. In other words, it was as if they were given religious licenses by the priest to commit murder. Some translations have inserted Shechem (shoulder) here instead of consent. Shechem was also a city of refuge. Josh. 20:7 These men who represented the people of Israel before the Lord by bearing the names of the twelve tribes on their shoulders. Ex. 28:11-12 They should have been examples of righteousness bearing a people before the Lord, on their shoulders, and making intercession and atonement for them. An excellent description of the character of the priests of that day may be found in the wise words and instruction of Solomon. Prov. 1:11-18 The lewdness of the priest and people was their extreme devotion to the idols of the heathen. The whole nation, from priest to beggar were committed to sinful practices. Hos. 4:9

The Lord saw the wicked actions of priest and people and considered it to be a horrible thing. Terrible, because it was something which He greatly despised. Fearful, for there was an impending judgment to be brought upon the people, the nation, which was involved in these vile acts of spiritual adultery. Hos. 6:10 Because Judah had followed their example, they also would reap a harvest of punishment. Hos. 6:11

HOSEA. 43

The Lord in His mercy would have healed Israel, but when He would have mollified His anger and judgment against them, sin broke out in another area. Iniquity and wickedness were predominant in Ephraim and Samaria. They were a foolish, perverse people. Hos. 7:1 When they should have known the Lord, they were without a knowledge of Him. Senselessly, they were a people who forsook the way of the Lord and turned to their own ways. Their wisdom was like this generation, they were wise to do evil but had no comprehension of that which was good. Jer. 4:22 They were fraudulent and untrustworthy in their business dealings. They had made even the house of the Lord into a den of thieves and robbers. Jer. 7:11 In

the days of the Lord Jesus the situation was no better. He rebuked the priests for the deplorable spiritual condition of the Temple. Mark 11:17 They, Israel, had exhausted the patience of the Lord and were bringing on themselves sever punishment.

It appeared to be a case of our of sight out of mind with Israel. Having forsaken the Lord they did not remember that He was well aware of the wickedness of their sinful practices. Hos. 7:2 They had forgotten that their evil works were always before Him. There is nothing hidden from the eyes of the Lord. The day of visitation will come upon all who persist in their sinful paths. Jer. 14:10 The heart of every person will be exposed before the Lord and before all men. Num. 32:23 Their actions had become a trap and a snare. They were held fast by their own unrighteous works. Prov. 5:22 There is no possible way to hide our doings from the eyes of the Lord. The eyes of the Lord are everywhere observing good and evil. Prov. 15:3

Their leadership, with hearts full of ungodly ways, rejoiced in the fact of the great wickedness of the people. Lying prophets were plentiful, the priests were in power because of their wealth, and the people, as well as the king loved to have it so. They were completely ignorant or totally ignored the fact that there will come a day of reckoning. The prophet then posed the question of the ages, what will you do in that day? Jer. 5:31 So great was the iniquity which the Lord saw that He caused the prophet to make a statement that they commit evil with both hands. The prince (may refer to the priest) asks for gifts and their judges sought bribes. Great men express their strong desire to do evil. Thus, they are all of one spirit and sinful nature. Mic.7:3 Not only will we experience a great move of the Spirit of the Lord in the end of the age, but there will also be a movement of evil, consummating in the most evil generation of all time. This is seen in the amalgamated religion predominant under the rule of the antichrist. As always, sin is attractive. The golden cup catches the eye and desire, but it is filled with abominations and the filthiness of fornication. Rev.17:4

HOSEA. 44

They are all adulterers. According to this accusation the whole nation had turned to idol worship. The people were totally committed to other gods, while forsaking and forgetting the true and living God. At the instigation,

and in company with the leaders of Israel, the king was supplied a great abundance of wine. He was intoxicated to the point of being overcome, made sick by the excessive amount of wine he had consumed. Of one thing we may be certain, none of them were in a condition to properly guide the people and make decisions. Hos. 7:5 Wine is deceptive and is called a mocker, its subsequent reaction is to have in derision those who imbibe. Solomon issued a warning concerning its use. Prov. 20:1 In joining with those who scorned the Lord, the king further violated the Law which would most certainly cause a response from the Lord.

Their debauchery was likened to that of a baker heating his oven, which burned all night long until in the morning it had reached its apex and had become a flaming fire. This lust had become excessive and burned strongly in their hearts. They had rid themselves of the Godly leadership of judges and kings. None among them were prone to seek the Lord. Hos. 7:6-7

They were a half baked lot. Cooked only on one side. Hos. 7:6 They were still called after the name of the Lord but were far from a true life lived in serving Him. Ephraim had mixed himself among the heathen peoples amongst whom they dwelt. In leading the children of Israel into the promised land, the Lord warned them about mixing with the inhabitants who were already there. For they would become a snare unto them and cause them to stumble. Ex. 23:31-33 By the time they left Egypt they had become a 'mixed multitude' or a mongrel race of people. They had intermarried with the Egyptians. It was this segment of their society which caused them problems in the wilderness. They were the ones who complained and lusted after the good things of Egypt. Num. 11:4 In the days of restoration, after having been delivered from Babylon, they discovered that this violated the Law. Therefore they determined that there should be a separation from the mixed multitude. Neh. 13:3

New Testament Christians at one time were taught to separate themselves from the unbeliever, the worldly. The Lord has not changed His calling. We are still warned about being yoked together with unbelievers. 2 Cor. 6:15 The call to be a holy, set apart people is greater than ever. We are living in the end of the age and the Lord is looking for a people who serve Him with their whole heart. The call is to come out, touch not the unclean in order for the blessing of the Lord to be bestowed upon us. 2 Cor. 6:17

HOSEA. 45

Ephraim (Israel) bereft of their strength by the nations whose gods they had embraced. Most unfortunately they were not aware of their loss. Hos. 7:9 Much like Samson from whom the LORD had departed, yet he was entirely unaware that the LORD, who was his strength, was no longer with him. Judg. 16:20-21 Israel had become a people robbed and looted of their spiritual hope and fellowship with the Lord. They had come to be a people who had fallen into pits and secreted in prisons. The loss of spiritual liberty is the greatest, the most harmful of all. There were none to show pity toward them. There was no attempt made to rescue them. There was no voice of travail seeking to restore them. Who will harken to the lesson presented here? Who in the future will learn from the punishment inflicted upon Israel? The LORD who had loved them and wooed them, bringing them unto Himself had turned against them because of their total refusal to walk in His ways. Isa. 42:22-25 The Lord is patient in dealing with His Children but we see that there is a place where the line of demarcation is crossed, and then there are complications.

The pride of Israel testified of its presence before them, condemning them for their haughty spirit. Hos. 7:10 Their recorded pride may well be ascribed to their spiritual ignorance. Pride is the door to destruction which will surely lead to a crash and failure. Pr. 16:18 Lacking spiritual comprehension they have no heart or thought of returning to the Lord. So they had so deeply become involved in idol worship that they found no inclination in their hearts to return unto the Lord. They were completely devoted to worship of the gods of the heathen. They had set themselves up for all which was about to come upon them. They were ripe for judgment.

Their sin had made them to be ridiculous. They were acting foolishly, like a silly dove. Caution had been thrown to the wind. They were unable to evaluate the price that they were about to pay for sinful actions. Their spiritual understanding was nil. They totally lacked the ability to understand or receive the Word of the Lord as it came to them. Instead of calling upon the Lord for help in resisting their enemies they turned to Egypt and Assyria for assistance. Hos. 7:11 Ironically, in involving the Egyptians they would cause them also to be humbled by the Lord. Isaiah drew quite a contrast between the Egyptian, the flesh, and the Lord and the working of His Spirit.

Isa. 31:1-3 Associations between the children of the Lord and this world are almost always destined for failure. The ungodly have a different approach to situations in life which are contrary to the ways of the Lord. There is no common meeting ground between the ways of the unrighteous and the righteous. The Word of the Lord must always be the standard of life followed by those who know Him and love Him. 2 Cor. 6:14-17

HOSEA. 46

The prophecies pertaining to Israel most certainly will be fulfilled. When they flee from the presence of the Lord He will throw a net after them and they shall be snared and brought down. Hos. 7:12 This message and warning had come to them from all the prophets whom the Lord had sent unto them. The curse and sentence of the Lord was upon them. They were seeking the help of the arm of the flesh and not the Lord who had been their perseverance and protector. Because they had forsaken the Lord they turned to the wrong source for help and would have to suffer the consequences. Jer. 17:5

In forsaking the Lord, they had forsaken their own mercy. The One whose very being is mercy would have cared for them as none other would have been able to do. Their turning from Him and flight was going to create grief for them, not the help which they so desperately needed. The Lord would bring destruction upon them because they had forsaken Him. The dire warnings of the Lord covered the very situation in which they found themselves. He had warned them that if they went after other gods it was a breach of covenant and its penalties were dreadful. In His anger He would be against them. He would hide His face from them. They would find a flood of evils and difficulties coming against them. In that day they would confess that all their troubles stemmed from the fact that they did not have the presence of the Lord among them. Deut. 31:16-17

The cause of their destruction was because they had transgressed against the Lord. Sin and wickedness are obnoxious to the Lord. They had gone beyond that and created a direct insult to the Lord in substituting gods who were not gods in His place. Their transgression was personal and was a complete rejection of the Lord. For the great anger of the Lord to be kindled upon them in such a manner they would have had to have deliberately and

presumptuously forsaken the Lord. Not only had Israel been utterly unfaithful, but Judah had followed suit. They had lied about the voice of the Lord which had been among them in the messages of the prophets. They said; it is not His voice. He will not punish us, we will not experience evil. His prophets are just so much hot air. The Word is not in them. Therefore, He pronounced His verdict upon them. The Word would become fire and the people but wood and they would be destroyed. Israel would know defeat at the hand of a nation which would utter destroy them. Jer. 5:12-15 They had forgotten the history of their nation and the deliverance of their forefathers from Egypt, at which time the Lord had redeemed them. Sin, stubbornness, disobedience will cause mankind to do their own thing and go their own way. The end of such actions has but one result and that is a spiritual calamity.

HOSEA. 47

Surely there are many lessons which we can learn from the actions and subsequent punishments of Israel and Judah. With them, it was a nation. Today, with us, it is a individual walk with the Lord. The statement of the Lord, "they have not cried unto me with their heart," could be a spiritual condition which would be applied to the present generation. Hos. 7:14 The Lord has established the measure with which we should seek Him. He is not afar off, but is nigh unto all who will call upon His name. He has promised that the person seeking Him with all of their heart will find Him. Jer. 29:13 The Lord had said to them that He would be inaccessible to them, until they were willing to acknowledge their wrong doing, and would seek His face earnestly. Hos. 5:15

The Lord looked upon them as a people who approached Him with their mouths. They used words, multiplied words, empty words of praise and adoration. Their lips gave high sounding utterances of honor to Him, while all the time their hearts were far from Him. Isa. 29:13 They treated the Lord like the Lord told Ezekiel about the attitude of the people toward him. They talked about him in their houses. Mockingly, they invite others to come and hear what the prophet had to say. When they gathered before him they came as the people of the Lord to hear his words but had no intention of following his instructions. They mouthed an abundance of love but their hearts were filled with greed and unjust gain. To them, Ezekiel was as one

who could sing a beautiful song, beautifully, and could play well on an instrument for entertainment. However they had no intention of putting to practice the teaching which they had heard. When his prophecies were fulfilled, then and only then would they awaken and realize that a prophet had truly been among them.

Eze. 33:30-33

Israel's nights were troublesome their sleep was disturbed. Their nights spent in crying out loudly, were not for the help of the Lord. Their hearts were not turned toward the Lord. Though they howled, or wailed upon their beds, they did not call out unto the Lord with their whole heart. Their assemblies were for food and drink. They were continuously rebellious against the Lord. For certain, the way of the transgressor is the hard, the most difficult way. A comprehension of the Word of the Lord will bring forth favor for that individual who seeks the knowledge of the Lord. Prov. 13:15 It is amazing that the devil has been able to hoodwink mankind into believing that serving the Lord is the hard way to live. The most difficult way is to try to live in this world without the Lord. The unsaved have no right to seek the help of the Lord. Yet, when cornered and in utter despair, they will pray. He is not duty bound to respond to their cry. The Word plainly states that He does not hear the prayer of sinners. John 9:31 Ah, yes, one prayer He does hear and that is a prayer of repentance.

HOSEA. 48

The Lord had worked in various ways in an attempt to get Israel to do His will. He had limited their strength and chastised them thorough the nations around them. He had strengthened their arms and helped them overcome their enemies. Every means whereby the promise of an inheritance of the land could be kept, had been exhausted. Now, due to their stubborn and persistent worship of idols they were to loose their inheritance by being driven out of their land. For all this, they continued to imagine evil of the Lord. They turned against Him by accusing Him of all their troubles. Hos. 7:15

They returned, they turned back changing their ways but not to the ways of the Lord. They intensified their worship to their idols. The very one to whom they should have turned and approached with dedication and worship, went

unheeded. They had become like a bow with a slack draw string or faulty in its ability to hit the target. Their leader would be eliminated by the sword because of the vile language and the cursing that they had become accustomed to using. They were so far from the Lord that they mocked and scoffed at Him. Hos. 7:16 The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways. Prov. 14:14

Set the trumpet to the lips. Prepare for its sounding. The blowing of the trumpet had a variety of meanings in Israel. In this instant it is a warning of an impending attack, a call for war. Hos. 8:1 Though they sound the trumpet, it is to be in vain, for none will respond. Because it is the hand of the Lord against them, and a display of His wrath, they have no heart for war. Eze. 7:14 It is a trumpet call which would cause great consternation among the people of Israel. Adversity from the Lord was to come upon them creating great fear. Amos 3:6 It is needful that the cause of this situation be considered. They will be judged according to their ways and will be recompensed for their abominations. Eze. 7:8-9 They had brought upon themselves everything that was about to take place in their lives. They had defiled the land by transgressing the Law and had changed the ordinances of the Lord. Worst of all, they had broken the everlasting covenant. The responsibility for their dilemma rested squarely upon their shoulders. Isa. 24:5

In the last days, the sounding of the trumpets will signal events. In the book of Revelation, seven angels are introduced, each having a trumpet which will be sounded in their season. Rev. 8:2 Each of the happenings which they proclaim will have a profound effect on the affairs of both, the church and the world in the end of the age. The first five trumpets are pre-tribulation trumpets and will serve as warnings to the earth of impending doom. Rev. 8:6 - 9:1-11

HOSEA. 49

He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD. How ironic when the eagle had been used as a type of the help of the Lord, through the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Hos. 8:1 By their actions, their breaking of the covenant and disobeying of the Law, they had brought it upon themselves. The Lord had warned them of the consequences that would be

brought about by their sin and waywardness. Deut. 28:15-45 As long as they followed the Lord He provided them with a tremendously good life. Every need would be met, there would be no insufficiencies among them.

In a positive vein, it was with eagles wings, that the Lord brought the children of Israel out of Egypt. Ex. 19:4 It was a time of release from captivity and slavery. The presence of the Lord among them was very real and visible, in the cloud and pillar of fire. Ex. 13:21 Their every need was met by the presence of the Lord. His purpose was to bring them unto Himself, giving them a homeland and blessing them as they worshipped Him. Thus, He bore full responsibility for their welfare. He deeply commiserated with them in all of their difficulties and times of correction which He had to enjoin upon them. He was so fully and emotionally involved with their lives that He too felt their afflictions. His association with them was very close, He carried them on His wings, He took full responsibility. Isa. 63:9

The Lord considers those who will follow Him to be His people. They are His portion, His inheritance. Deut. 32:9 He found Jacob (His People) in a desert place, in the wilderness. So, He began to lead, to teach and to keep him as the apple of His eye. Here the eagle comes into view. The Lord likened Himself to an eagle tipping its nest in order to teach its eaglet to fly. It then swoops under it and carries it back on high. The process is repeated until the eaglet flaps its wings and is able to fly. The Lord alone led His people and there was no strange god among them. Deut. 32:12 The blessings of the Lord were beautifully given to them. Deut. 32:13-14 Until they provoked the Lord by turning to other gods. Deut. 32:15-43

Eagles wings are promised to those who will spend time seeking the Lord. renewed strength , spiritually and physically is the reward of those who will diligently seek His face. They shall mount up, be exalted, soar like an eagle. In running the race of spiritual life they will not be exhausted and become weary of well doing. They will not tire in walking in the paths of righteousness. Isa. 40:31 The majority of difficulties and problems are solved as we spend time before the Lord. The load, the burden carried by the ministry today is tremendous. This is a key to finding an answer to those situations which other wise are most difficult to overcome.

HOSEA. 50

Another evidence of the mighty force and ability of eagles wings is noted in the book of Revelation. The woman of Revelation twelve is the Bride of Christ. She is shown in all of her glory and splendor. She has truly, put on Christ, (the Sun of righteousness). Mal 4:2 What an interesting statement. The Sun of righteousness, the Lord Jesus, is depicted as having wings. To the woman will be given the two wings of a great eagle (a type of the Spirit) which will enable her to escape the dragon and the tribulation period by being transported, by the Spirit, into the place which the Lord will have prepared for her. There she will be cared for during the entire duration of the tribulation period, or three and one half years. Rev. 12:14

Israel at that time was still acknowledged by the LORD to be His very own, His house. In spite of their constant and persistent breaking of the covenant and manner of worship, which was contrary to His Law. He still loved them. The very fact of the LORD sending the prophet Hosea, and all others to warn them showed that He was giving them an opportunity to come to repentance and to mend their ways. However, without a response their punishment would come swiftly upon them as the attack of an eagle. This introduces the negative side of the eagle who is likened to a nation who would come from far and as quickly as the flying of an eagle. Their time of going their own way was soon to come to an end. Deut. 28:49

Habakkuk prophesied of a fierce and extremely swift enemy who would come speeding like an eagle chasing after the prey. Hab. 1:8 Jeremiah spoke of an army coming like the swift moving clouds in a whirlwind and horses that were faster than eagles. Jer. 4:13 The presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of an individual is of great blessing and indicates the favor of the Lord. While on the other hand, to resist Him or to walk contrary to the Spirit of the Lord is to invoke swift and sure judgment.

The Lord sent a messenger to lead Israel into their place which the Lord had prepared for them. They were specifically warned that they were to obey His voice and not to provoke Him for He would not forgive them. The Lord had placed His name in Him. If they would listen to His voice and obey Him then the Lord would be an enemy to all of their enemies. That assured them of constant victory. All that they had to do was to be obedient to His

every command. Ex. 23:20-22 As long as they walked in harmony with the will of the Lord they lived in peace and quietness. When they turned against Him then He turned against them and became their worst enemy. They had a utopia, a heaven on earth, provided for them as long as they stayed with the true and living Lord. Every season, every crop, their prosperity and daily care was assured. All that was required was obedience. Serving the Lord is not the hard way, not serving Him creates a far more difficult life and is empty and without hope.

HOSEA. 51

A pathetic cry to arise from Israel. After snubbing and completely driving the Lord to exasperation, when faced with punishment, Israel cried out, we know you. Remember, we are Israel, your people. Hos. 8:2 This is a case of common human ignorance. The Lord is not a fire escape. Nor is He one who is duty bound to rescue those who all their lives ignore Him, even insult Him, then when faced with difficulties, pray as if though they were the best and closest of friends. Here is the response of the Lord. These have religion in their mouths. They do Me lip service, but their hearts are far from Me. They are taught with the ideas of men to be religious. Isa. 29:13 Jesus based entrance into heaven on doing the will of the Father not on one's ability to say beautiful prayers. Not even those who have been involved in ministry are able to use their exploits to gain heaven. Jesus made it very plain to some that He never knew them, therefore they remain on the outside. Mt. 7:21-23

A pathetic act. Israel had cast off, rejected the good things, the good way of the Lord. They turned the goodness of the Lord aside as if though it was something that was obnoxious. Which is exactly what the ways of the Lord had become to them. Hos. 8:3 They had become totally apostate and had denied the Lord in word and deed. Now, the divine protection which had been theirs was to be removed and their enemies were to come against them without the opposition of the Lord. The Lord had warned them time and time again of the penalty which would come upon them if they deserted Him. Deut. 28:25 They were to learn that their enemies, their persecutors, came upon them more quickly than the eagles of heaven. At every turn of the road they would meet defeat. Lam. 4:19

When we search the scriptures we note that the Lord, in creation, has endowed us with similar emotions as Himself. There is a difference, His emotions are holy, just and right. Ours are contaminated by sin and the corruption of the flesh. Nevertheless, He has the same feelings as we have. To be rejected is devastating to the human ego. From the time that the Lord called Abraham out of Ur, His intent was to be the leader, the king of the nation which would be the descendants of Abraham. Under the leadership of Samuel they began to revolt and demanded a king. Their intent was to be like the nations around them. 1 Sam. 8:5 The Lord at that time stated that in making such a choice they were rejecting Him as their king. 1 Sam. 6:7 He also advised Samuel of the price that a king would exact in taxes and services from the people. 1 Sam. 8:10-17 In addition, He warned them that there would come a day when they would cry out unto the Lord because of the oppression of their king, but at that time the Lord would not listen to their cry. 1 Sam. 8:18

HOSEA. 52

After the death of Solomon, Rehoboam his son became king. It is ironic that his name would mean, the people is enlarged. Under his rule and because of a stupid decision to increase their taxes and the taking of their youth for his services, the kingdom was divided. 1 Kings 12:13-14 His foolish decision was the bases for the subsequent division of the kingdom. Ten tribes rebelled against the house of David under the leadership of Jeroboam, whose name meant, the people multiplied. The majority of the nation of Israel followed him. 1 Kings 12:1-20 From the words of Hosea we understand that the Lord did not approve nor was He pleased with the division and the ensuing kings, nevertheless, it was all a part of His plan. It was an act of punishment to the house of David because of their departure from Him. 1 Kings 12:24

The spiritual direction of the new nation was immediately evident. Jeroboam had two golden calves made in an attempt to keep the people from going up to Jerusalem to worship. 1 Kings 12:28 His introduction of the golden calves was with the same words as used by Aaron in the wilderness, calling them, their gods. Ex. 32:4 To these idols he contributed their deliverance from Egypt. No wonder idol worship is an abomination to the Lord. Such actions, so contrary to the will of the Lord, assured a certain

judgment upon them. They were to be cut off or removed from the land. Hos. 8:4 It was a matter of self destruction. Hos. 13:9 The penalty of false worship was established and they were well aware of it. In spite of the anger of the Lord against them, He extended His mercy to them by saying, in Me is your help.

Some translations place the responsibility of ridding themselves of their idol worship directly upon Samaria (Israel) while others state that the idols had rejected Israel. Hos. 8:5 Of one thing we may be certain and that is that their idols were not gods, therefore powerless to help them in any way. Their maintenance of these false gods only angered the Lord more and more. It may seem strange, the Lord who is love personified, demonstrating wrath to a degree that is far beyond the capabilities of any man. It must be considered that these people had fully rejected the Lord and substituted that of which the Lord had repeatedly warned them. They were in full and total rebellion. They had their choice, for He had presented them with the way of good and evil. Deut. 30:15 He also plainly declared what would happen if they turned to other gods. Deut. 30:16-20 The wrath of the Lord is an equitable anger that is only manifest toward those who have crossed a line of no return. Individuals who are filled with all unrighteousness and the greatest measure of iniquity. The Lord has been more than fair in warning the world that in the end of the age He will manifest Himself in flaming fire. Mal. 4:1

HOSEA. 53

Once again we are given a glimpse into the heart of the Lord. His cry is for them to return to innocence by returning to and serving the Lord. His question is, how long would it take them to become aware of the spiritual poverty they were in. The Lord would rather have had them turn to Him and His forgiveness than to destroy them as a nation. Hos. 8:5 While these words are directed toward Israel, the ten tribes, the Lord was tired of, and disgusted with, those in Judah who continued the facade of serving the Lord while their hearts were far from Him.

He spoke through the prophet Isaiah and revealed His heart and His attitude toward those who practiced a mere form of religion. Incidentally, this is yet His point of view for today. Their offering of sacrifices were vain,

and had absolutely no meaning to Him. Nor did they affect Him in any fashion. The burning of incense is a stench in His nostrils, an odor which is disgusting and repulsive to Him. Religious holy days with their practices and ceremonies. The gathering together for sacred meetings He cannot accept, depart from ritualism and empty religious practices, for they are sinful. Isa. 1:13

Furthermore, the Lord declared that the whole practice of special days and special worship His soul hated. They had become a burden to Him. Their actions were troublesome and boring to Him. He was tired of having to put up with them. Isa. 1:14

Moreover, their religious exercise of the raising of their hands was a simply a spiritual habit. It had no meaning it was nothing more than a mechanical response to their ritual. The Lord said, that He would not even look upon such empty practices. As a matter of fact, He said, that He would hide His eyes from them. The multitude or length of their prayer would not move Him in any way. His ear would be deaf to their prayers. Their hands were full of blood. Isa. 1:15

Every individual born into this life bears the responsibility of the death of Christ and the shedding of His blood. Only when we accept that precious blood as the price of our redemption and we are washed from our sin by His blood is the sentence of eternal death removed from us. Christ died for all. 2 Cor. 5:14-15 There is but one way of salvation and that is through the precious blood of the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. The temporal things of this earth, silver, or gold or even the religious traditions inherited from past generations are useless in acquainting human kind with the Lord. 1 Peter 1:18-19 There is but one avenue of approach which we may use in coming before Him and that is by His blood. Eph. 2:13

HOSEA. 54

The craftsmen of Israel had made with their hands the calf which was the object of worship. How can an object made by man be greater than the man which crafted it? Therefore, it could not be greater than its creator and could not be a superior being. Hos. 8:6 It has no voice, therefore it cannot communicate. A god of this nature must be carried about by those who

worship it. It cannot be mobile of its own power, for it has none. It can do neither harm nor good. Jer. 10:5 Their gods are fraudulent. They cannot breathe, consequently they have no life, no breath in them. Not even animal life. When the hour of judgment comes their uselessness will be made evident. Jer. 10:14 Israel had forsaken the Most High for such vain and totally useless gods. Their gods were far from being gods and in the ultimate world be totally destroyed.

We have an example in the history of the Ark of the Covenant when taken captive by the Philistines. They placed it in the temple of their god, an idol named Dagon, the fish god. 1 Sam. 5:2 The people of the city of Ashdod, (meaning fortress or stronghold), on rising the next morning found their god on his face before the Ark of the Lord. 1 Sam. 5:3 Pathetically, they had to physically set him upright again. He had no ability to lift himself upright again. The next day, not only was he on his face but his head and hands were severed from his body. 1 Sam. 5:4 He was prostrate before the Lord and severely damaged. Because of fear and the demonstration of the exceeding greatness of the true and living God, the priests and the people ceased to worship in that place, and did not enter their temple again. 1 Sam 5:5

Whatsoever a man sows, that will he also reap. It is an established law of the Creator that seed will reproduce its own likeness. In the situation which we find in Hosea they have sown the wind and they are destined to reap the whirlwind. Most likely in their own sight and having been deceived, their actions were minor, much like a gentle breeze. The Lord did not look upon the slightest deviation as a minor thing for He would know the end from the beginning. It must be remembered that it is the cute, playful, entertaining little foxes which spoil the vine. SOS. 2:15 We are warned to abstain even from the appearance of evil. 1 Thess. 5:22 Winds have been officially clocked at 372 km (231mph) while there was a tornado in Oklahoma where unofficial winds were clocked at 509 km (316 mph). The sight, the sound of such a mighty wind would be awesome and exceedingly fearful. The increase of that which is to be reaped far out weighs that which is planted. Sowing to the flesh, to the carnal nature can only reap eternal corruption. Gal. 6:7-8

HOSEA. 55

They were a nation dependent on the blessing of the Lord in supplying the seasonal rains which the Lord had promised them. Agriculture was an important item in their lives. They had been promised an abundant supply of rain as long as they walked with the Lord. They were also aptly warned not to turn aside to idols. Following after other gods was a certain way to bring the wrath of the Lord upon them and cause the rains to cease. Deut. 11:16-17 Is there a connection? According to a recent news release and the Jewish Virtual Library, modern day Israel has had a chronic water supply problem for years. It has now become so severe that it is feared that by summer there will not be enough to supply the demand. The quality of available water is also deteriorating. Agriculture has already been cut back due to the allocation of less water to the farms. They have suffered a drought for the last four years. The prayer of Solomon contains the answer to this problem. 1 Kings 8:33-36

The acutest punishment was to come upon them. Hos. 8:7 The seed which they would sow would not germinate therefore there would be no stalk. If there was a stalk produced, then there would be no substance in the bud. To make matters worse, if they were able to produce crop of any meaningful measure then strangers, enemies would come and take the harvest for themselves. Here again, the Lord would display His great displeasure with them by not only destroying their crops but they would lose their freedom and be constantly under pressure. Duet. 28:33

Israel (ten tribes) to be swallowed up, divide and scattered abroad. Spread out among the nations. The Gentiles will drive them from the land of their inheritance. They will be among the nations by whom they are carried away as a people disliked and unwelcome. Their captors or the people among whom they are driven find no pleasure in having Israel among them. Hos. 8:8 The Lord had proclaimed that they would become like a broken potters vessel. So completely destroyed that a small piece could not be found with which a spark of fire might be taken from the hearth. Isa. 30:14 Note that always before judgment, the Lord would send a message calling for repentance. He will always first manifest His great and abundant mercy. Isa. 30:15 They heard His message but would not respond to it. In being disobedient they paid the utmost price. Israel a nation which had been

honored and looked to as a strong and mighty nation under God had now lost that respect and were despised among the nations to whom they fled. They were deprived of the very best of life and property.

HOSEA. 56

The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble. Prov. 2:12 Walking in the night of sin and disobedience, Israel can go in but one direction and that is the wrong direction. In seeking solace and help they turned to Assyria. Assyria would do them no good, only harm them as an instrument in the hand of the Lord to punish them. Eze. 23:9-10 That could only mean further decadency and loss of well being. Their character is then likened to a wild ass. A beast, untamed and running wild. They had fallen so deeply into their sin and had become so undesirable that they had to hire lovers. The description given by Hosea places them at the very lowest rank of humanity. They were despised and rejected by all. Hos. 8:8

Amazing love. As despicable as they had become to both the Lord and the people among whom they were scattered, the Lord was set to gather them unto Himself. Astonishing, utterly startling, most wonderful is the love of the Lord. He reaches out to mankind in their moment of complete depravity. For all their unfaithfulness to Him and their absolute casting aside of all that was Godly, still He loved them. Like the smell of the prodigal, which was no doubt comparable to that of a pig sty, the stench of the idolatrous, ungodly world was on them. Hos. 8:9

There is but one way back into the good graces of the Lord. That way is His way. Jesus said; I am the way, the truth, and the life: and no man comes to the Father, but by me. John 14:6 Race has no bearing on being accepted in the beloved of the Lord. It is by His grace and His grace alone that we are saved and have eternal life. In saving humanity, in gathering them unto Himself, the Lord no longer differentiates between the Gentiles and these whom He scattered abroad. Hos.8:10 There is but one door and Jesus is that door. John 10:7-9 In the process of entering into that door, there is a time of sorrow and confession of our sin. Ps. 38:18 Sin is the most depressing and discouraging force of a human life. It is a burden far too heavy for one to bear. Ps. 38:4 In salvation, Jesus lifts the burden and condemnation of sin. Thus freeing us from it's guilt and power. Jesus took

the full punishment for the sin of the world upon Himself when He went to Calvary. 1 Peter 2:24 As the highest authority in time and the universe. The totally innocent one, the Lord Jesus, the KING of kings and LORD of Lords took the total burden of sin for all mankind. It now makes no difference how or where one is born, Jesus will save all who come unto Him. Including the ten lost tribes of Israel. Therefore, as the King of eternity He will extend to one and all the opportunity to enter into His kingdom. To be a part of that which is eternal and everlasting, Jew, Gentile or wandering descendents of ancient Israel, He is not willing that any should perish but has called all to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

HOSEA. 57

They were not a people ignorant of the Law. The Lord declared that He had written His Law unto them. In His writing He had made known to them all the multiplied wonders of His Law. It would produce in them health both for the natural and the spiritual man. For them, obedience to the Law would have made them the head of the nations. Best of all, through its concepts they would know the Lord. Hos. 8:12 It was discounted and discarded for the purpose of idol worship. In so doing they provoked the Lord to jealousy. Deut. 32:16 Ps. 78:58 So far had they drifted from the Lord that the Law was a foreign thing to them.

Offerings were continually being offered in the name of Jehovah but their focus was upon their idols, which to them, represented the Lord. It made them like the heathen. They could now point out, for instance, the two golden calves which were create by Jeroboam. 2 Chron. 13:8 This followed the pattern of Aaron when he made the golden calf. Ex. 32:4, 8 The calf was formed after an Egyptian idol. They had been too long in captivity and had taken on Egyptian ways and worship. The LORD was very mindful of their actions and would respond by remembering their idolatrous acts and disobedience in worship. Therefore, their sins would be visited upon them. They would learn that there was a price to be paid for their iniquity. Though they were to be scattered abroad, there is no doubt that a segment of them returned to Egypt and back into bondage once again. Hos. 8:13

Israel had come to a place where their memory of the mighty works of the Lord was being pushed aside by their idolatry. Like those of our day who

have had blessed experiences in the Lord but now attribute those times to the emotions of their youth. Others by means of sheer neglect forget the Lord. Then there is that place where people are overcome by the cares of this world and have no time for the Lord. Mark 4:19 Israel was so busy building temples unto their idol gods that they had no time for the Lord. They deserted the very One who brought them into existence and made a great nation of them. Hos. 8:14 He was their creator and had repeatedly made manifest His love and care for them. Ps. 106:21 His constant care, and love is evidenced in the ministry of the prophets sent to them.

HOSEA. 58

The Lord had brought them into being for His own good pleasure for the explicit purpose of having a people who would manifest His praise. Isa. 43:21 Today, that which He anticipated accomplishing in Israel, He will demonstrate in His church for we are the product of His love. The result of redemption through His blood. Formed and fashioned according to His purpose. Demonstrating good works by walking in the pathway of the Lord. Eph. 2:10 Israel failed and lost the privilege of being the people, the chosen of the Lord because of their idolatry. Now He is developing a whole new people who will be obedient to Him. They are the product of His very own hands. Made to be a new creation, with a new purpose of life that they might fulfill the longing of His heart for a people who are wholly surrendered and dedicated to Him. They are evident by their manner of life and their desire to live in His presence. They continue His work on earth and walk in His footsteps manifesting the very life of Christ. Eph. 2:10

Maker, Creator is a personal name which may only be applied to the Lord. In every act of creation, when reference is made to something which required thought and action, He is present. He is the intellect and has the skill to have created all things which are in existence today. From the beginning, it is God who made all things. Gen. 1:7 The automobiles, the electronics, the electricity, the phone systems all required intelligence and capability to bring them into existence. Nothing, but nothing just happens of itself. Every item in modern day life had an inventor and a manufacturer. From the universe, to man, to the smallest and the least significant, all have the signs of creation. They could not exist were it not for a Divine Intelligence who designed and molded all that is in existence today. The

Lord has created all for His own good pleasure and that the sound of praise unto Him might be heard. Isa. 43:21

The ultimate purpose of the Lord is that Christ might have a bride. Jesus was involved in all of creation. Amazingly, when He was in the world which He had created, the world did not know Him. John 1:3, 10 All that is in existence, and all that is to come has been created by Him and for Him. Col. 1:16 Their most serious offense in all of their actions is in forgetting their Maker, they have deserted the one to whom they were married. Their creator, was their husband. He had promised to take care of them and give them a land flowing with milk and honey. A land of great abundance. His requirement was simple and that would be that they acknowledge Him and follow the pattern of life which He had prepared for them. After all, He was the God of the whole earth and would bless them according to His promises. He was know to them as Jehovah or LORD. He was their redeemer and savior. He was the source of their life. Isa.54:5

HOSEA. 59

As our maker, He is to be worshipped. With those who have been born of the Spirit there a dual purpose for His creating them. The act of a new creation has brought us into fellowship with the Lord and we can gladly come, kneeling down before Him to worship the One who has given us eternal life. Ps. 95:6

There is a positive element of the Messianic to be found in this One who is the Maker. The LORD, Jehovah, as the Holy One of Israel introduced the person whom He calls the Maker. Isa. 45:11 He who bears the exact image and likeness of the invisible God was the moving force of creation. As the Logos, the Word He was involved in ever thing which was and ever shall be created. There is nothing in existence, nor yet to be created, whether it is visible of invisible, earthly or heavenly but what it came into being by Him. All were created by Him and for Him. What a tremendous power and authority the Father gave to His Son. All of that which has been created is for His good pleasure. The ultimate goal being His Bride, His church redeemed and perfected by the living Word. Col. 1:16 He is eternal, supreme, superior, for He was before all things which were created. He is the stabilizing force of the universe. He is the power which maintains every

star and every galaxy in its orbit. He is the order, the stabilization which maintains all of creation. Col. 1:17

Abraham, the man of faith, started on a journey instigated by the Lord. He had not established a positive plan for His trip but by the revelation of the Lord he understood that there was a city whose builder and maker was God. He left Ur with a mind set to find that city. Heb. 11:10 His search would not lead him to any particular city, built by men, which would satisfy the desire of his heart to find the city of the Lord. He was seeking that which was built by the Lord. A city which would be eternal and spiritual. In all actuality, the only real, true city, for the Maker, the Builder is none other than the Lord. He has constructed all things which exist and which are yet to come. Heb. 3:4

He has not yet finished His eternal project. The Lord Jesus is noted to be a Son, over His own house, whose house are we. Heb. 3:6 He is building a house, a church, which is the household of faith and is to be His family. Jesus called the temple His Father's house. John 2:16 It was not intended to be that which is everlasting. The eternal is the New Jerusalem, The New Testament church. In developing a family, there must be two, a male and a female. Thus a family is built. The real, the spiritual, the heavenly Jerusalem is stated to be the mother of us all. Gal. 4:26

HOSEA. 60

The Word of the Lord came through Isaiah from the Holy One of Israel. As the Holy One of Israel He was desirous to reveal to them His plans for the future. Here too, the Lord Jesus is called the Maker who works in creation, whether natural or spiritual, in conjunction with His Father. Isa. 45:11 The future is in His hands. He has declared the end from the beginning. The Word of the Lord is filled with prophecy pertaining to the end of the age. The book of Revelation outlined the events that are still to come giving us an insight into the plan of the Lord for this generation. He has declared the end from the beginning and we may rest assured that it will all work out precisely as He has planned. Isa. 46:9-10 The church of today need not be without understanding of the purposes of the Lord, particularly in regard to His sons.

Therefore, ask Him about His sons. Who are they? Are they of the flesh or of the Spirit? Those who are sons of God are born sons of God, not of the will of the flesh but by the Word and the Spirit of the Lord. Those who receive Him, He enabled to become the sons of God. They are not born of blood, or of a human race, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of men. They are born of God, that is the second birth or the new birth. John 1:12-13 The sons of God are not those born only of the natural man, but in order to be a son of God they must be born again. Only those born of the Spirit may be termed sons of God and their status is verified by the fact that they are led by the Spirit of the Lord. Rom. 8:14

We are not to look to some future date where we will be elevated to this blessed place in the Lord Jesus. John made it very clear that in their day they were declared to be sons of God. 1 John 3:1 One evidence of sonship in the Lord is the ability to be directed by the Spirit in all activities. Rom. 8:14 What greater privilege could one enjoy more than being recognized and called a son of God. It is an act of His great love toward His people. It shows the absolute, total family relationship which He is seeking from a people whom He may call His very own. 1 John 3:1 There is a mark whereby those who are included in this affiliation may be identified. They are living a life which is above reproach, blameless. They are harmless or pure, not only before men but more importantly, in the sight of the Lord. Living a faultless life, at a time when unrighteousness will reach its climax. Living in this world but not partaking of the wickedness of the world. Shining forth like the brightest stars of the heavens in a time of great spiritual darkness. Phil. 2:15 The completion of the prophecy pertaining to the sons of God will come in the days prior to the tribulation period. It is a revelation of the fullness glory of the Lord dwelling in the church of His perfection. Rom. 8:19 The demonstration of the same glory which filled the Lord Jesus on the mount of transfiguration. Mt. 17:2

HOSEA. 61

Joy and rejoicing removed from Israel because of the multiplicity of her worship of idols. As with many who use idols for worship they placed their idols in a great variety of places. In their temples, their homes, fields and threshing floors. A god for every purpose. All of which were helpless and hopeless. Hos. 9:1 There could be no blessing of the Lord upon these idols

nor on those who bowed before them. They would only lead to a failure of their crops. Hos. 9:2 As a backslidden people they were persistent in their ways for they are under the influence of a vile spirit, called the spirit of whoredomes. Hos. 5:4 Because they did not know the Lord they were under the control of a wicked vile spirit.

The land belonged to the LORD, Jehovah. It was to be to them a land of blessing and plenty. Which, indeed it would have been if they had but kept their part of the covenant of the Lord. They were to inherit the land as a gift from the Lord. It was to flow with milk and honey. The requirement of the Lord was that they be a separated people unto Him. Lev. 20:24 Certainly not too much to ask of them, is it. The Lord still seeks a people today who will separate themselves from the worldly things, from the flesh and from the devil. 1 John 2:15-16 Hosea adds an interesting tidbit by saying, that the new wine shall fail her. The new wine is a type of the Holy Spirit. The attempt to mix the Lord and heathen idols simply will not work. It can only end in failure. They shall not dwell in the LORD's land. Hos. 9:3 In violating the Law of the Lord they cut themselves off from dwelling in the land of blessing and abundance. Once again we see that it was their actions which caused them to lose out on all that with which the Lord has blessed them. They were headed back to Egypt and servitude. Or to Assyria where their unclean and impure life would continue. Hos. 9:3

The Lord has strongly determined that He would not receive their offerings. They were extremely displeasing to Him. There is but one way to please the Lord and that is to accept His atonement offered to all mankind. That is, to come before Him in true contrition of heart and soul in complete repentance. Then, and only then can He be pleased. Hos. 9:4 Their sacrifices, then and forever, are like the bread eaten in the house of one who died. It is unclean. Deut. 19:14 They were to be unclean seven days. Those who had been in the house of the dead were excluded from the house of the Lord. Regardless of how hungry they had been, having eaten of the bread of the dead they were forbidden to enter the house of the Lord. So the Lord barred them from His house and land. They had lost their privilege of appearing before the Lord on the Sabbaths and special feast days. They had become a pathetic people.

HOSEA. 62

The Lord had tired of their waywardness and proclaimed the arrival of the end of His patience with them. Destruction, captivity and death were pronounced upon their nation and the people. Their possessions were to become a burden to them as nettles, stinging and useless. Their dwelling places as thorns sticking and piercing them. Items which have had any comfort and joy removed. Hos. 9:6 Today is no different than that day. The things for which we neglect the Lord, to seek after become nettles and thorns. They are grossly unprofitable and not necessary for a happy life. Mark 8:36

The day of visitation has come. Hos. 9:7 A day which their unbelief convinced them, that it would not happen. The prophecies of the Word of the Lord will be consummated at the end of the age. It may seem that there is a delay but the Lord is always right on time. Jesus called the terrific events which will herald His second coming as the days of vengeance. Luke 21:22 It is a time when the most minute event found in the Word will be fulfilled, exactly as prophesied. Sign after sign, phenomenon after phenomenon, on earth and in the universe will take place, all as warnings of the impending day of visitation.

Jesus also termed the days yet to come, as the beginning of sorrows. Mt. 24:8 He likewise taught that at the close of the tribulation period He would darken the sun, and moon and that the stars would be shaken, in what can only be termed as a quaking of the universe, the whole of the heavens being shaken, as an introduction to His coming. Mt. 24:29 Then, at that time, and not until then, the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the heavens. The whole of mankind will see His return in the clouds. Mt. 24:30 For it is here that He comes as lightning, lighting up the whole of the sky with a blaze of light such as has never been seen. Mt. 24:27 At the time of this occurrence, the trumpet will sound and He will commission His angels to gather together His elect, living and resurrected Unto Himself. Mt. 24:31

The day of the LORD, whether then, now or in the future, is a day of utter chaos. The LORD said concerning that day that He would not come their way again. As a nation, the ten tribes, were to come to an end of their existence. Amos 8:2 In the vocabulary of the LORD, destruction is

complete and eternal. As individuals, the descendants of Israel may come to the Lord and find pardon, but as a nation the Lord will not deal with them again. A good description of the great day of the LORD may be found in the prophecy of Zephaniah. He reported the conditions which will prevail in that day in detail. Zeph. 1:14-18 There is a similarity between his words and that recorded in the New Testament pertaining to the day of the Lord or the second coming of Christ.

HOSEA. 63

The days of recompense. Hos. 9:7 It must be considered that this is called and numbered as the days (plural) of retribution. It is not a judgment which will last but for a day but in all actuality it will cover a period of time. Having an end time fulfillment, it will last for years. The whole of the period known as the great tribulation will give evidence to the reprisal of the Lord against the sinner, the antichrist and the devil. The second coming of the Lord Jesus is the moment of His revelation. There will not be anything secret about it, for He is coming in flaming fire exacting vengeance on those who do not know and also those who do know but do not obey the gospel of the Lord Jesus. 2 Thess. 1:7-8

When the scriptures depict Jesus coming as a thief in the night it is in no way referring to a covert event where thousands of people disappear simultaneously. Paul taught, that those who are called brethren, who are not living in darkness will not be surprised at the coming of the Lord Jesus. It will not happen to those who are in Christ as a bolt from the blue. That day will not occur to them as the intrusion of an unanticipated or unexpected thief. 1 Thess. 5:2, 4. The day of the Lord, the day of His second coming will be as a thief to the unsaved. Consider carefully the horrendous events which will take place when He comes. When He comes as a thief, an event absolutely unanticipated by the unsaved, the heavens will pass away in one gigantic explosion. A blast and a noise such as never heard before on this earth. No more ozone layer. All the oxygen will escape from the atmosphere of this globe, making it impossible for the natural man to live on the earth. The elements, the basic construction of the earth, will be melted because of the extreme heat of the fire of His coming. All the works of mankind will be totally destroyed, completely consumed. 2 Peter 3:10

Israel was to know the visitation of the Lord in the day of recompense. In spite of their lineage dating back to the Patriarchs, if they do not truly follow the Lord they will be treated as any other nation. Hos. 9:7 They did not live in ignorance of the requirements of the Lord but as a stubborn, obstinate people, wanted things to go their way. They looked upon the true prophets as prophesying foolish things. While considering the spiritual person to be insane. All this being the result of the great abundance of their wickedness before the Lord. Likewise the excessive hatred which they had allowed to build up in their hearts. Roots, some as small as the very finest of hair, can increase in our hearts until we lose out with the Lord. Heb. 12:15 Bitterness passed from parents to children will corrupt whole families. It is an emotion which we should clear out of our spiritual lives immediately. No one can afford to live with a bitter spirit. Heb. 12:15

HOSEA. 64

A most unfortunate situation was to be found among the people of that day. Those who declared themselves (self appointed) prophets were fools. They were not at all in contact or communication with the Lord. The so called prophetic utterances were not inspired by the Spirit of the Lord but they spoke from their own intellect or were inspired by lying spirits. Hos. 9:7d The Lord denied such as being His prophets, they were active, but not by the inspiration or call of the Spirit of the Lord. Jer. 23:21-22 The Lord warned them that the prophets would prophecy useless and vain words. Most definitely, not the Word of the Lord. Jer. 5:13 They prophesied words of falsehood, therefore the very thing which they proclaimed, would come upon them. Jer. 14:15 One of the spiritual sickness that the church of the last days will face is the word of false prophets. Mark 13:22

In place of a sincere spirituality being manifest, the so called spiritual man was mad or troubled by insanity. They were not following after a true teaching founded upon the Word of the Lord. Therefore their spirituality was contrary to good and sane doctrine. There are of the class of persons who will be grossly misled into strange ideas and teachings. All because there is a failure to love the truth. 2 Thess. 2:9-10 The cause being the great bulk of the works of iniquity with which they had become involved. Also, a great hatred which had been developed in their hearts. Most

certainly in creating a division of the nation, Judah would have been one of the objects of their hatred. Strangely enough, when a person turns against the Lord, where there had been love, hatred takes its place. To turn against the Lord could have developed what the prophet called 'the great hatred.' The Lord, because of His desire to correct them had instead become their enemy. Hos. 9:7

The true prophet. The man and watchman for Ephraim, was on the side of the Lord. He was a man of truth and integrity. He came with the true Word of the Lord calling Israel to repentance and warning them of their impending punishment. The true watchman was faithful to the Lord and to the people for he spoke the Word of the Lord to them, without fear or favor. The false prophets were leading them deeper and deeper into their entrapment of the worship of false gods and idols. Where they had once worshipped the true and living God, now, hatred had taken over their hearts and was in control. Jesus said that in spite of the mighty works which He had wrought among them, they hated both He and His Father. John 15:24 Paul well defined the spiritual situation as being of one in our day, where the hearts are filled with hatred. It is a work of the flesh, and carnal. Gal. 5:20 The teachings of the Lord Jesus require that we love our enemies. Bless those who curse us and instead of hating do good to those who hate us. Mt. 5:44

HOSEA. 65

Israel could not pass the blame off on to others for their spiritual condition and its consequences. They, themselves made their choices, well knowing that there would be a price to be paid for their iniquity. It must be taken into consideration that they had fully and deeply involved themselves in corruptible actions before the Lord. The example given was that of the city of Gibeah and the actions of the inhabitants who were of the tribe of Benjamin. The story is recorded in Judges nineteen. It was an act of the most despicable kind and has its very special reward of judgment. Hos. 9:9 The Lord promised that He would remember their sin and visit them with an appropriate penalty.

The Lord found Israel as a people living in the desert, a dry place where they were in servitude. He delighted in them as a weary traveler would find

wild grapes and have their thirst quenched by eating of them. The fathers, the patriarchs He looked upon as the first ripe of the fig tree. As both fruit would be a source of joy and happiness, so Was Israel unto the Lord, in the beginning of their relationship. Hos. 9:10

After the Lord had delivered them from Egypt and given them their own country and land, they went astray from Him. They went to Baal-peor. Not only were those who worshipped Baal-peor idol worshippers but their performances at their shrines and temples were of the vilest kind. The sexual practices at these places were of the most contrary to the scriptures. We may know the feelings of the Lord in all this by an incident which took place in their journey of Egypt. Some of the people of Israel joined themselves with these who followed Baal-peor. The anger of the Lord was great and the punishment of the Lord was most severe. We may fully understand the emotions of the Lord from the circumstances related in Num. 25:1-9 The Lord hates sin of any kind but for these there was immediate and serious punishment. They had found a vile and abominable form of worship and had consecrated themselves to it. Hos. 10:10 The very thing which the Lord hated. Jer. 44:4

The prophet then predicted the end of Israel and the words of His prophecy were fulfilled. Not only would they cease to exist as a nation but all the glory that the Lord had bestowed upon them would flee away like the flight of a bird. They would face a time of zero growth in their numbers for the Lord declared that there would be no child bearing found among them. Surely, the wages of sin is death. Be it an individual or a nation, when the Lord brings judgment because of sin, it is righteous but strong and eternal. Eze. 18:4 Rather than destroying them, the Lord would have loved to have forgiven them but they were a people who persisted in their sin, therefore they paid the price. Eze. 33:11

HOSEA. 66

Woe to a people who are forsaken of the Lord. Death and dying was to be a common happening among their children. The sorrows of having forsaken the Lord were to be their portion in life. Hos. 10:12 The warnings of the Lord had been more than sufficient of the consequences into which they had led themselves. Specifically, the Lord had stated that if they went

after other gods He would forsake them. Also, that He would hide His face from them. Therefore many evils would come upon them until they would confess that all his had happened because the Lord was not in their midst. Deut. 31:16-17 To have known the Lord and to have depended upon Him, then suddenly to come to the realization that He was not longer with them, would have been a terrible shock. They would have lost their best friend as well as the Divine protection of the Lord. Dire and difficult circumstance came upon them, all because of their own wicked doings.

Ephraim, Israel, had been planted in a place of beauty, the word pleasant in the Hebrew can also mean home. The Lord had situated them in a portion of the land which would be a blessing to them. He had certainly given them every advantage possible, still they went astray. Therefore the children which would be born unto them, were to be murdered by the Assyrians. They had placed themselves in a very precarious position. It is difficult to lose a child under the very best of circumstances. What sorrow they had brought upon themselves because of their willful ways and stubbornness.

The prophet himself sounds as if though he had lost complete confidence that Israel would hear and respect the Word of the Lord which he brought unto them. It is almost as if though the Lord had taken him into his confidence and asked his advice on what to give to the children of Israel. Hosea responded with the suggestion that they cease to have children born into their midst. Hos. 9:14 Their future was dark and dismal for the way of the transgressor is hard. Their plans and wishes are turned upside down. Ps. 146:9

Gilgal is a point of decision. It is here that the men who had been born after they left Egypt but were not yet circumcised, were circumcised upon entering into the land of promise. Josh. 5:4-5 Gilgal means circle or rolling. Circumcision was a sign of having entered the covenant of Abraham with the Lord. Acts 7:8 In the case of this mass surgery it was to roll away the reproach of Egypt. It was to be an act of separation and consecration unto the Lord. Josh. 5:9 Circumcision is not left out of the Christian experience. Circumcision is profitable, but only if the individual keeps the entire Law. Rom. 2:25 But then, whoever kept the Law outside of the Lord Jesus who came to fulfill the Law. Mt. 5:17 Contrary wise, if the uncircumcised keep

the righteousness of the Law, is their righteousness not to be counted as circumcision? Rom. 2:25

HOSEA. 67

Gilgal was the first camp Israel made after crossing the Jordan river. Jordan is a type of death and resurrection. Circumcision a type of the putting off of the flesh and its old nature. It was on the tenth day of the month Abib, which was the first month of the Levitical year. They were about to enter a new land and a new life. What more significant time could the Lord have chosen for them in their new beginnings but the Passover time. The feast of Passover, which they kept that fourteenth day of that first month. Josh. 5:10 Symbolically they went through death and resurrection and severance from the old nature. All in preparation for their new life in the promised land. In the process of salvation the new testament Christian follows the same pattern. A further evidence of the start of a new life was in the fact that the manna ceased to descend on the day after the day of Passover. Josh. 5:12 There were some very positive events which occurred at Gilgal.

Gilgal became a place of extreme idol worship. The Lord warned Judah to stay away from Gilgal and not to visit the city. Hos. 4:15 The center, the very heart of wickedness was located at Gilgal. So great were their trespasses that the Lord was moved to speak of His hatred of those who partook of their vile and wicked deeds. He promised that He would drive them from His house. Hos. 9:15-16 Gilgal had become the city of wickedness because of the idolatry of the people. They were so proud in their worship that they had become desolate and vain in their religion. Their altars were equal to the stacks of stones gathered by each farmer and stacked in the field. Their offerings were numerically great. Gilgal was covered with altars and places of vain sacrifices. Hos. 12:11 The Lord had a controversy with Gilgal and it became a city destined for punishment. Amos spoke of the hand of the Lord being against them and the subsequent events which had and would transpire. Amos 4:4-12

So exasperating had the Israelites become that the Lord was led to declare that He would love them no more. Their iniquity had extinguished any feeling of compassion that He may have had for them. They had reached

the ultimacy of sin and rejection of the true and living God. Their leaders were in constant revolt against the will of the Lord. Hos. 10:15 Ephraim, even to the roots had dried up. The promise of the Lord also included the death of those who were born of Ephraim. The Lord so loathed them because of their spiritual rebellion and false worship that Hosea said that the Lord would cast them away. They were to disappear and no longer exist as a nation. Therefore they would become wanderers, nomads, driven away from the presence of the Lord and scattered among the nations of the world. Hos. 9:17

HOSEA. 68

Israel, having given itself over to idolatry had lost any semblance of fruitfulness derived from the Lord. There is no mixture possible between the Lord and any other that may be exalted as god. Joshua proclaimed Him to be a jealous God. One who would not forgive their sins if they turned from Him to follow idols. Josh. 24:19-20 There is absolutely no compromise with the Lord. It is all or nothing at all. Jesus taught that no man, could possibly serve two masters. For in the ultimate, he would hate the one and love the other or vice-versa. The main god of distraction today is mammon, the god of riches. Many will become bankrupt spiritually by seeking the wealth of this world. Mt. 6:24

The prophecy of Isaiah, pertaining to the vine, portrayed it as being that great people whom the Lord brought out of Egypt. The prophetic utterance is directed at Judah and Jerusalem but Israel is also included. In the form of a song, a song of love, Israel is singing a song of the vine, to her beloved Lord. It is a song depicting the great preparation and care of the vine of the Lord, Israel. It was the choicest vine to be found on the earth. Every preparation possible for a fruitful vine was made with the expectation of a tremendous crop. Disappointment of disappointments, in the place of good fruit there was nothing but wild grapes. Isa. 5:1-2

What more could He possibly have done to have had a successful harvest? The answer is nothing. Every possible effort had been made for a people blessed and increasing by the Lord. The result will be a total disregard and abandonment of the vineyard by the Lord. Its protection will be removed. Destruction will follow. The rains so vital to its growth and fruitfulness will be

withheld. The vineyard is then clearly identified as being the house of Israel and the men of Judah. The anticipation of the Lord toward His vineyard proved to be a great displeasure to Him. Isa. 5:3-6

All this does not mean that their crops were poorly. Because of the abundance of their harvest they were able to increase the altars of worship found around the land. Their God given wealth was used to a purpose which was greatly disturbing to Him. They spared no cost in preparing images of beauty which were distributed around the land. Hos. 10:1 The description of their abundance may be understood by the words found in 1 Kings 14:23 Every high hill became a place of worship where groves of trees and shrines were established. The extreme wickedness of the people is evidenced by the male prostitutes who made these places so obscene in the sight of the Lord. 1 Kings 12:24 Failing to heed the Word of the Lord, Israel had fallen into the depths of sin and iniquity. They were more than worthy of the punishment which was upon them.

HOSEA. 69

Their hearts are divided. Hos. 10:2 Each single heart unsettled as to which is right and which is wrong. Like the double minded person, unstable in every fashion. James 1:8 They are identified by their inability to sufficiently commit their lives unto the Lord, to be able to cease from sin. Their eyes are filled with adultery. They seduce the unstable, they are experts in greed, an accursed brood. 2 Peter 2:14 NIV. The hearts, the ways, the attitudes of mankind have never changed from that day to this. The mixed multitude is yet to be found among the people of the Lord. This group, comprised of those who insist on a compromise, were the instigators of their problems. Num. 11:4 Their souls were dry (for sure). They despised the food of the Lord, the manna from heaven. Num. 11:6

Now they will be judged guilty. The Lord will once again present before His people the opportunity to freely choose to serve Him or Baal. How long will we halt between two opinions. Which shall it be, the Lord or the world? 1 Kings 18:21 When they failed to respond to the words of the prophet, they subjected themselves to the consequences. The Lord fulfilled His promise of destruction for their altars and images by removing them out of the land. It was His land and they had polluted it with all of their abominations.

The Lord does speak of a day when there would be an opportunity of cleansing and redemption. It is to be through a fountain which was to be opened in the house of David, specifically for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Zech. 13:1 That fountain is the Lord Jesus. He is the fountain of life. Ps. 36:9 It is a fountain of cleansing and purification. Jesus stated that He had come particularly for the lost sheep of Israel. Mt. 15:24 The whole plan of salvation was directed toward those who are called His own, Israel. John 1:11 In spite of the fact of the many past rejections, He came to His own and in so doing subjected Himself to further rejection. However, now He turned to all who would receive Him and declared them to be the sons of God. That fountain has not been closed but it is no longer exclusively reserved for those whom He termed, His own. Like Paul and Barnabas, He turned to the Gentiles. Acts 13:46

In the household of faith there is no longer such a person as a Jew or a Greek. No race or nation may lay exclusive claim to any part of the gospel. Now and throughout eternity, there is but one race that is recognized and that is made up of those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Gal. 3:28 as a nation they were to lose their standing with the Lord. As individuals, they may find their way into His good graces and family. The unsearchable riches of Christ are to be preached to, and received by, all mankind, every where in the world. Eph. 3:8

HOSEA. 70

We have no king. This was not actually the case, for they did have a king. They had made Jeroboam their king. 1 Kings 12:19-20 In spite of having an earthly king whom they had chosen, at the words of Hosea they realized how vulnerable they were. They were without Divine leadership. The kind of a king who would work miracles of deliverance for them. They recognized the folly of their ways but did not come to repentance. They were well aware that their situation was their lack of fear, or respect for the Lord. If the next statement reflected their attitude, it sounds flippant. What good is a king, how can a king benefit us. Hos. 10:3 Not only did they have a king but they were to be subjected to the kings of other nations as they were scattered abroad throughout the world.

We have no king. What a tremendous loss. Like all backsliders their lives were empty and in vain without the Lord. Losing His presence and guidance leaves a void in the spirit which cannot be filled but with the Lord. How prophetic were their words. The majority of the citizens of the northern kingdom were completely removed from the land. Some drifted to Jerusalem and became a part of its population. Jesus, on His triumphant entry into Jerusalem was hailed as the King of Israel who had come in the name of the Lord. John 12:13 They now had their King, the Son of David. Mt. 21:9 However the same spirit of rejection was to be found in them. We have no king but Caesar. John 19:15 Those outside of Christ remain kingless whether they are of Israel or Gentiles. The height of irony is to be found in the words which Pilate wrote on the cross of the Lord Jesus. JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. John 19:19 Israel was again without a king. Jesus had demonstrated the authority and powers of the kingdom of heaven. He was, and is, the only true King.

However, Jesus was to make it very plain that He was not to be the king of Israel (after the flesh), nor was His Kingdom to be of this world. He was not of this world but from, and of, the Heavenly Kingdom. John 8:23 The prophecies of the Old Testament pertaining to the Kingdom of God, were misinterpreted in His day, even as they are being misunderstood in our day. The Kingdom which is His, is Heavenly, eternal and belongs to an entirely different Spirit and atmosphere than this world. Jesus said, My kingdom is not of this world. That should be sufficient to show us that He is not going to rule over Israel, nor over the whole world, for that matter. John 18:36 What is His Kingdom, well for one thing it is not meat and drink. It will be a kingdom of righteousness, joy and peace in the Holy Ghost. Rom. 14:17 No sinner would appreciate living in such an atmosphere. Consequently, the unrighteous are excluded from any facet of His kingdom. Whether it is the Kingdom of God which is within you now, or that which is to come. Sin cannot abide in His presence.

HOSEA. 71

They have spoken words. Words of prayer, promise and considered to be words of worship. They were vain words. Empty of true meaning and even while being uttered their hearts were far from the Lord. Hos. 10:4 Jesus taught that vain repetitions, memorized, canned prayers if you please, were

but empty words. Words spoken eloquently more for the ears of those gathered than for the Lord. Mt. 6:7

They responded affirmatively to the covenant of the Lord. While all the time, knowing in their hearts that they would not keep their portion of the covenant. Their word meant nothing and could not be trusted. Paul listed covenant breakers as one of the signs of a reprobate people. Rom .1:31 Therefore judgment was about to break upon them like unto a poisonous weed in the midst of their plantings. Their actions and response to the covenant of the Lord is the root cause of all that is happening to them. The Lord warned them that those who turned aside to chase after other gods, would be like a root bearing gall and wormwood. Deut. 29:18 These roots of bitterness, however small, all have an effect on our families, our friends and associates. It is an attitude which cannot be hidden and according to Paul is the sign of one who has fallen from grace. Heb. 12:15

Fear to come upon the hearts of the people living in Samaria, losing their golden calf. From Bethel (the house of God) they had turned to Bethaven, (the house of vanity, or idolatry). Unger, gives an interesting interpretation of the name, the house of nothingness. They could not have gone to a greater extreme. The people who at one time were called the people of God are now the people of the golden calf. Priest and people shall mourn over the loss of their calf gods. How empty, how void of all the help expected from a god they must have felt when their gods were taken captive. Its glory, its power had been stripped from it, and it was proven to be vulnerable, weak and ineffective. Hos. 10:5

The destiny of the calf gods was to be carted off, in captivity to Assyria as a gift to king Jareb (meaning a revenger). A heathen king used by the Lord to punish Israel for their idolatry. The loss of their gods in such a fashion was an embarrassment to Israel. Furthermore, they were ashamed of such defenseless and useless idols. Hos. 10:6 Their rebellion and sin was against the Lord. Isaiah predicts the end of such a country or individual. In the process of their punishment they will be ashamed, be disgraced, dry up like a dead tree and an unwatered garden. The mighty man and his works will burn together and there will be no one to quench the fire. Isa. 1:28-31 Samaria and its king destined to be blown away like the foam on a raging sea is lifted and carried by the strong winds of a storm.

HOSEA. 72

The high places of Aven. Temples to their idol gods were located in elevated places. Their worship was not only false but empty and in vain. Among the several meanings of the name Aven is that of, strictly nothingness. A good translation for the whole of idol worship. The sin of Israel, idolatry, will be utterly abolished by the Lord. Hos. 10:8 A restored temple and its form of worship would be idolatry. The first Covenant (the Law) has been replaced by the second Covenant, redemption through the Lord Jesus. The Law was but a shadow, Christ is that which is real and eternal. The shadow cannot save. The one casting the shadow is the Savior. Consider Heb. 8:1-10 Are we satisfied with the mundane or are we wise enough to earnestly seek after that which is the absolute best.

Thorns and thistles to spoil the results of such worship. In difficulties, distresses no response to be had from their false gods. No comfort, no solace to be found. Their altars to be destroyed. The next statement of the prophet is an end time happening. The cry to be hidden and to escape facing the judge is like the voice of those who will face the great day of His wrath. Isaiah spoke of a day when the pride of men would be totally destroyed. The Lord only, being exalted in that day. The idols totally destroyed. The Lord at that day, will create an earth quake the likes of which the world has never seen. The entire earth will shake at one and the same time. Here all false worship will be cast aside as mankind recognizes the Sovereignty of the Lord. When they behold the glory of His majesty they will dash for the caves and the holes in the earth and call for them to implode upon them that they might be hidden or covered. Isa. 2:17-21

The cataclysmic events introduced by the opened sixth seal give us an insight to the ultimate meaning of their cry. It is called the great day of His wrath. It is the most fearsome day of all, for in the process of fulfilling all the events which have been scheduled, the sun will go dark, the moon turned into blood and the stars will fall from heaven. Just imagine the extreme terror which will grip the hearts of men at that time. The heavens will roll up, be terminated, like a scroll. The entire topography of the earth will be completely altered. The entirety of unsaved humanity will seek that hiding place with the request to die rather than face the Lord in all of His glory and splendor. Rev. 6:17 It is evident that there will be a quaking of the universe

and not only the earth. Also, the very fact of such a horrendous catastrophe demands an extremely different appearance of this world during the Millennial reign of Christ. There is no possibility of any of what exists now to be found in that age. Peter writing about that day declared that the heavens would pass away with a great noise, the elements melt at the fervent heat and the works of men burned up. 2 Pet. 3:10

HOSEA. 73

Paul is writing concerning the second coming of Christ and stated that at the time of the gathering together of His saints (2 Thess. 1:10), that Jesus would be revealed, that is, plainly seen. 2 Thess. 1:7 Acts 1:11 He will come in flaming fire, to the destruction of those who do not know the Lord and are not obedient to the gospel of the Lord Jesus. 2 Thess. 1:8 He is coming as a thief, that is, to the skeptic and unbeliever, unexpectedly, because they have not believed the pre-coming signs which are manifold. What we see and are experiencing today are just 'the beginning of sorrows,' the introductory signs leading up to the great tribulation and the final judgments of the Lord. Mt. 24:8 The major signs are not yet manifest. Every event scheduled by the Lord must come to pass before the Lord Jesus will return. Do not be deceived into thinking that the day of His coming could be just any day. That day shall not come without the anti-christ first putting in his appearance and reigning on the earth. 2 Thess. 2:1-4 His destiny is be destroyed by the brightness (the flaming fire) of the coming of Christ. 2 Thess. 2:8

A cry from the heart of the Lord through the prophet expressing the disappointment of His heart because of the continual sin of Israel. The story of the days of Gibeah is rather a gruesome story and is recorded in Judges 19 and 20. There should have been many lessons learned at that time but it is evident that they were not received. Those against whom Israel had fought were called, 'children of iniquity' and for that cause were defeated in battle. Hos. 10:9 The chastisement of the Lord, was by having the enemy gather against them and allowing them to be defeated. The NIV gives an interesting translation of 'they shall bind themselves in two furrows.' It is, 'to put them in bonds for their double sin.' Hos. 10:10 NIV. As there is a double (or full) blessing for those who really serve the Lord. There is also a double punishment for those, particularly in the last days, who follow the way of the

false church. Having lived in the double portion, or to the fullness of iniquity. She will receive a double measure of punishment . Rev. 18:6

Ephriam likened to a heifer that has been trained to tread out the grain. In this fashion the heifer could eat of the grain and consequently grow fat. He was likening Ephriam to an animal which had become overfed, lazy and decadent. Life had been easy for them but now the Lord was about to change all that and they were to know that the wages of sin have their pay day. They were to find themselves in a entirely different situation where life would become difficult and hard, all because they refused to obey the Lord. Hos. 10:11 Even Judah was to learn the hard way. The hand of the Lord was to be totally removed from them.

HOSEA. 74

If there is a prophecy in the Word, aimed at our day, this is it. Here we may know and understand the heart of the Lord. His call is to a people who will sow seeds of righteousness, which will result in a harvest of the manifestation of the holiness of the Lord. Sow to yourself, sow for your own benefit and blessing. Hos. 10:12 The reward is not always immediately evident, it takes time for the seed to germinate and to come to fruition, but the results are highly beneficial. The sowing of the good seed, the Word of the Lord brings positive and eternal results. Prov. 11:18

The harvest of properly sown seed is mercy or loving kindness. The law of sowing and reaping applies to the spiritual as well as the natural. That which we sow in our life is the exact harvest which we shall reap. Sow to the desires of the flesh and all that can be expected is a harvest of the flesh. The wages of sin is death. Sow to the Spirit and reap life everlasting. Gal. 6:7-9 The Lord has always bountifully blessed the generous individual. A recent survey of the rich, found that those who were philanthropist were the happiest. Generosity has its rewards. Combine being a cheerful giver and Christianity and the great blessing of the Lord will be seen. 2 Cor. 9:6-9 Giving, of substance, time and effort, in the Spirit of the Lord produces a harvest of righteousness. The Lord loves a cheerful giver.

Plow the dormant ground. The unproductive, hard, perhaps arid heart, so void of the moving of the Spirit. Uncultivated, overgrown with crab grass

and weeds of every sort, useless and unproductive. Now the call comes to break it up, plow furrows, breakup the sod and remove every hindering factor. The same call is issued to Judah and Jerusalem. It is a time of circumcision of the heart. That heart which has been void of Spiritual activity. Laying empty and cold. A field of thorns and thistles. The good seed being choked out and the undesirable taking over. It is time to weed, to break up the hard ground. A time to prepare the heart for the moving of the Spirit. For reviving and renewal. To fail to respond to the call of the Lord can only bring a fiery judgment upon the fields. Jer. 4:3-4

The season has come where the Lord must be sought. Earnest, heartfelt repentance and prayer are called for. We want the blessing of the Lord and He has promised it to us. Who is not moving in the right direction? He has promised in the day that we seek Him with our whole heart we will find Him. He is ready to give a heart to His people where they come to a full knowledge of Him. When they return unto Him with the whole heart. Jer. 24:7 The day of lukewarm, half hearted, hit and miss religion is coming to a quick close. It is time to earnestly seek Him with our whole, being, strength and heart. In His mercy and compassion He is calling to His people today to turn aside from the world and seek Him.

HOSEA. 75

There is no time more profitable than the time one spends seeking the Lord. His promise is to those who have come before Him with hearts of repentance and humility. He will send a rain of righteousness upon them. Hos. 10:12e Rain is absolutely essential for a good harvest to be gained. Where there is the proper seasonal rain there is plenty and prosperity. The Lord has promised that He would open the heavens and rain down righteousness upon His people. A rain which would produce salvation and growth. A definite and positive increase of righteousness among the people of the Lord. Isa. 45:7

While we have to recognize that the seventy second Psalm is written to Solomon, there is also a Messianic message contained in it. He, the king, the Lord Jesus, shall be as rain falling on the freshly mown grass, a sweet and pleasant aroma. The earth being watered, His people shall flourish in righteousness and with a great abundance of peace. Ps. 72:6-7 The

presence of the Lord will create righteousness. Righteousness brings peace of heart and mind. Lord send the rain.

The seasonal, early and latter, rains of Israel are symbolic of the outpouring of the Holy spirit at the beginning of the dispensation of the Spirit, on the day of Pentecost and the present day manifestation of the Spirit. Through the prophet Joel, the Lord promised a full, complete measure of the Spirit falling like a rain of righteousness in the days prior to the second coming of Christ. The former and the latter rains are combined and made into a double portion resulting in a tremendous harvest. Joel 2:23-24 The time given is in the first month, the month of new beginnings. The tabernacle was erected on the first day of the first month. Ex. 40:2 It is symbolic of the completion of the temple of the Lord, the Bride in the last days. 1 Cor. 3:16 A people founded on the blood atonement and participating of Christ through the Passover, the communion table.

Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap. Gal. 6:7 Israel had deliberately plowed with a spirit of rebellion and would consequently reap a harvest of iniquity. Following the lying spirit of false priest and trusting in their own capabilities and ways. Blindly following blind leadership. They, by their wicked works, were fully responsible for the turmoil and extreme judgment which was about to come of them. Their wickedness had reached the limit of the tolerance of the Lord. There is a point where His patience is exhausted by the iniquitous works of mankind. Israel had reached that place, thus their king was cut off and they were scattered. The false church, named Babylon, the great, last day harlot church, will be rewarded according to her wicked works. She will receive a double portion of punishment for her vile actions. Rev. 18:6

HOSEA. 76

When Israel was a child. From the time of their beginnings, the Lord loved him. A love of great depth, as only the Lord can love. We are about to observe the strong and intense emotions of the Lord. His love is a love which is unique. A love which supersedes human love, far greater than the love of parents for a child. It is impossible for mankind to love as He loves except He imparts that ability to us, whereby we may love with the same passion. We are privileged to know His love which passes knowledge.

Comprehending, experiencing a love which may only be known by those who are in Christ Jesus. Eph. 3:19

One of the wonderful things which is so intriguing about the Bible is the interjection periodically of a Messianic statement. We find one here. I called My Son out of Egypt. Referring to both the children of Israel in Egypt (Ex. 4:22-23) and the Lord Jesus who was taken into Egypt by Joseph and Mary. Mt. 2:15 The Lord Jesus is referred to and called Israel. He was to take the place of Israel as the Son of the Father. Furthermore, He was to take the place of Israel, as well as the whole of mankind, bearing their sins in His own body. He was the servant of the Father, thus becoming the substitute, the saving sacrifice for all. Jesus glorified the Father. Isa. 49:3

The Lord, through the voice of the prophets, was faithful in calling Israel unto Himself. His warnings of impending punishments were adequate. Had they listened they would have changed their ways and fully followed the Lord. However, as is recorded, the more He called the more they turned from Him. What a stubborn and obstinate people they were. They persisted in their offerings to Baal and the burning of incense to their carved images. Hos. 11:2 The Lord was more than just in scattering them abroad.

The Lord reveals the deep rooted emotions of His heart in His past dealings with Israel. He placed Himself in the role of a Father who, with great enjoyment and pleasure, had taken His Ephraim by His arms and taught him to walk. They were not aware of the healing hand of the Lord upon them, nor were they about ready to acknowledge His virtue revealed in their lives. Hos. 11:3 The close affinity which the Lord felt was not appreciated nor equaled by Israel. Isaiah said; that the Lord. Like a true Father, felt their afflictions as if they were His own. The angel of His presence saved and delivered them. With His great love He saved and redeemed them. He protected them, guided them and cared for them faithfully. Isa. 63:9-10 But they rebelled. What a pity.

HOSEA. 77

We are now given the picture of an agonizing God and Father. So often the judgments of the Lord are viewed as hard hearted and indifferent actions. Just the opposite is true. He does not enjoy punishing His people. His

corrections are always just and well deserved. Through the prophecy of Hosea the Lord is about to expose the inner most feelings of His heart in such a situation. He delivered them from Egypt with great kindness and with the purpose of granting them an inheritance of the land unto which He would lead them. His love for them was His motivation and it was constantly seen in His care and supply for them during their sojourn in the wilderness. He gladly removed the yoke, the bondage's of slavery of the Egyptians. He fed them throughout their wanderings with a constant supply of manna. Hos. 11:4

The way of the transgressor is hard. Prov. 13:15 The heights of stupidity is to resist the Lord. There is no possibility of victory in such a battle. When the Lord lifts His hand of blessing there is nothing but emptiness and defeat. They would not be returned to Egypt but the king of Assyria would bring them into subjection. The cause, their refusal to repent and cease from their worship of idols and false gods. Man, is in deed, his own worst enemy. Hos. 11:5 Godly sorrow and repentance could have changed the history of the nation and of the world.

They refused to take guidance from the Lord but relied on their own thoughts and understanding. Their decisions were according to their own desires. Too often, advice is sought, but only accepted when it agrees with the will and desire of the individual. Anything which might be contrary to their personal preference is rejected. Hos. 11:6 Accordingly, the sword would not cease from being made manifest in their cities, causing them to be utterly consumed or removed from their land of inheritance.

They were a purposeful and stubborn people. Determined to persist in doing that which pleased themselves. They were set in their ways and strong mindedly resisted the wooing of the Lord through His prophets. With their mouths they called upon His name, but their hearts were far from Him. Prov. 14:14a The irony of the whole situation is that they well understood who the Lord was and continued to call Him the Most High, while bowing before their idols. To them, He had become just another name for the visible gods whom they were now worshipping. They maintained all their religious activities as usual but substituted their idols for the true and living God, the Lord, the Most High. Imagine the heartbreak of the Lord when He

said that none exalted Him. After all that He had done for them, none of them were seeking after Him. He must have felt total rejection.

HOSEA. 78

How great, how strong, how unfailing is the love of the Lord. Even after all their offences against Him, He is seen struggling with the punishment that must be given Israel. It is an extremely difficult action for the Lord to accomplish in removing them from the land and out of His sight. How can I give you up? Can you feel the powerful emotion of His words? Hos. 11:8a This first statement is addressed to Ephraim, double fruitfulness. Ephraim was about to suffer loss of destiny. The double portion is given to those of true consecration and dedication to the Lord. The double portion, or fullness of the Spirit, and the accompanying fruitfulness is a type of the great last day revival, culminating in the perfect church which will be the bride of Christ. Eph. 5:27

How shall I deliver you. The nature of the Lord is to deliver, to liberate, to set free. (According to Strong's dictionary, The word deliver has the connotation of shielding, encompassing, to rescue or to hand safely over.) The Lord would much rather deliver from punishment than deliver to banishment, which was to be their reward. In this case there is no deliverance because of their extreme actions in deserting the Lord. They are without repentance. Had there been a way, the Lord would most gladly have rescinded His judgment against them. After all, they were Israel (he will rule as God). With such a name and terrific destiny, what a horrible price they were to pay for their waywardness. Hos. 11:8b

Capital punishment presented but not executed. The cities of Admah (red, earth or blood) and Zeboim (gazelle) were two of the other cities destroyed along with Sodom and Gomorrah. Deut. 29:23 There is a sin, so irritating to the Lord that He cannot wait until the day of judgment to reign punishment of on those who participate. Hos. 11:8c

The Lord moved, stirred with extreme emotion. These statements give us an insight into the similarity of emotions which the Lord has and those which He has given us. His are sanctified but ours have been corrupted. His was heart deeply moved by the punishment that He must give a nation

of unruly people. We must understand that to do what He was about to do to Israel was not a minor move on His part. He loved them as only He can love and in spite of all their wrong doing He still wanted them to be His people. "My repentings," how tender hearted is our God. Any parent, who truly loves their children and must correct them will understand in a small measure the feelings of the Lord in this situation. The word, kindled, figuratively means, to be deeply affected with passion (love or pity). Strong Hos. 11:8d We have been given a peek into the very heart of the Lord.

HOSEA. 79

Another insight into the emotions of the Lord. In burning wrath He could have completely annihilated the subjects of His anger. The violation of His Word carried that kind of punishment, they were worthy of death. The sin of Israel was of such measure that they were subject to punishment to the full extent of the Law. However, as with the prayer of Habakkuk, (Hab. 3:2) the Lord in wrath would exhibit mercy. Because of whom He is and what He is, that is, God and not man, The Holy One dwelling in the midst of them, He would not fully destroy them. Hos. 11:9 He is in complete control of every emotions which express His being. In extreme, full, burning anger, He has perfect control and will not go to excess in punishing Israel. He will punish in mercy and not annihilate Israel. He promised that He would not enter their cities with destruction as in the case of Sodom and Gomorrah. Mercy prevails in His heart. He is the God of all compassion, gracious and long suffering. Plenteous in mercy and truth. Ps. 86:15

Optimistically, The Lord who knows the end from the beginning. Who speaks in truth and assurance, knowing well that His purposes will be accomplished foresaw a day of the return of the scattered people unto Himself. Isa. 46:10 They would hear the roar of His lion like voice and once again seek His face. The roar, the voice of the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5) has been and is being heard throughout the earth. Hos. 11:10 He is proclaiming a message of repentance and reconciliation. It is He, who has loosed the seven seals and made it possible for the events promised in the book of Revelation to be enacted. The means, the volume, the ways in which His voice is sounding forth increases every day. The gospel is being preached. The nations are hearing. We are entering into harvest time and the vines will soon be harvested. Jer. 25:30

Jacob, when prophesying over his sons said of Judah that he was as a lion. Then spoke of the coming of Shiloh (peace, tranquility), the man of peace, the Lord Jesus. It is He, the Lord Jesus Christ unto whom the people will be gathered. Gen. 49:9-10 The return of the children of whom Hosea is speaking is the salvation of those scattered abroad, Judah and the Gentiles. The Lord Jesus came into the world to seek and save that which was lost. Luke. 19:10 Salvation is not of race but of grace. The gospel of the Lord Jesus is for the whosoever will. He was to be a covenant (the New Covenant) to the people of Israel and a true light to the Gentiles. Isa. 42:6 He is the God of the Jew (Judah), Israel (ten tribes) and of the Gentiles. Rom. 9:24 He is Lord to all who will come to Him without favoring any one nation or race of people. Those who commit to Him will find an eternal home. John 14:2-3 Ephraim, Israel were involved in falsehood. Judah had not yet reached the magnitude of the sin of Israel but were not far behind. Hos. 11:11-12

HOSEA. 80

Foolish Ephraim found feeding on the wind, the very lightest of food which can never assuage hunger. Furthermore they deliberately followed after the east wind, a wind heated by the desert and bringing destruction to vegetation and discomfort to man. Hos. 12:1 Wrongful worship, burning incense to idols, forgetting the Lord is certain to bring destruction like the east wind. The Lord would cause them to stumble and forsake the ancient and tried ways. He would cause the land to be so desolate that those passing by would be astonished. The east wind was that which was to scatter them abroad. At which time the Lord would turn His back on them. Jer. 18:17 The mouth of the foolish feed on the light, the entertaining, the frivolous, the frothy things of Christianity. But the understanding of heart will seek after understanding and knowledge of the Lord. Prov. 15:14 The wind to consume the shepherds and their lovers to be captured and exiled. Jer. 22:22

Once headed down the pathway of lies and deceit it is difficult to change the course and cease from lying. A lie demands another lie to cover the first and so on, ad infinitum. In forsaking the Lord and substituting false gods for Him, they promoted a lie. They lived and practiced a lie, deceiving themselves, their families and the whole nation. Their persistent stubbornness amply demonstrates the fact that they were under the

domination of a lying spirit from the father of lies. John 8:44 Such an attitude can only result in tragedy.

Israel's problems all originated from their having forsaken the Lord. The king of Assyria came to attack the land of Israel but the king of Israel, Menahem bought him off and formed an alliance with him by paying a thousand talents of silver. The money which was raised by imposing a tax of fifty talents of silver on each of the rich in Israel. (You can guarantee that made him popular). 2 Kings 15:19-20 Ephraim's alliances were not beneficial to them. Hos. 5:13 Israel's land, under the blessing and care of the Lord, was to be most productive. One of the overflowing crops promised them was the oil of the olive tree. Deut. 8:8 This commodity was used in the breaking of their covenant with Assyria and the seeking of an alliance with Egypt by sending the oil to them. Hos. 12:1 Assyria at that time was the more powerful nation of the two. Their actions only increased the enmity of the Assyrians. When out of step with the Lord every move is a bad one, the wrong one. Harmony and peace of mind and heart are found in fully serving the Lord. There is only one place of a certain and fulfilling peace and that is in the Lord Jesus. His peace is that which exceeds all other sources of pseudo peace. Phil. 4:7

HOSEA. 81

Judah is not exempt from the corrections of the Lord. They too were involved in acts of disobedience, and in that manner displeased the Lord. They would receive punishment in comparison to their mode of action. They were not ignorant of the Law. They well knew it's commands. Consequently they would be disciplined according to it's precepts. The measure of their chastisement followed the depths of their iniquity. By wicked works they established their own measure of punishment. Hos. 12:2

Jacob, in spite of being called the heel snatcher, the supplanter, he aggressively sought and rightly evaluated the blessing of the Lord. Esau placed little or no value on the birthright blessing and was perfectly willing to sell it for bread and a stew of lentils. Thus he despised his birthright. Gen. 25:29-34 Esau's attitude and actions displayed his utter contempt and rejection as the progenitor of the spiritual race whom the Lord would bring into existence.

Jacob had a unique experience with the Lord until it was confessed that he, as a prince, had power with the Lord and with men, for Jacob had prevailed in a prayer/wrestling match with the Lord. Hos. 12:3 Jacob wept, he was tender hearted before the Lord and with string supplication sought the blessing of the Lord. He was persistent in searching after the promises of the Lord. Hos. 12:4 He did not steal or deceive Esau when receiving the birthright, he paid a legitimate price for it. The price that Esau was willing to give in order to receive of the goods of this world.

Jacob met the Lord in Bethel (the house of the Lord) and there when speaking to Jacob he spoke to the household of faith, even to those to whom Hosea was prophesying. He who was involved with Jacob is identified by His name. The LORD God, or Jehovah Elohim. The Lord of hosts, reigning over the hosts of heaven and earth. He is indeed the Supreme Being, yet Jacob was able to lay hold of Him and be blest by Him. This name is His memorial to all generations. Hos. 12:5 To Moses, He had introduced Himself as I AM, the eternal, ever existent, ever present, ever abiding one. He has always been. He has no beginning nor ending. From eternity, before creation, he was present as I AM. In time He remains, I AM and in the eternity to come, He will be the I AM. His memorial is eternal. Ex. 3:13-15

A call to repentance, turn to the Lord. Restore mercy and love, live in justice and judgment. Most importantly, wait on the Lord, continually. Hos. 12:6 Those who spend time seeking the Lord find great good and many benefits. Lam. 3:25 The Lord delights in those who will spend time seeking Him.

HOSEA. 82

The dishonest merchant. The margin of the NKJV interprets merchant to be Canaanite, who were noted for their dishonesty. Thus Israel had become deceitful in their business dealings. Hos. 12:6 They had become rich by their crooked dealings and were now bragging about their ill obtained gains. The precepts of the Lord had been violated by their unjust marketing. Lev. 19:36 Having forsaken their God and way of truth it is to be expected that they would become untrustworthy in all their business

dealings. They loved their fraudulent practices and the riches resulting from such practices. Hos. 12:7

The self-righteousness of Ephraim was disturbing to the Lord. Particularly so, when they would declare that there was no sin or iniquity to be found in all of their obtaining of wealth. Hos. 12:8 Their attitude in their merchandising is portrayed in the actions seen in Prov. 20:14. When haggling over the price, the item is declared to be worthless, but when the process is finished the purchaser boasts about the bargain he just made. Prov. 20:14

Wealth is a blessing from the Lord, when it is not the primary objective of a persons goal in life. Consider Solomon. He asked the Lord for wisdom and knowledge in governing the people of the Lord, and it was granted Him. Because he had not sought nor asked for riches, financial success was also granted him. 2 Chron. 1:11-12 Paul warned Timothy, his son in the gospel and a minister of the Lord Jesus, of the dangers of deliberately seeking to be rich. Such would be faced with multiplied temptations and could easily become ensnared with a spirit of lust after the things of this world. When the desire of money is the motivation, and the love of the same possesses the soul, that person is flirting with the root of all evil. The attitude toward, the drive to obtain riches can be extremely harmful and destructive to the spirituality of the individual. 1 Tim. 6:9-10

The teachings of the Lord Jesus will produce a well balanced life. He made it plain that the Gentiles, the heathen, sought strongly after the things of this life. It was their drive and urgent purpose in life. In contrast, the heavenly Father knows the needs and necessities of His people and will supply them. He urged His followers to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, then the necessities of this life would be added unto them. Mt. 6:31-33 Those who would leave all, to follow Him, would find great benefit in this life plus eternal life. The return on those things sacrificed for His sake and the progression of His kingdom was to be one hundred fold. Mark 10:29-30 He warned those church members trusting in their riches that for all their boasting, they were living in abject poverty. Rev. 3:17 In exchange, He had far better and eternal riches prepared for those who would receive that which is true and everlasting. Rev. 3:18

HOSEA. 83

The Lord spoke to them in giving them a history and a spiritual message at one and the same time. He reminded them of their deliverance from Egypt and that it had been by His power that they were able to escape their bondage. As the LORD, Jehovah, He had not forsaken them from that time until the time of the prophecy. Hos. 12:9 Several times in the scriptures the LORD has made the same statement. He had to constantly remind them of the fact that He had brought their forefathers out of the house of bondage. Ex. 20:2

In the declaration that He would yet make them to dwell in tabernacles or tents, there is a dual fulfillment. The first is, that they will be nomads and be forced out of their homes and lands and would be scattered abroad across the face of the earth. A punishment of the Lord because of their idolatry. The second is spiritual and pertains to the end of the age and the fulfillment of the feast of Tabernacles. The three great feasts of Israel have their counterpart and spiritual fulfillment in the gospel of Christ. He was crucified as the Passover lamb. He is our Passover. 1 Cor. 5:7 The feast of Pentecost was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost when the disciples were filled with the Spirit. Acts 2:1-4 Yet to become a part of the final day church is the feast of Tabernacles. It is the feast of the general harvests of the year and was also known as the feast of in-gathering. It is significant of a last day revival and the perfection of the church. Joel 2:28-29

Isaiah spoke of the root which would spring forth from Jesse and become a standard for the peoples of the earth. Isa. 11:10 That root is the Lord Jesus. Jesus said that there would be no sign given but that of the prophet Jonah, who in His deliverance from the belly of the whale became a type of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Mt. 12:39 The Lord Jesus is the sign, the banner which attracts and draws humanity unto Himself. Please note the Broad, complete spectrum of those who are drawn to Him. In the tenth verse it is the Gentile nations. In verse eleven, it is the remnant of His people. In verse twelve, it includes the outcasts of Israel (those to whom Hosea prophesied) and the dispersed of Judah and all from the four corners of the earth. The attention of the Lord is not focused on one small segment of the earth nor of mankind, but all are called unto salvation through the blood of the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said

this gospel of the kingdom would be preached to all the earth as a true witness unto all nations and then the end would come. Mt. 24:14 Between now and His return there must be a time of harvesting from among the peoples of the earth. The feast of Tabernacles will be fulfilled in the last day church and she will be married to Christ. Eph. 5:27 The Lord will accomplish His Divine purposes in the earth. He will leave nothing unfinished. The feast of Tabernacles will be consummated in the wilderness, where the bride is carried on eagles wing power. Rev. 12:6,14

HOSEA. 84

The faithful correction of the Lord was revealed to them in many ways, many times and through a variety of prophets. Hos. 12:10 They came ministering by the Spirit of the Lord but they would not hear. Neh. 9:30 Their message was the same, a call for repentance and return unto the Lord. They would not give ear to listen, nor was there a proper response from them. Therefore they were to lose their liberties and privileges in the Lord. The Lord will not be ignored, He is patient and longsuffering. The foolhardy who ignore Him will have to suffer the consequences.

Gilead and Gilgal represent the whole of Israel. Gilead, the eastern part of the country and Gilgal the western. Was there iniquity in the country, it was filled with practices that violated the will of the Lord. He looked upon their many altars as nothing but the heaps of stones gathered from the fields, and stacked up, that the fields might be plowed. Hos. 12:11 The Lord reminded them of the hardships of their forefathers and their deliverance from Egypt which was led by a prophet. Hos. 12:12-13

Ephraim is then contrasted to those who through hardship and testing remained faithful to the Lord. Ephraim provoked the Lord to a point where His indignation took over. The Lord had great sufficiency of their idolatry. His patience had reached its extremity. Their persistency in the worship of idols and the life style which accompanied it created an indignation, an anger in the Lord which was most bitter. Ephraim was to bear the guilt of the shedding of the blood of innocents, both in criminal activities and in offerings. He would be recompensed for his disdain of the Lord. Hos. 12:14

The humility of Ephraim caused him to be exalted by the Lord. He was blessed of Him and spoke with authority. When he turned to the worship of Baal, he lost that precious contact and blessing of the Lord. The ways of the Lord never change, as then, so now. "Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honor is humility." Prov. 18:12 Pride has robbed many of the rich anointing of the Lord. Spiritual death, eternal separation from the presence of the Lord became the portion of Ephraim because of their iniquitous ways. Hos. 13:1

Rather than heeding the rebuke of the Lord delivered by the prophets they persisted in and increased their man made idols and thus, their sin. Their disappearance as a nation was well documented by the Lord. A fourfold simile is used, all of which it may be said, that they will vanish in thin air. They are, and then, momentarily they are gone. So the Lord would do to them. They would be removed from off the land and vanish. Hos. 13:2-3

HOSEA. 85

The proclamation of the Lord as to His Lordship and guidance. Also His feelings toward them, like a father with his children. In spite of their waywardness He was still their God. They were to follow and serve no other God but He who was their savior and deliverer. He had brought their fathers out of Egypt, through the desert and had consistently provided for them. Even though He demonstrated His great and marvelous care and love for them, they forgot Him. Hos. 13:4-6

The dealings of the Lord are always merciful. After their return from the captivity in Babylon, Israel, (two tribes) had a revival of the confession of their sin and they worshipped the Lord. At that time they reiterated the history of the deliverance from Egypt and the subsequent disobedience of Israel. Neh. 9:17 In their confession to the Lord once again we are made to understand the heart of the Lord. He is always ready to pardon. It is the goodness of the Lord that leads us to repentance. Their offences were great and serious, yet had they turned to Him, His pardon would have been extended to them. He is gracious, always ready to receive those who will turn to Him. Showering them with His abundant favor. He is mercy personified. Unconditional compassion is His being. "It is the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

Lam. 3:22 Slow to anger. When we consider the depths of His rejection by Israel and the extended length of time involved, He is extremely slow to anger and is exceedingly longsuffering. The Lord is of great kindness, showing favor to all who will call upon His name. All of these chrematistics of the Lord would have been abundantly manifest to Israel (ten tribes) had they but turned to Him in repentance.

When He prospered them and greatly blessed them, in their prosperity, they forgot the source of their success. Pride and self sufficiency filled their hearts and they turned away from the very source of their wealth. Therefore, the Lord would become like a wild beast to them, causing them to cease from being a nation. The fault was entirely on their part. Their actions were to their own destruction. Humanity has not changed. Those of our day who persist in their sin, do so to their own destruction. Sin destroys the individual as well as a nation. They understood perfectly the results of idol worship, yet practiced it. For all this promise of impending judgment, He still appealed to them and offered to be their help. How loving and tender He is. What action of others is more devastating than rejection. For all their contrary ways and utter rejection of the Lord His character of love and compassion is aptly demonstrated in His offer of forgiveness and pardon. He would was still willing and offered to receive them as His people. Hos.13:10

HOSEA. 86

The anger of the Lord is displayed in giving them the desire of their heart and their persistent and very vocal request for a monarch. Israel wanted to be like the Gentile nations surrounding them and those who lived among them. There is a parallel to be made here. Are we seeking the will of the Lord or our own will and desire? Do we pray the prayer of the Lord Jesus, and mean it, not my will but Yours be done. Luke 22:42 His will leads to a blest life. Our will is earthly and carnal and leads to death. Jesus came into this world to fulfill the explicit will of the Father. John 5:30 When we pray the prayer which He taught His disciples, do we really mean, "Your will be done." Mt. 6:10 Don't pray it if you don't mean it. It is a prayer of dedication and surrender to His will. What we ask for is not always beneficial to us nor does it contribute to our well being.

With their request they displeased Samuel who sought the Lord for an answer to the problem. The response of the Lord was that they were not rejecting him but the object of their rejection was the Lord. 1 Sam. 8:6-7 What a foolish move on their part. The Lord had marvelously demonstrated His ability and power to deliver and protect them. They had a constant supply of food and water in a desert area. They had the best of two worlds. When His people walk according to His will, He will withhold no good thing from them. Ps. 84:11b It just does not get any better than that. The wrath of the Lord was to be displayed in the removal of their king and their cessation as a nation and their scattering abroad.

An extremely serious statement made by the prophet. The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up, or kept in store, reserved for a purpose and a time. His sin is hid, put away awaiting the day of revelation and judgment of sin. Their sin is not purged from them nor forgiven of the Lord. It is kept in store against the day of judgment. Paul gave a word of warning to those whose hearts are hard and unrepentant. They are storing up wrath which will be used to judge them in the day when the works of mankind will be disclosed. Rom. 2:5-6

Contrary wise the response of the Lord in forgiveness is to confess and forsake sin. The latter being as equally important as the former. There is no benefit to confession if we continue in unrighteousness. Prov. 28:13 The Lord gives assurance that the memory of our sins are blotted out, erased, abolished from His memory forevermore. He has declared that He will not remember them against us forever. The Lord has the best and the greatest loss of memory of all. He cannot, He will not, remember sin which has been confessed and forsaken. Heb. 8:12 As far as the Lord is concerned the person who has been obedient to the Lord is totally justified from all their sin. A full and complete pardon has been given them.

HOSEA. 87

A metaphorical warning for the impending problems which would come upon them unexpectedly. Even though they had been well notified of the looming actions of the Lord against them, their unbelief kept them from being greatly disturbed. Hos. 13:13 Suddenly, like travail coming upon a woman, they would find themselves in deep trouble.

It is not unusual for these prophecies to have more than one fulfillment. We find here a Word that has definite end time implications. Connect Hosea's words with Paul's and we have a definite situation which speaks of the future tribulation period. 1 Thess. 5:3 When they say peace and safety, then, suddenly the most wonderful and yet the most destructive of all the happenings of the ages will take place. The Lord Jesus will return. A blessed day for those in Christ, but the most horrible day in all the history of mankind for the unsaved. His return is with flaming fire, a blaze of glory that exceeds the blazing of a sun. A flame, a flashing forth of great fire and flames such as men will have never seen before. 2 Thess. 1:8 Resulting in an extreme agony which will exceed the travail of a woman giving birth. This anguish is one born of the most intense and severe fear. Their faces will be as flames as the fire of the Lord comes upon them. It is the day of the manifestation of the wrath of the Lord and all sinners will be destroyed out of the land. Isa. 13:8-9

This is THE DAY, the day of all days for the children of the Lord. It is resurrection day, for the Lord promises that this day will be the day of deliverance, ransomed from the power of the grave. He will redeem or deliver His own from the power of death. The final blow to death has not yet been given. Christ has demonstrated a victory over death but it still reigns on earth. The promise of victory over death is repeated by Isaiah in Isaiah 25:8 Paul issued a challenge to death and the grave by demanding it to show it's victory. It's full, complete destruction is soon to be accomplished. 1 Cor. 15:55 Ultimately, death, hell and all the ungodly will be cast into the lake of fire and will reign no more. Rev. 20:14 For those who are in Christ, what else, but resurrection from the grave. A final release from the body of flesh and death and the receiving of that glorified, eternal body. Phil. 3:21 He will destroy death. It will have no more power over those who are the redeemed of the Lord. How interesting, there is no repentance in that day. Hos. 13:14 Today is the day of salvation and now is the accepted time. Isa. 49:8 The sting, the hurt, the pain of death is dulled when the deceased is in Christ. Death, and the grave is not the final act of the life of those who die in Christ. The individual who is absent from the body, is present, at home with the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Cor. 5:8 Our hope is in the Lord Jesus and His promises which are yea and Amen, positive and most wonderful.

HOSEA. 88

Ephraim, fruitful, increased in numbers while becoming a great nation. Gaining in every way, but in spiritual strength and truth. That which was most necessary was sadly neglected. Therefore, a strong east wind sent by the Lord would come against them and destroy their land. Assyria would conquer them and carry away all their wealth. Their false worship would not sustain them in that day. They were to become desolate because of their rebellion against the Lord and His prophets. Difficult times were destined to come upon them. The enemy would not show them any mercy at all, but would treat them most cruelly. Hos. 13:15-16

Ever merciful and willing to offer forgiveness to those who are estranged from Him, He called once again for them to repent and turn to Him. Where can be found a greater example of the willingness of the Lord to receive those who will repent of their sin and turn to Him. They had no one to blame but themselves for their stumbling and subsequent fall. We are prone to try to lay the blame for our spiritual condition on others but we rise or fall by our own choices. Hos. 14:1

How to return to the Lord. Take words, words of repentance which express the true sorrow of the heart for sin committed. Hos. 14:2 Be even as the publican, confessed the sin which had been the pattern of his life and that he was most unworthy. With the offering of the feeling of his heart, expressed by his words, he was justified. Luke 18:13-14 The heart believes and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Rom. 10:10 The repentant soul is expected to make a complete turn and in doing so returns to the Lord. The words must be words of true admission of guilt, the seeker acknowledging their sin, is seeking the mercy and grace of the Lord. Furthermore, having been received and pardoned they will offer the sacrifice of praise unto the Lord, with words of worship and admiration.

Neither salvation or the joy of deliverance may be found in Asshur. They are no longer to rely on the strength of the Assyrian war machine, the beast of battle, the horse. They will cease to confess the idols which they have made to be their gods, for only in the Lord is mercy to be found. Hos. 14:3

Compassion and mercy heaped upon Israel. Their repentance has touched His heart. The Lord will cure their apostasy, their coldness, their backsliding. Oh, what extreme grace and love He is willing to bestow upon them. He will love them without reservation. Just as if they had never disobeyed or gone astray from Him. He would withhold His anger and completely alter His intended actions against them. Hos. 14:4 Once again, we are ,looking into the great, loving heart of the Lord. They had insulted Him in every way possible, yet in their repentance it would have all been totally forgiven. What amazing love.

HOSEA. 89

I will love them freely, unrestricted, without reservation His love is extended to Israel and to the whole of the world in Christ Jesus. Hos. 14:4b As His very nature is love, so He has found a way to express to them the greatness of His Divine love. Though the Lord scattered Israel abroad He still knows who and where they are. He has not yet finished His work of redemption and has been dealing with them, as well as the rest of the world, in His great love, winning them unto Himself. Revealing Christ Jesus in them. Now He is gathering those who were at one time the unruly, the nasty, the vile sinners of the world and bringing them to salvation through the Lord Jesus. Titus 3:3-4

His anger has ceased, has been turned back. Hos. 14:4b Calvary was the turning point for all of mankind. The rejected, the isolated, the lost, all may find their way to the Lord through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Jesus bore the anger of the Lord against sin. The innocent suffered the wrath of God that we might be partakers of the grace of the Lord. Isa. 60:10 He has forgiven the sins of all who will call upon Him. His wrath is removed when repentance is exercised. He will turn Himself away from the fierce anger caused by the wickedness of those who knew better. Ps. 85:2--3

The Lord will be as the dew to His people. The Spirit of the Lord coming upon the repentant, even in the darkness of night. One sure sign to anticipate for a verification of the true last day revival will be a restoration of a spiritual knowledge and revelation of the Word of the Lord. The Word taking the center place, the spotlight in the house of the Lord. Not head

knowledge but the Word becoming alive in His people. His doctrine is like the rain and His speech, His Words are like the dew, descending and giving life to all the plants. Deut. 32:2 They shall grow as the lily. Jesus called particular attention to the lilies who do not toil nor spin yet are beautiful to behold, filling the air with their fragrance. Solomon in all of His glory came short of equaling their glory. When the Lord has so beautifully and wonderfully created such beautiful flowers how much more elegant will He clothe His people. The Bride of Christ will be clothed in all the glory and majesty of the Lord. Luke 12:27-28 Their roots to flourish, obtaining sustenance for the continuance of the plant life, the tree of life. An example of a people who are deeply rooted in the love and the nurture of the Lord Jesus. Eph. 3:17 There shall be a rod, a scepter spring forth out of Jesse and the Branch, the Lord Jesus, will grow out of his roots. The natural branches must be graft in as well as the wild olive tree. Rom. 11:23 Jew and Gentile becoming one in Christ. All are united to Christ and become one great family through Him. The strength of the tree is determined by the strength of the roots. His strength is ours.

HOSEA. 90

His branches shall spread. Hos. 14:6a Branches in the scriptures are not without significance. Jesus identified and made the branch very personal. He proclaimed Himself to be the true vine. John 15:1 The branches would then be seen as those who adhere, who are joined to Christ, as the branches to a vine. The expectation of the vine dresser, the Father, is that there be a bountiful harvest from the branches of the vine. The branches must not be left to grow of themselves. The unfruitful are separated from the vine and thrown away. The fruitful are trimmed that they might increase their yield. That pruning can seem to be horribly severe to the untrained eye. The gardener knows exactly how far to go to insure the very best results. John 15:2

The key to a fruitful vineyard is found in the nourishment supplied by the roots and the trunk. Jesus made it an imperative that any branch which would bear fruit must abide, remain constantly attached to the trunk, or dwell in Him. With His abiding presence there is a guarantee of a bumper crop. Aside from Him we can do nothing. John 15:5 Surely the motivation of the church is to be found in His presence within her. There is probably no

greater need in the church today than to awaken to the necessity of having “Christ within” her. Jesus promised that if a person would love Him and keep His word, that The Father would love Him and that WE, the fullness of the Godhead would come to dwell within. John 14:23 A people so mightily filled with the presence of the Living God would know no bounds to the manifestations of the might and power of the Lord.

The branches may be identified by their obedience and love. The Lord Jesus was the love of the Father. Jesus loved His own with the same measure of love. We are to continue in His love, which means that we too may receive and be filled with the love of the Lord. John 15:9 There is no end to the measure of His love which He will impart to those who not only maintain His love but will make place for His Word to abide within them. John 15:7 His presence brings a fullness of joy that is incomparable and unmatched by anything else in this world. John 15:11 The body of Christ to properly function must be filled with the completeness of His love. Only by His Spirit and His love can the purpose of the Lord be accomplished in the development of a perfect church. Eph. 5:27 The relationship of Christ to His church is one of absolute, pure, holy, fervent love. It is true love. A Love which will never cease to exist between Christ and His church. The Bride of Christ is the crowning work of redemption. It is the reason for the whole plan of salvation. He loves the church and therefore gave Himself for it. Eph. 5:25 The ultimate goal of the Lord is a fully mature body of believers.

HOSEA. 91

His beauty, that is the beauty of the lost nation, to be as the green olive tree. Hos. 14:6b We must remember that the prophecy is being directed at Ephraim (the ten tribes called Israel), and not to Judah. Furthermore, the work that the Lord will accomplish among them in the end of the age will be a spiritual work. That the Lord has not forgotten them is very obvious in these statements. In Christ Jesus, all people are included in that which He will accomplish in producing a glorious church in the last days. A church which will literally become His Bride. In other words, there is a reference here to the crowning work of the ages, the church bearing the intense glory of the Lord and her subsequent marriage with Christ. The church is engaged to Christ. 2 Cor. 11:2 The marriage between Christ and His church

is the great mystery. Eph. 5:32 The whole of the Apostle's discourse relates to the marriage of all marriages, Christ and His church.

The olive tree as depicted in the scriptures has many meanings. Among them, the man who walks in the ways of the Lord will have many children, who are as olive plants around His table. Ps. 128:3 The true revelation of the importance of the communion table will be theirs as they gather around the table of the Lord. The Greek word *koinonia* as used here means fellowship, participation, a unity or joining together. The communion is not to be a ritual but a life giving experience of touching Him and His touch being upon us. It bridges the gap and causes the church to be joined to Him. Not only does It join us to Christ but it likewise unifies the whole of the body, the church of Christ. 1 Cor. 10:16-17

In the parable of the trees seeking a king, the value and importance of the olive tree is emphasized. The trees listed depreciate in value as tree after tree is requested to become king over the forests. The olive tree is the first and the most valuable. It is truly a tree worthy of becoming king of the trees. Judges 9:8-9 Becoming a political figure would have caused the olive tree to leave its fruitfulness. A source of honor both to the Lord and man. The most important usage of its fatness, or its oil would be the anointing which was placed on kings I Kings 15:1, priests Ex. 28:41 and prophets 1 Kings 19:16. The important, leadership offices were all men who had been chosen by the Lord and anointed to do His will. The Holy anointing oil, a very special concoction, was used exclusively for the anointing of the priest, the tabernacle with all of its furnishings. Ex. 30:25-30 This very special holy anointing oil is a type of the anointing of the Holy Spirit which should be an experience of all who are in ministry. It was not to be used promiscuously nor even copied for its perfume. It was for one purpose and only for that. Ex. 30:32-33 When Aaron was anointed to the office of the high priest he was literally doused with the oil. Ps. 133 May the Lord in His mercy anoint everyone in ministry with an abundance of His Spirit.

HOSEA. 92

The beauty of the olive tree is seen in its fruit and the resulting oil gained by the pressing of the olives. The fruit was harvested by beating on the olive trees. Deut. 24:20 The blessing of the Lord was upon them as long as

they followed the instructions of the Lord. The gleanings were to be left for the stranger or the foreigner among them, for the orphans and for the widows. In this fashion all were able to partake of the bounty of the olive tree. Explicit obedience to the Word of the Lord can only have one result and that is the very best blessing of the Lord, a good and full crop. The oil was obtained by treading on the berries or crushing them by a millstone in an olive vat. Thus, we see a type of the Lord Jesus and His care and concern for the needy. Plus His willingness to surrender to the will of the Father.

What more vivid circumstances may be found in the scriptures than that of the Lord Jesus, on the mount of Olives, (Lk. 22:39) and in the garden of Gethsemane (oil-press), alone and praying. If ever there was a pressing, a burden in prayer Jesus was bearing that burden. The Divine purposes of the redemption of mankind was about to be accomplished. Jesus would undergo a crushing such as none other has ever or will ever experience. The travail of His soul, His humanity, was to experience a prayer burden, a breaking, a smashing in birthing mankind into the family of the Lord. As He faced this most difficult time of His life, His humanity is seen, and it's agony expressed. He was sore amazed, greatly distressed, as this weight (He became very heavy) of what He was about to experience came upon Him. Mark 14:33 And we think that we have been discouraged, down hearted, despondent, blue, etc. Just change places with Him. Perfect, total, absolute righteousness was about to become the fullness of sin, the innocent, judged and punished for the guilty. No person has ever suffered like the Lord Jesus.

From the commitment He made in the garden, among the olive trees, has come the salvation and redemption which we so abundantly enjoy today. Also, the anointing of the Spirit which came upon the church on the day of Pentecost. That Holy anointing oil was placed on the priesthood. Ex.28:41 Kings were anointed into their office. 1 Sam. 15:1 Likewise prophets. 1 Kings 19:16 The anointing of the Holy Anointing Oil was for the purpose of dedicating the individual to the service of the Lord. These callings have not ceased. He anoints His people for a definite purpose and the work of the ministry. Leadership must be, not only have been, but must be under a fresh and constant anointing. Anointed prophets are to be found as one of the ministry gifts to the church. 1 Cor. 12:29 There is no sweeter fragrance

than the presence of the oil of the Lord, the Holy Spirit manifesting Himself among the saints when they are gathered together, in the name of the Lord.

HOSEA. 93

Lebanon means white, Because of it's snow capped peaks. Therefore is a type of the purity of a life which is truly lived for the Lord. Lebanon was noted for the fragrance of it's flowers and forests. Hos. 14:6c The bride makes reference to the bridegroom as having the fragrance of Lebanon on his clothing. Song. 4:11 The aroma of the wood of the forest, the cross, that which was a sweet smelling savor before the Lord. The burned, consumed sacrifices, were always a sweet smelling scent to the Lord. Lev. 1:9 Calvary brought every emotion possible into action. The crucifixion of Jesus pleased, delighted the Father. The Father saw beyond the immediate separation and sorrow, to the glorious results of Calvary. It satisfied the need of a true sacrifice to bring humanity to salvation. Isa. 53:10 At the same time, the extreme agony of being alienated, completely forsaken, by the Father was excruciatingly heartrending to the Lord Jesus. Mt. 27:46 Human kind will never know the great depths of the emotions felt by the Father and the Son at Calvary.

That we are dealing with Messianic prophecies here, there is no question. His shadow is the greatest protection of all. Hos. 14:7 Yet, He does not cast a shadow for He is the Sun of righteousness. Mal. 4:2 A sun, which is a source of light cannot cast a shadow. This means then, that we are looking at His presence, more than a shadow. This is to be a place where we abide, remain, with a consistence awareness of His presence. Have a secret place, Jesus called it a closet (Mark 6:6), a place where one can be alone with the Lord. His wings, His covering, His tabernacle, His presence is assured when we are properly positioned. Assurance, Divine protection is found in the secret place of the Most High. Ps. 91:1

The results of being in His glorious presence are exciting. Our hope is always for a new, a fresh moving of the Spirit of the Lord in His church. From the prophetic scriptures we are convinced that the greatest manifestation of the power of the Spirit will be in these last days. Here again, the nature of the Lord to bring life to that which is dead is predicted. The corn, the grain, the sustenance of life, the living Word of the Lord will

be revived. One certain sign of a real move of the Spirit is a renewal, an appreciation, a love, a hunger for the Word of the Lord. Ps. 119:162 There are two things which the Lord exalts above all others. His Name and His Word. Both reveal, and identify Him. They separate Him from all others who would call themselves god. "You have exalted above all things, your name and your word." (NIV). He would not lift one higher than the other because they both involve the Lord Jesus. He is the Word made flesh. John 1:14 He is the one to whom God has given that name which is above all names given among men. Phil. 2:9-12

HOSEA. 94

Growing as a vine. Hos. 14:7c The Lord Jesus used the simile of the vine as a reference to Himself, as the true vine and His kingdom. John 15:1 We then see a Messianic flavor to these words found in Hosea. In the prophecies Jacob made over his sons he spoke of a the vine being a part of the future experience of one who would come from Judah. Gen. 49:10 According to Strong's dictionary He, that is Shiloh (tranquil), is an epithet of the Messiah. The roots of the Lord Jesus were not in Aaron, the high priest but His lineage was of Juda. Heb. 7:14 Thus, the words of Jacob were fulfilled. He introduced the kingdom of God and the people of the Lord were gathered unto Him. He is the great and eternal King.

It was most unfortunate that the people of that day misunderstood the prophecies of His coming and anticipated that He would free them from Roman rule and establish their own kingdom. Acts 1:6 Jesus had spoken very plainly that His kingdom was and is not of this world. Not until the millennium will He establish His kingdom on the earth and that is a entirely different order and atmosphere, it is spiritual, not like today's political order. His kingdom is a heavenly kingdom on a renovated earth. Those who are in it will have taken part in the translation or the resurrection of the righteous which will occur at the time of His second coming, (Rev. 20:4) at the close of the tribulation period. Rev. 20:6

In his prophecy Jacob mentioned the foal as a sign of the visitation of Shiloh. Jesus entered Jerusalem with great fanfare. The people flocked around Him crying out Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. He came riding a colt (Mt. 21:9), binding His colt unto the vine,

(Israel), (Gen. 49:11). He came to His own. John 1:11 In spite of all the celebration, in just a brief period of time they were to turn on Him and reject Him. They did not receive Him. But, He then tied His colt to the choice vine. Gen. 49:11 A rag tag people of all nations who are the true branches of the vine of the Lord. Those who believe on Him are empowered to become the sons of God. John 1:12

Jesus clearly stated that He is the vine, the roots and the trunk creating growth and strength to the branches. John 15:5 Supplying sustenance to the whole of the vine. Paul discovered the secret of the revelation of the life of Christ which is to be manifest in everyone who really serves the Lord. He had consecrated his life to Christ until he could testify that he had been crucified with Christ. That is, he no longer desired the things of the flesh. They had been nailed to the tree, with Christ. The life that he lived was the life of Christ. Jesus had become all and in all to him. Gal. 2:20 He has set the example, if we desire a higher and more spiritual life it is there for all who will make the same consecration.

HOSEA. 95

The repentance of Ephraim. Their idols cast aside and a declaration made that their desire is no longer toward their former idols. Hos. 14:8 Inasmuch as salvation is an individual matter, this is a return to the Lord, person by person. A sure sign of true conversion is a total separation from all past objects of worship. The early church gave witness to this by the destruction of their books of sorcery, which were burned. Acts 19:18-19 The Lord calls for a complete severance from all that is considered to be a god and from the teachings and paraphernalia of an idol or false god. Not only is the Lord a jealous God but His very name and character is Jealous. Ex. 34:14 No man can serve two masters, he will the one and love the other. Mt. 6:24 God and mammon cannot be served at one and the same time.

The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made even both of them. Prov. 20:12 Having created these wonderful instruments and knowing that mankind was created in the image and likeness of the Lord, we can rest assured that He sees us and will respond to our cries of repentance. The man who comes to Him seeking salvation will quickly discover that He sees, He hears and He pardons. Job 33:27-28 Although the Lord punished

Ephraim severely, He did not forget Him. With great compassion the Lord looked for and waited for him to return to Him. Jer. 31:20 The Lord observed Ephraim and heard his moaning and lamentations. His cry for the Lord to turn him about that he might return unto the Lord. Jer. 31:18 Did it work? Consider v. 19 The Lord is merciful!

I am like a green fir tree. Hos. 14:8c The Lord Jesus is that ever green, fragrant, tree of life. From the garden of Eden to the Heaven itself, the tree of life, eternal life, has been available to all who will receive it. Gen. 2:9, Rev. 22:2, 14 Those who have hearing ears, hear the Word of the Lord and are promised the privilege of participating of the tree of life. Rev. 2:7

The fruit of the Christian life is not of ourselves but is of the Lord. Any righteousness that we are able to manifest is not of ourselves but fruits of righteous living, originate with the Lord and are imputed to us by Him. Phil. 1:11 For those who would say I can not live a life like Christ, consider the testimony of Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me." Phil. 4:13 The ability to live like the Lord Jesus is not of man but it is allowing Him to live His life in us. Any and all spiritual fruit manifest in any Christians life must originate from the One who is the tree of Life. Dwelling in the Lord Jesus is the only way that His life may be duplicated in us. We may be most certain that His abiding presence will produce, 'much fruit.' John 15:5 He would have us be fruitful and will render all assistance necessary, for fruit glorifies the Father and is a sign of discipleship. John 15:8

HOSEA. 96

The reaction of the wise man to this prophetic Word of the Lord will be to recognize the guidance and purpose of the Lord. Hos. 14:9 He will also see the loving kindness of the Lord manifest in correction and a call to repentance. Ps. 107:43 Discipline, though it may hurt, is a necessity. Most wonderfully it is a dual sign. The individual has been accepted by the Lord, to be His son, and He loves him. Everyone accepted as a son is chastised in some manner, no one is excluded. Heb. 12:6 The blessing of His Divine correction is that we become partakers of His holiness. Heb. 12:10

The prudent, those who have the God given ability to hear and see the truths of the Word. Hos. 14:9 They come to a comprehension of the will and desire of the Lord as recorded in the Word of the Lord. Far too many church people never achieve an understanding beyond the four gospels, and that limited to its historic value. The Word is a living Word and as such is filled with the revelation of the doctrines of the Father. John 7:16 It is the Spirit of the Lord who opens the mysteries of the Word and makes it to be a thrilling book to read and study.

The ways of the Lord are just, the right, the straight and narrow way. Hos. 14:9 The ways of the Lord are perfect. Ps. 18:30 The ways of the Lord are in righteousness and holiness. Ps. 18:30 The strength of the child of the Lord is obtained by walking in His ways. Prov. 10:29 The challenge to allow the full and complete work of the Lord in us is ever before us. When we live according to His way of life He has promised that every valley will be filled, every mountain lowered, the crooked made straight and the rough made to be smooth. Luke 3:5 The best life, the most profitable life, the only life that is real life is to learn the ways of the Lord and then follow them. There will be valleys, mountains, crooked places and rough times, but He stands with us in all of them and wonderfully leads us through them.

The same Word which is life to the saved is that which will judge mankind in the end of time. Transgressors fall when they see the righteousness of the Lord. Hos. 14:9 Contrasted to the way of life in the Lord Jesus is that which was spoken by Jeremiah. Their ways are slippery ways, ways of darkness and they are driven on by their sin and ungodliness. They will ultimately fall in the day of the judgment of the Almighty. Jer. 23:12 Added to that, if they are the enemy of the Lord, then the angel of the Lord will make their way more difficult. Ps. 35:6 The hard, the most difficult way of this present natural life is to try to live it without the Lord, for it is the way of the transgressor which is most difficult and wearisome. Prov. 13:15 On the other hand, the path of the just, the righteous, is constantly and more powerfully being flooded with light leading to the day of perfection. Prov. 4:18 **Finis.**