Bible Question Class Books

Bible Study Questions on The Book of Hosea

by David E. Pratte

A workbook suitable for Bible classes, family studies, or personal Bible study



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Bible Study Questions on the Book of Hosea: A workbook suitable for Bible classes, family studies, or personal Bible study

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"He who glories, let him glory in the Lord" – 1 Corinthians 1:31

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Bible Study Questions on the Book of Hosea

Introduction:

This workbook was designed for Bible class study, family study, or personal study. The class book is suitable for teens and up. The questions contain minimal human commentary, but instead urge students to study to understand Scripture.

Enough questions are included for teachers to assign as many questions as they want for each study session. Studies may proceed at whatever speed and depth will best accomplish the needs of the students.

Questions labeled "think" are intended to encourage students to apply what they have learned. When questions refer to a map, students should consult maps in a Bible dictionary or similar reference work or in the back of their Bibles. (Note: My abbreviation "b/c/v" means "book, chapter, and verse.")

For class instruction, I urge teachers to assign the questions as homework so students come to class prepared. Then let class time consist of *discussion* that focuses on the Scriptures themselves. Let the teacher use other Scriptures, questions, applications, and comments to promote productive discussion, not just reading the questions to see whether they were answered "correctly." Please, do *not* let the class period consist primarily of the following: "Joe, will you answer number 1?" "Sue, what about number 2?" Etc.

I also urge students to emphasize the *Bible* teaching. Please, do not become bogged down over "What did the author mean by question #5?" My meaning is relatively unimportant. The issue is what the Bible says. Concentrate on the meaning and applications of Scripture. If a question helps promote Bible understanding, stay with it. If it becomes unproductive, move on.

The questions are not intended just to help students understand the Scriptures. They are also designed to help students learn good principles of Bible study. Good Bible study requires defining the meaning of keywords, studying parallel passages, explaining the meaning of the text clearly, making applications, and defending the truth as well as exposing religious error. I have included questions to encourage students to practice all these study principles.

Finally, I encourage plain applications of the principles studied. God's word is written so souls may please God and have eternal life. Please study it with the respect and devotion it deserves! For whatever good this material achieves, to God be the glory.

Bible study commentary and notes to accompany this and other of our workbooks are available at www.gospelway.com/sales

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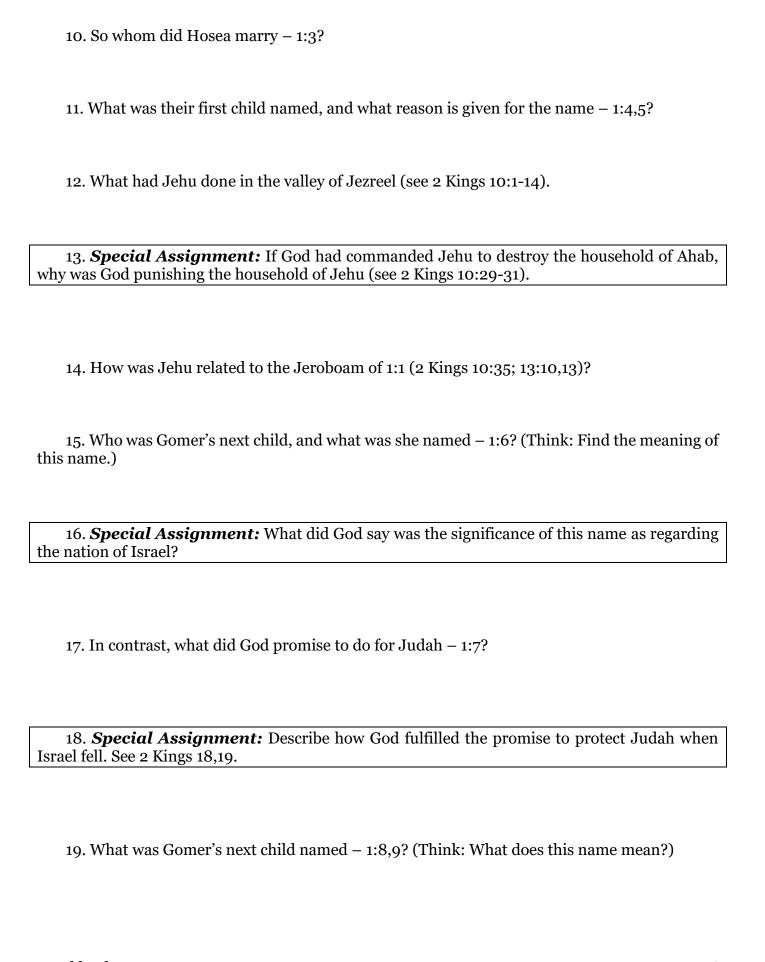
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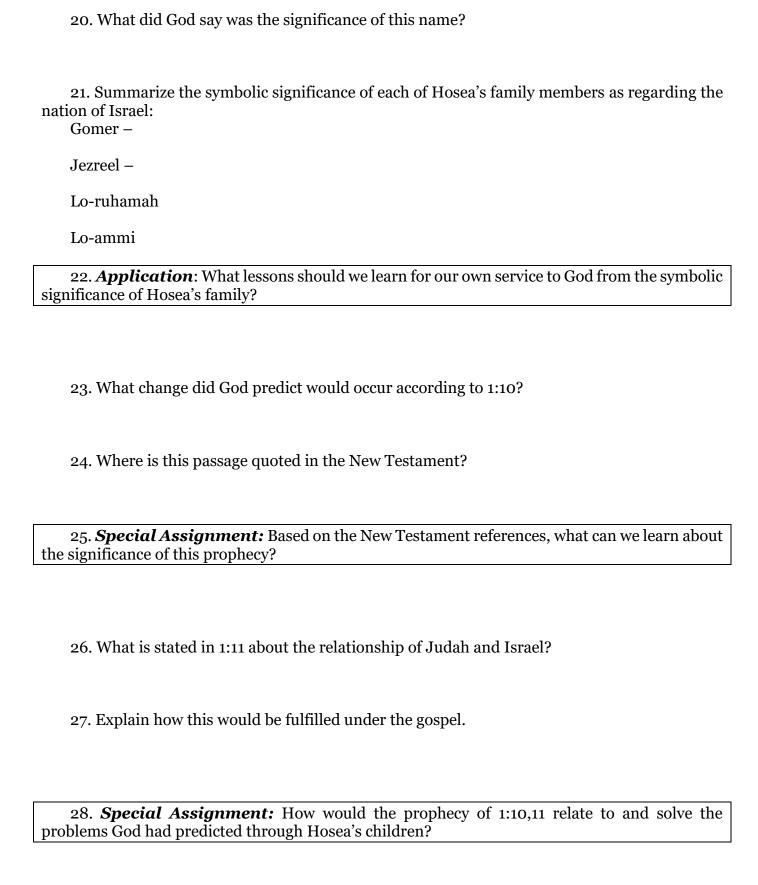
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Read Hosea 1, then answer the following questions. If you need help, consult a Bible dictionary or similar reference work.

- 1. Who was the inspired author of the book -1:1? What is told about his family? (Think: Explain the difference between the "Major Prophets" and the "Minor Prophets.")
 - 2. How did the author claim inspiration? List similar *passages* elsewhere.
 - 3. Where is Hosea mentioned outside his own book? What can we learn from this?
 - 4. Describe the work of a prophet (note Exodus 4:16 compared to Exodus 7:1).
 - 5. When did Hosea prophesy?
- 6. **Special Assignment:** Describe what you can learn about the Jeroboam mentioned in verse 1 (note that this is Jeroboam son of Joash).
 - 7. Skim the book of Hosea and summarize its theme.
 - 8. What did God command Hosea to do in 1:2?
- 9. What reason is given for this instruction? Explain the similarity between an adulterous wife and the sins of Israel.

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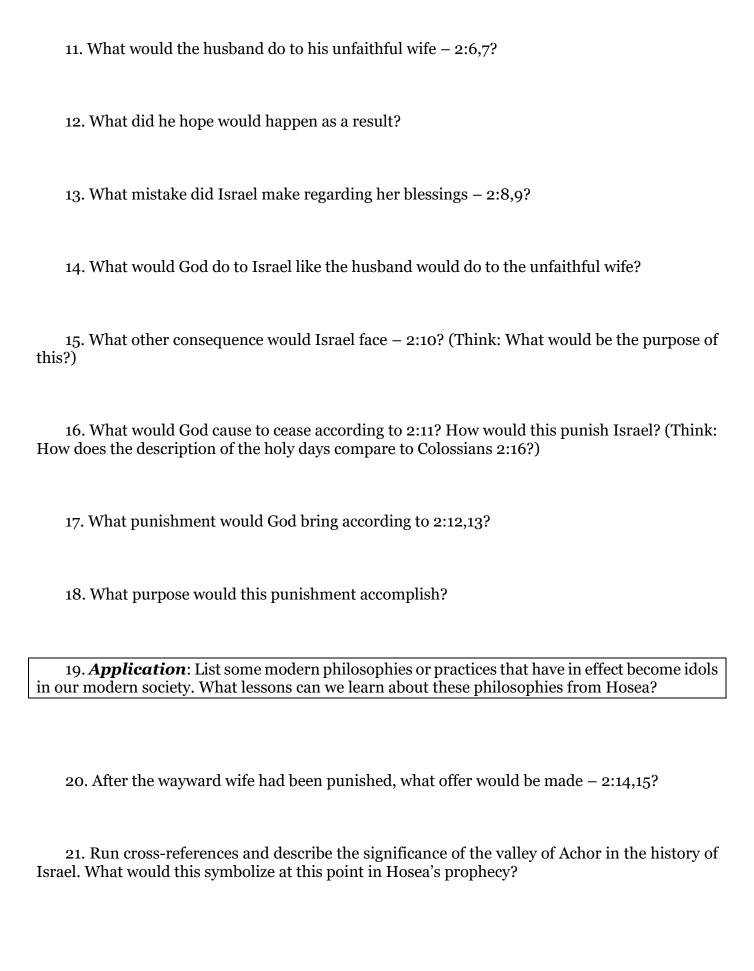




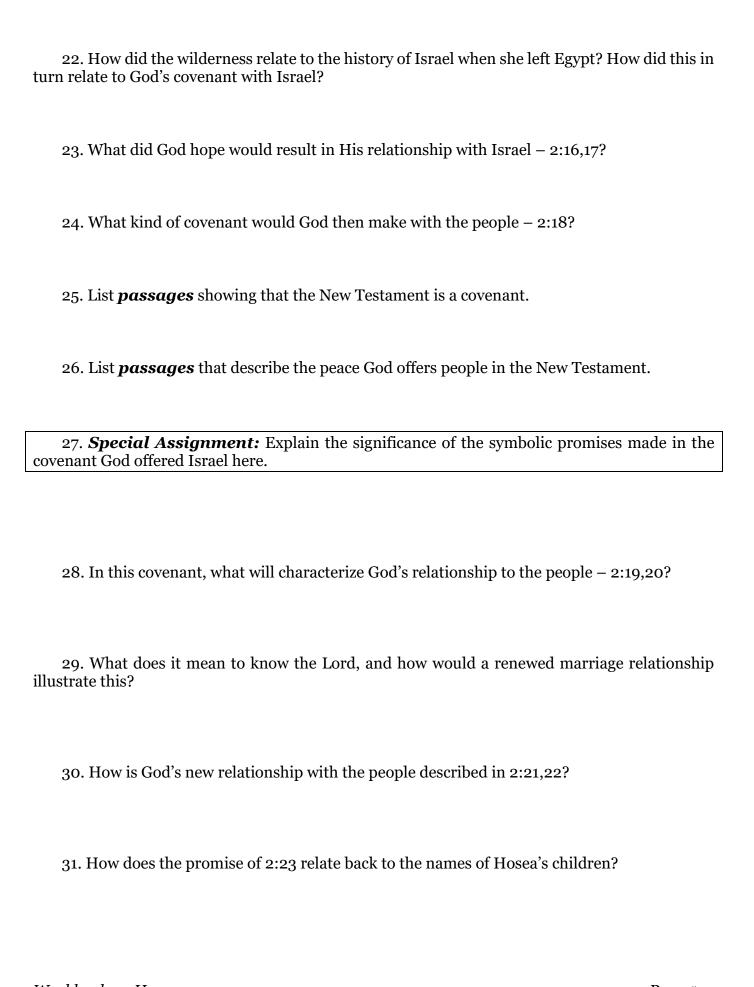
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Read Hosea 2, then answer the following questions.

- 1. Explain how 2:1 relates to the concluding concepts of chapter 1.
- 2. What does God call upon the children to do regarding their mother in 2:2? What reason does He give?
- 3. **Special Assignment:** Explain how verse 2 would relate to Hosea's relationship to Gomer. How would it illustrate God's relationship to Israel?
 - 4. What would a father hope that his children would do for an unfaithful wife?
 - 5. **Application**: What can we learn about divorce from the illustration?
- 6. What would God do to the unfaithful wife 2:3? Explain the significance to God's treatment of Israel.
 - 7. How would the children be treated if they support their mother in harlotry -2:4?
 - 8. How would this relate to the nation of Israel?
 - 9. What did the unfaithful wife want from her lovers -2.5?
 - 10. **Application**: How might people in our society be similar to Israel?



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Read Hosea 3, then answer the following questions.

- 1. What did God instruct Hosea to do in 3:1?
- 2. How was this similar to God's relationship to Israel?
- 3. **Special Assignment:** Explain how Hosea's attempt to reconcile with Gomer would be like God's attempt to reconcile Israel to Himself.
 - 4. What price did Hosea pay 3:2?
 - 5. Explain the connection to Exodus 21:32.
- 6. What conditions did Hosea required of the woman -3:3? (Think: Explain why this would be necessary.)
 - 7. What would God require of Israel in order to receive them back 3:4?
 - 8. Explain how God's requirements in 3:4 were similar to Hosea's in 3:3.
 - 9. What would happen in the latter days -3:5?
- 10. What is the significance of the expression "in the latter days"? (See Isaiah 2:2,3; Micah 4:1; Jeremiah 23:20; 30:24; Ezekiel 38:16; Acts 2:17; Hebrews 1:1,2; 9:26; 1 Peter 1:20; 1 John 2:18.)

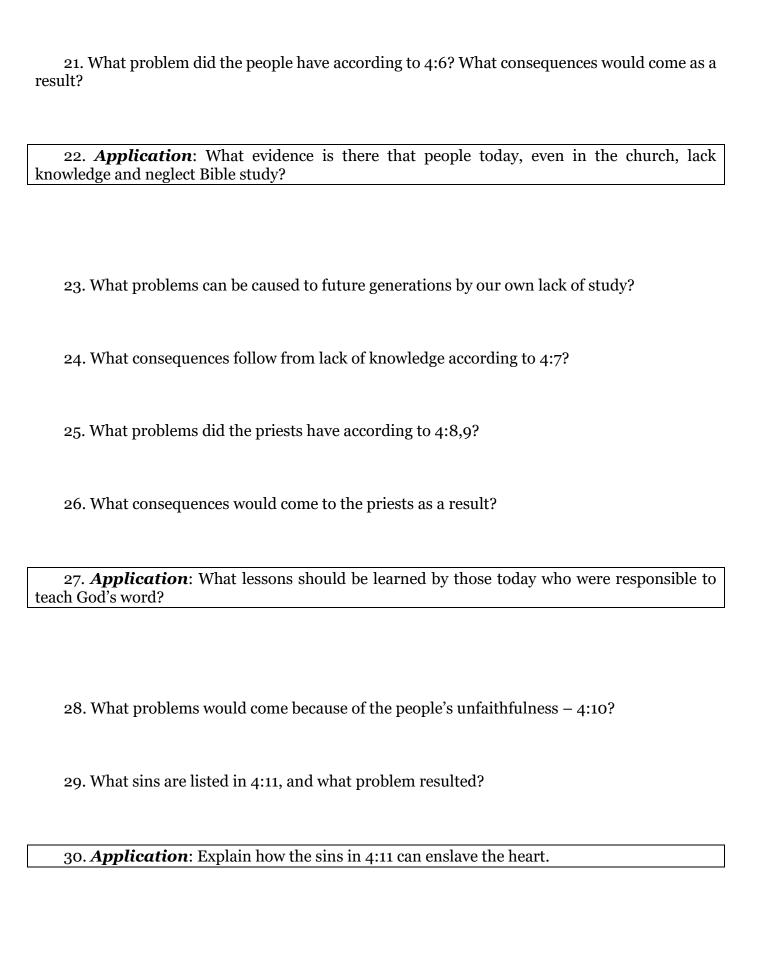
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Read Hosea 4, then answer the following questions.

- 1. When God brought charges against Israel, what accusations did he make 4:1?
- 2. List other *passages* about the importance of truthfulness.
- 3. Application: Explain why truthfulness is important to the people of God.
- 4. List other *passages* about the importance of mercy.
- 5. *Application*: Explain why mercy is important to the people of God.
- 6. List other *passages* about the importance of the knowledge of God.
- 7. *Application*: Explain why the knowledge of God is important to the people of God.
- 8. What accusations did God make against Israel in 4:2?
- 9. List other *passages* about lying.
- 10. **Application**: Give examples showing that lying is a problem in our society.

11. List other passages about kinnig.
12. <i>Application</i> : Give examples showing that killing is a problem in our society.
13. List other passages about stealing.
14. <i>Application</i> : Give examples showing that stealing is a problem in our society.
15. List other passages about adultery.
16. Application: Give examples showing that adultery is a problem in our society.
17. Application : Give examples showing that people in our society are often without restraint with bloodshed upon bloodshed.
18. What consequence would God bring upon the people for their sins – 4:3?
19. What problem existed according to 4:4? How is this similar to our day?
20. What problem did the people have according to 4:5? (Think: Explain what problem can cause stumbling in the day.)

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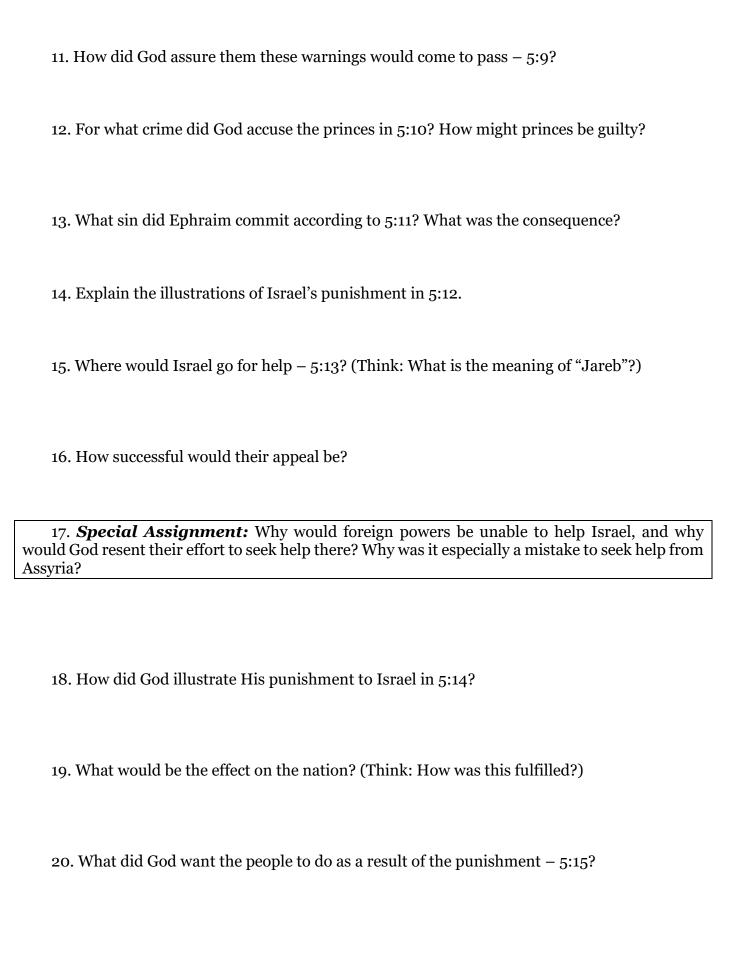


31. Where did the people turn for guidance and spirituality -4:11? 32. **Application**: Give examples showing that people today often turn to the wrong sources for spiritual guidance and worship. 33. **Special Assignment:** Research the practices of ancient idolatry and explain the connection between idolatry and harlotry (check Bible dictionaries, etc.). 34. What did God say in 4:14 about responsibility when wives and daughters practice sexual immorality? 35. What warning did God give Judah – 4:15? (Think: Study the significance of Beth Aven.) 36. To what did God compare Israel in 4:16? What consequence would come? 37. How are the sins of Israel described in 4:17,18? 38. *Application*: Explain the significance of "let them alone." What can we learn about our relationship to people who stubbornly persistent in sin? 39. **Special Assignment:** Explain how God's reaction to Israel's wickedness relates to the relationship between Hosea and Gomer. 40. How are the consequences of Israel's sins described in 4:19? Explain.

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Read Hosea 5, then answer the following questions.

- 1. What three groups did Hosea address in 5:1? What warning did he give them? Locate on a *map* the two places named.
 - 2. For what sins did God rebuke to people in 5:2?
 - 3. What did God know about the people in 5:3?
- 4. *Application*: What are some ways that people sometimes try to hide from God? Why are such efforts doomed to fail?
- 5. How is the depth of Israel's depravity described in 5:4? Explain how this was similar to Hosea's relationship with Gomer?
 - 6. Explain how Israel's pride would testify to his face -5:5.
- 7. What would the people attempt to do in 5:6, and why would they fail? (Think: What is the significance of the flocks and herds?)
- 8. What accusation is made against Israel in 5:7? How is this similar to the case of Gomer and her relationship with Hosea? (Think: Explain the significance of the new Moon.)
- 9. What is the significance of the warning in 5:8? (Think: Find the places mentioned on a *map*.)
- 10. **Special Assignment:** What lesson should the people learn from the warning? How would this warning be fulfilled?



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Read Hosea 6, then answer the following questions.

- 1. What are people urged to do in 6:1,2, and what reason is given?
- 2. List other *passages* about the need for God's people to repent of their sins.
- 3. Explain the various symbols used in verses 1,2 to describe the benefits of repentance. (Think: Consider whether the repentance described here is sincere as in 5:15 or simply an external front as in 6:4ff.)
 - 4. What must people in sin pursue according to 6:3? Why is this needed?
 - 5. Explain the illustrations from nature in verse 3.
 - 6. How did God describe the people's faithfulness in 6:4? Explain the significance.
 - 7. **Application**: Give examples of similar problems that may occur today.
 - 8. What had God done to try to deal with the people's problem -6:5?
 - 9. Explain the illustrations in verse 5.
 - 10. **Application**: What should we learn here about the need for teaching God's word.

11. What did God consider to be more important than sacrifice or burnt offering – 6:6? 12. List other similar *passages* that teach similar concepts. 13. **Special Assignment:** Did God not want sacrifices in the Old Testament? Explain the meaning of verse 6 and the application then and now. 14. Case Study: Some people believe that mercy means we should just overlook other people's sins even if they do not really repent. List other pertinent **passages** and give a Biblical answer to this viewpoint. 15. What had the people done like men often do -6.7? 16. **Application**: What lessons can we learn about the New Testament? 17. What accusation was made in 6:8, and against whom was it made (see a *map*)? (Think: Consider the violence in Israel described in 2 Kings 15-18.) 18. How did God describe the priests in 6:9? (Think: Note that Shechem was a city of refuge. What can we learn from this about the sins of the priests?) 19. What did God see when he viewed Israel – 6:10? How does this relate to the relationship of Hosea and Gomer? 20. So what warning did God give to Judah – 6:11? Explain the meaning.

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Assignments on Hosea 7
Read Hosea 7, then answer the following questions. 1. Describe the problem God found when He wanted to heal Israel – 7:1.
2. How concerned were the people about punishment from God $-7:2$?
3. How did the rulers view the conduct of the people $-7:3$?
4. How did God illustrate the sins of the people in 7:4-7?
5. How were the princes involved in the sins?
6. What happened to the kings?
7. Application : What should we learn about alcoholic drinks? Compare Proverbs 31:4,5.

8. What accusation is made against Ephraim in 7:8?

9. List $\it passages$ that warned against this problem, and explain the significance of it.

10. Explain the illustration of the unturned cake.

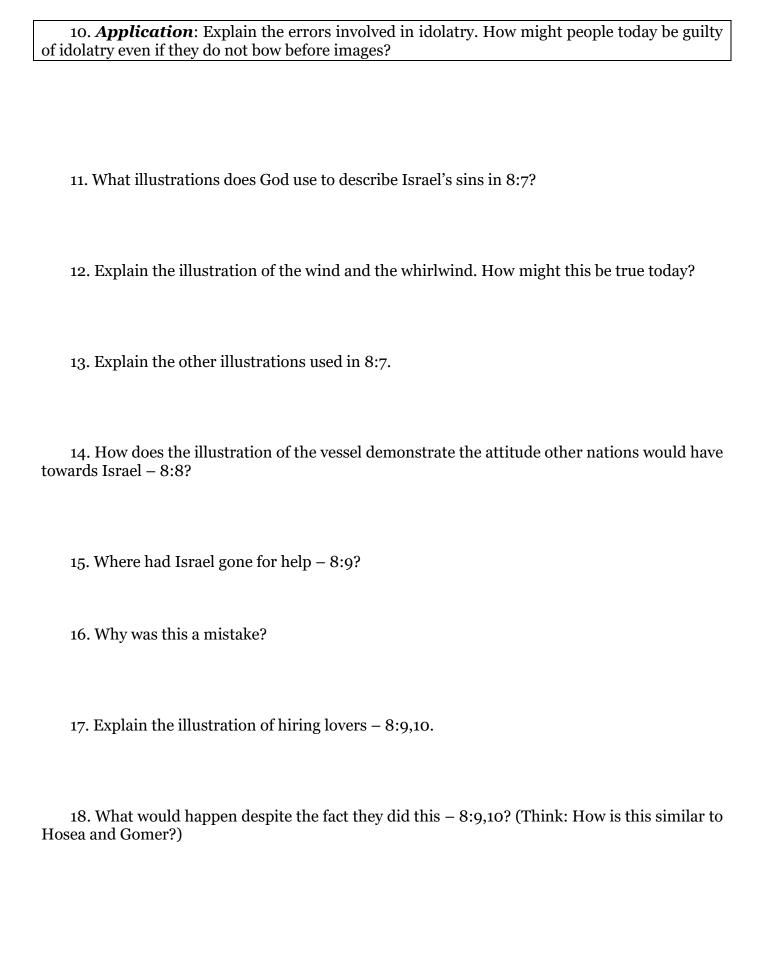
12. What happened to their relationship to the Lord -7:10? 13. **Application**: What lessons should we learn from this about our relationships to people of the world? 14. Where did Israel go for help -7:11? Why would this be a mistake? 15. What illustration did God use to describe them? Explain the illustration. 16. What would happen to them as a result -7:12? Explain this illustration. 17. For what sins did God accuse them in 7:13? 18. What should the people have done, but they failed to do -7:14? How are people like this today? 19. What had God done for them, and how did they respond – 7:15? 20. How did God illustrate the people in 7:16? Explain the illustration. 21. What happened to them as a result?

11. What consequences came on the people as a result -7:9? Explain.

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Read Hosea 8, then answer the following questions.

- 1. What would happen to the house of the Lord, and what was the reason for this -8:1? (Think: what is the significance of the trumpet?)
 - 2. What claim did the people of Israel make 8:2
 - 3. How did God view their claim, and what would be the consequence 8:3?
- 4. **Special Assignment:** Are there people today who claim to know God but whose claims are untrue like those of Israel? Give examples and Scriptures that illustrate your answer.
 - 5. What claims did God make against Israel in 8:4?
- 6. **Special Assignment:** Give Bible examples that demonstrate that Israel had set up kings without God's approval. Note 1 Samuel 8.
 - 7. What accusations does God make against Israel's idols 8:4-6?
 - 8. What was wrong with the idols, and how did God view them.
 - 9. List other *passages* about the practice of idolatry in Israel.



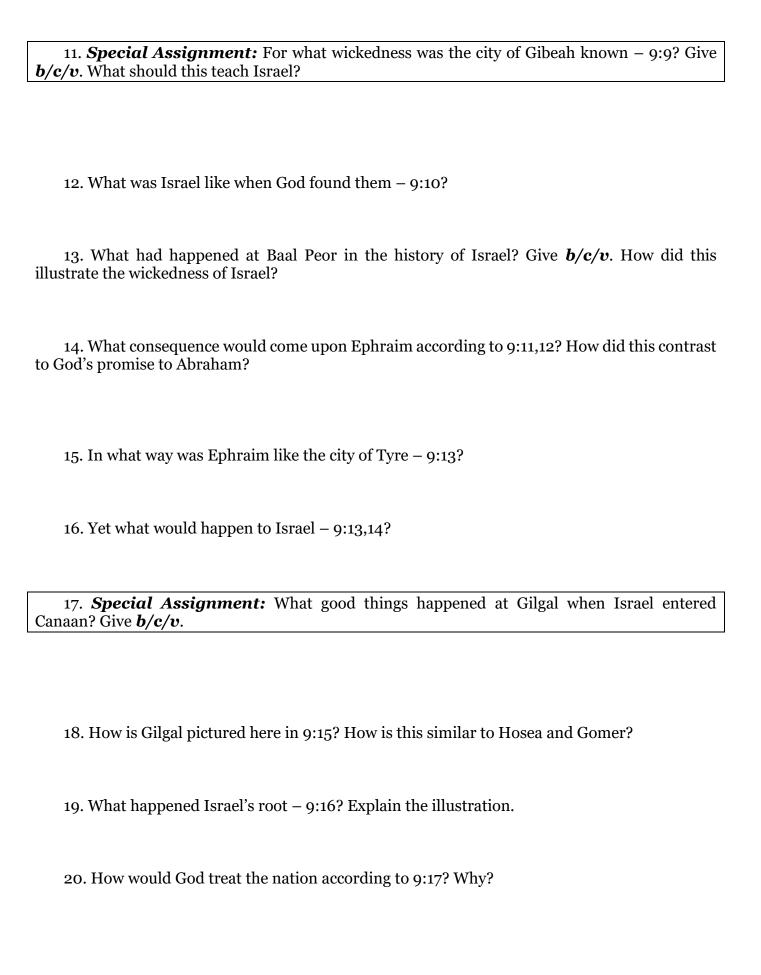
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19. How does God describe the altars of Ephraim – 8:11?
20. <i>Case Study:</i> Some people believe that it does not matter how we worship just as long as we do worship. What can we learn about worship from the errors of Israel?
•
21. How did the people view God's law – 8:12?
22. How do people sometimes have a similar attitude today?
23. Despite their sacrifices, what consequences would come upon them – 8:13?
24. What is the significance of returning to Egypt?
25. Application : What should we learn from the fact that God remembered their sins? Give examples in which people sometimes act as though they think their sins are forgotten.
26. Although God remembered Israel's sins, what had the people forgotten - 8:14? What
would be the consequence?
27. Application : Why is it important to remember that God is our Maker? What evidence is
there that people today often forget their Maker?

Read Hosea 9, then answer the following questions.

- 1. What reason is given why Israel should not rejoice -9:1? (Note: The reign of Jeroboam II was a time of general prosperity. Why was Hosea's warning especially needed?)
- 2. Explain the accusation that Israel had played the harlot and made love for hire. (Think: How does this relate to Hosea's relationship with Gomer?)
 - 3. What consequence would the people suffer for their sins according to 9:2?
 - 4. What punishment is described in 9:3? (Think: In what sense would people go to Egypt?)
- 5. What consequence would come upon them according to 9:4? What would their worship be like?
- 6. What times of worship would especially cause problems for them -9:5? (Think: Why would their worship have these problems?)
- 7. Where would they be instead of being where they could worship 9:6? Explain the reference to Egypt and Memphis.
 - 8. What would happen to their valuables and possessions?
- 9. What lessons should the people learn when punishment came 9:7? (Think: Would this refer to true prophets or false prophets?)
- 10. In what sense was Ephraim a watchman as in 9:8? How would you explain this difficult verse?

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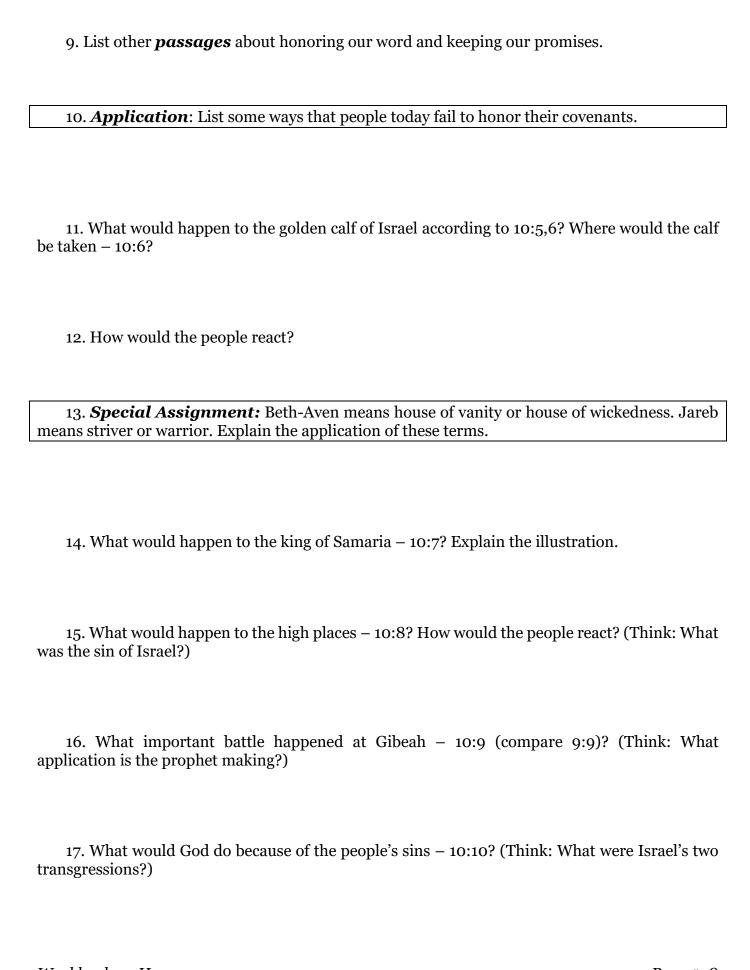
Read Hosea 10, then answer the following questions.

1. What accusation did God make against Israel in 10:1?

2. Special Assignment:	Explain	the	significance	of	multiplying	their	altars	and
embellishing their sacred pillars.								

- 3. *Application*: The reign of Jeroboam II was a time of prosperity in Israel. In what ways has our society misused our prosperity sinfully rather than pleasing God?
 - 4. What did God say He would do to their altars and pillars 10:2?
- 5. *Application*: Explain ways in which people today may be divided in heart. Note other translations and see Matthew 6:24.
 - 6. What would happen regarding Israel's king -10:3?
 - 7. What would be the cause? Explain.
 - 8. Of what sin does God accuse Israel than 10:4? What would be the consequence?

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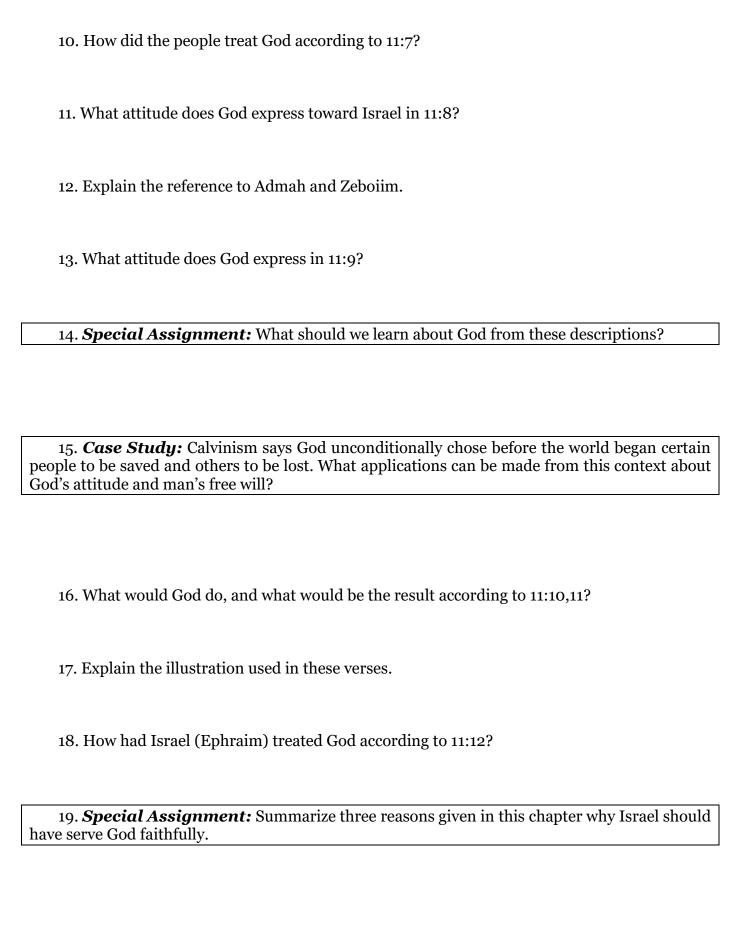
19. Special Assignment: Threshing grain was relatively easy work for an animal. What is the lesson?
20. What does God command Israel to do in 10:12? What is fallow ground?
21. What accusation is made against them in 10:13? What was the consequence?
22. Explain the illustration of plowing, sowing, and reaping in 10:12,13.
23. What misplaced trust did the people commit?
24. Application : In what ways are people today sometimes similarly guilty of misplaced trust?
25. What consequence would come to the people because of their sins – 10:14? To what even is this compared? (Note: Shalman may be short for Shalmanezer, king of Assyria. We have no other record of the battle of Beth Arbel, but presumably the people of Israel knew.)
26. What would happen to the people and to their king as a result – 10:15?

18. To what did God compare Ephraim in 10:11? What would He do to her?

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Read Hosea 11, then answer the following questions.

- 1. What had God done when Israel was a child 11:1? Explain when God did this.
- 2. **Special Assignment:** Where is this verse quoted in the New Testament and what application is made of it? In what way was Israel's sojourn in Egypt and then leaving Egypt similar to Jesus' sojourn in Egypt and leaving Egypt?
 - 3. How had Israel acted despite God's care for them 11:2?
 - 4. What else God done for Israel 11:3?
- 5. *Application*: According to this illustration, how was God's care for Israel similar to that of a father for his son? What should we learn about God's care for His people?
 - 6. Explain the illustration of 11:4.
 - 7. What punishment would come to Israel 11:5? What reason is given?
 - 8. What would happen to Israel according to 11:6? What reason is given?
- 9. *Application*: Give examples in which people today sometimes err because of following their own counsel.



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Read Hosea 12, then answer the following questions.

- 1. Explain the significance of wind and its relationship to Ephraim in 12:1.
- 2. For what other reasons does God make accusation against Ephraim in 12:1? Explain what it says about Assyria and Egypt.
 - 3. What is further stated about Judah in 12:2?
 - 4. What did Jacob do according to 12:3?
- 5. List a passage to which this refers, and explain what Jacob did that demonstrated this characteristic.
 - 6. What did Jacob do according to 12:4?
 - 7. List the two events involving Jacob that occurred at Bethel. Give b/c/v.
- 8. **Special Assignment:** Explain what these events demonstrated about the character of Jacob. In what ways did the nations of Israel and Judah lack these characteristics?
- 9. What name does God emphasize in 12:5? What should Israel have done regarding this name?
 - 10. What qualities did God require Israel to show in order to return to God − 12:6?

11. Instead of being merciful and just, what had the people done – 12:7? (Think: Learn the meaning of the term "Canaanite" and explain the significance of Hosea's use of the term.) 12. List other **passages** about the use of deceitful scales. Explain God's accusation against Israel. 13. Application: Despite her deceitful methods, what did Israel do instead of repenting – 12:8? In what ways do people sometimes act similarly today? 14. Of what did God remind them in 12:9? Explain the reference to dwelling in tents and the appointed feast. 15. What had God done to try to help the people according to 12:10? 16. What methods did God say He had used to speak to the prophets? What can we learn from the fact that God says He uses symbols? 17. What did God say about their idolatrous altars in 12:11? Explain the significance. (Think: Where else has God used Gilead and Gilgal as symbols of places of evil?) 18. What had Jacob done in Syria – 12:12? Give Scripture reference. 19. What had God done for Israel when they were in Egypt -12:13?

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20. Instead of showing gratitude for their blessings, what had Ephraim done – 12:14? What

would God do as a result?

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Read Hosea 13, then answer the following questions.

- 1. How did Hosea describe Ephraim's previous status? What led to her decline 13:1?
- 2. Instead of repenting, what did the people do -13:2?
- 3. **Special Assignment:** What is significant about the fact the idols were made by craftsmen? What does this tell us about their deity? (Think: Explain the meaning of kissing the calves.)
 - 4. List four illustrations Hosea uses to describe the nation in 13:3.
 - 5. What is the significance of these illustrations.
 - 6. What should Israel have learned from events in Egypt -13:4? Explain.
 - 7. Where else had God known them -13:5? Explain the significance of the drought.
 - 8. What happened to the people when God had blessed them -13:6?
- 9. **Application**: Give examples that illustrate how people today can make the same mistake that Israel did.
 - 10. So how will God treat the people now 10:7? Explain the illustrations used.

11. What happened to Israel – 10:8? Who was the only One who could help them? (Think: Why would they not receive help?) 12. Who should have been king to Israel – 10:9? What challenges does God issue regarding their kings or princes? 13. How had Israel attained a king in the first place – 10:10? What had God said when the people wanted a king? Give b/c/v. 14. What had happened to the kings that Israel had? Give examples. 15. **Special Assignment:** Instead of benefiting Israel, what problems had kings caused? Explain. 16. What happened to Ephraim's iniquity or $\sin - 13:12$? Explain the meaning. 17. How does God illustrate Israel's sorrows in 13:13? 18. Explain the problems caused by a child who stays where children are born (check other translations). How is this appropriate as an illustration of Israel? 19. Yet what offer does God make in 13:14? Where is this quoted in the New Testament? How would it be fulfilled? 20. Despite Israel's fruitfulness, what would happen – 13:15? Explain the illustration.

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21. How is Israel's punishment described in 13:16?

Read Hosea 14, then answe	r the following	questions.
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- 1. What had caused Israel to stumble, and what did God call upon them to do -14:1?
- 2. What should the people ask God to do, and what promise should they make 14:2?
- 3. What change in allegiance should Israel make and what reason is given 14:3?
- 4. What did God promise to do if Israel would repent 14:4?
- 5. How did God illustrate the blessings that would result Israel 14:5?
- 6. Explain the illustration of the tree in 14:6.
- 7. What is illustrated by those in the shadow of the tree, and how will they benefit -14:7?
- 8. What should Ephraim conclude 14:8? Explain the illustration of God's blessings.
- 9. What should the wise and prudent person understand and conclude 14:9?
- 10. *Application*: What lessons should God's appeal to Israel teach us about repenting from our own sins?

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