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**C1002 – January 13, 2010 – Hosea 8:7-10 – Sow The Wind, Reap
The Whirlwind**

Alright, before we get to the text let's remind ourselves of some of the principles of Hosea. Hosea is one of the strongest books on the second divine institution of marriage. Remember, marriage is defined in Genesis as a contractual relationship between a man and a woman that serves a spiritual function for the human race, for human societies. It's the marriage that is the basic unit of society, not the individual. And so when God made man and God made the woman out of man He put them together in marriage from the beginning and that is very significant. Adam didn't have time to go sow his wild oats. Adam wasn't given twenty five different options of women. God made one woman for the man and that's the design. Now with the design comes a function. Man and woman are made for each other and the man has certain functions and the woman has certain functions. Now the man's function is basically to initiate with the woman. The man is the leader. And therefore the woman is cast into the function of responder. She is to respond to Him. And every man was designed to lead and every woman was designed to respond to her leader. Sin distorts but the function of male and female remains.

The Book of Hosea has two marriages. There is the marriage of Hosea to Gomer and the marriage of God to the nation Israel. And these are put in parallel under the second divine institution of marriage. Hosea is to initiate and lead Gomer and Gomer is to respond to Hosea just as God is to initiate and lead the nation Israel and the nation Israel is to respond to God. But there's a problem in both of these marriages.

Hosea is married to a prostitute, Gomer. He is leading her, he is providing for her, he loves her. But Gomer isn't responding to Hosea. Gomer is responding to other men. Now the thing about woman as responder is that she must

respond, she will respond, it may be misplaced response but she is built to respond and Gomer is responding in violent, illicit violations of the marriage contract she has with Hosea.

By parallel, God is married to the prostitute nation Israel. In the Bible physical prostitution is analogous to spiritual prostitution or idolatry. And the nation Israel is responding alright, just as she was designed to respond, but she's responding to other gods. All men were created to worship and all men do worship, it may be misplaced worship but man will worship and the nation Israel is worshipping other gods in very violent, illicit ways that violate the marriage contract she has with God.

So that's why the second divine institution of marriage is in the background of everything in this book. And that is why this book is argued in the rib format. Marriage is fundamentally a contract. And therefore when the contract is violated there has to be court proceedings. Now the fundamental basis of marriage is very confused in our society and it's a manifestation of the way people think about man. Man basically thinks that man is an animal and that marriage is a social structure that can be whipped into anything I like just to satisfy my desires, my lusts. Now that is all coming out of a view of man that he is basically an animal and therefore I look to the animal for behavior. And therefore our society is a very promiscuous society. All kinds of things come out of this. Dating comes out of this. Dating is the idea that I've got to find someone compatible. Now dating has no basis in the Scriptures. There is no such thing as dating and that's because the premise underlying dating is that man is an animal and that sex is just a mechanistic animal behavior to satisfy lust patterns; this is all coming out of the evolutionary premise. Now don't be deceived, just because a boy or girl is a Christian and doesn't believe in evolution doesn't mean that he can't be swept into the fruit of evolution. Most Christians, unbeknownst to them, operate on an evolutionary premise, they do it in business practices, legal practices and sexual practices. But the Bible is saying something very different about man. Man is not an animal, man is made in the image of God and therefore we do not look to the animal for proper behavior, we look to God and His word. And marriage in God's word is defined in terms of a contractual relationship between one man and one woman. Now it may not sound too sexy but that is laid down as fundamental for all time in Gen 2. Sex comes inside of marriage. And therefore what is chief is not lust or romance or sex but contract.

Contractual love, covenant love, loyal love, loyalty to the terms of the contract, loyal to the vows that you took at the wedding ceremony. Those vows aren't just pretty words, they are what you are promising to do on the basis of your own character. It has nothing to do with what the partner is doing; they may be going to pieces, so what, who cares, what the partner is doing has nothing to do with what you agreed to do, what you said you would do. Don't ever love your partner because of what he or she says or does. Love them because of who you are. Now that's the way God loves us and I'm glad that's what He does because I screw up all the time and if every time I screwed up God stopped loving me then I'd be in a real heap of trouble. But God doesn't do that, God keeps pursuing and pursuing me to come back to Him, to respond to Him. That is what God is doing here with the nation Israel. He is pursuing her with discipline and the discipline was quite severe. Why? Because He loves her, He's initiating with her, but the problem is she's not responding to Him, she's responding to other gods. And therefore this is a very serious situation. They are in a situation where the discipline is reaching very severe stages and yet she doesn't have any doctrine in her soul and therefore she's not able to handle the situation with the word of God. And so the only recourse is to turn to gimmicks. Big fat gimmicks that do nothing but annoy God and exacerbate the situation. Gimmicks don't solve a thing. And so God just keeps on disciplining. What else is He supposed to do? He keeps hammering away until we finally give up on the gimmicks and confess our sin, 1 John 1:9, and get with His program.

So let's see where we are. Last time we finished in verse 6 but let's say a few more things about verse 5. We got into idolatry real heavy last time, Israel was responding, but not to the right God. But we were a little light on verse 5 so let's look at it. **He has rejected your calf, O Samaria, that's the idolatry; He rejected it, obviously, My anger burns against them!"** Now do we need to repeat that God can get very angry at His own people? God can get angry at you. Burning hot anger. Now you may not like it initially but realize that He gets mad at you because He loves you. God doesn't want you to continue destroying your soul the way you're doing every time you continue in sin. So the fact He gets angry is evidence that He cares. End of verse 5, **How long, God asks, will they be incapable of innocence?** And the word **innocence** is the word for "purity" and it does not mean perfection but it means how long will it be before they confess and get restored to fellowship. How long will it be before they are grace oriented believers? God never

demands perfection in phase two or the period of experiential sanctification but He does demand that we respond to His grace program and get with the grace program by confessing our sin. That is not an option for experiential sanctification, that is a requirement. You are not going to go anywhere in the Christian life if you don't figure out that confession of sin is different from believing in Christ. 90% of Christianity has those two stuck together. They've got 1 John 1:9 as a salvation verse. If that's a salvation verse why does John say "If *we* confess our sins" rather than "If you?" Obviously, John is including himself. Are we really going to say John the apostle wasn't a believer? It's silly even if you think about it for five seconds. Salvation is by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; restoration to fellowship is by confession of sin. They're separate things. And one of the things that God does to get people to confess is discipline. God is a good and loving Father and He has a rod and He uses the rod to jolt us back to reality.

So God the Father looks down, and as the perfect Father He sees us out of fellowship. He says okay, there's one of My children totally out of it, I'm going to spank them and wake them back up to me. And **how long** is it going to be before they respond to my gracious spankings and get back with the word of God? God demands this and this is why in Hosea 8:5 He sounds frustrated. **How long** is it going to be before you get with the program? Now it also shows you that He is not going to make your choice for you. You cannot sit around and wait for God. God is waiting on you at this point to make a move.

Verse 6 we dealt with last time, idolatry, which is the mental projection of images that have been crafted in your soul, whatever it is that is absolute, that is your god. It may be something as simple as what you see in a geology textbook. Every geology textbook has this image, this geological column and this is an idol. I'm trying to get you to wake up to the idols that are all around us. You have to get rid of this totem pole, ancient cave man idea. Idolatry is everywhere. Every high school and college student in America is looking at this same column and they're told this is fact. Dr Woodmorappe, one of the creation geologists, a very smart individual, was interested in seeing just how fact it is and so what he did was take a sampling of the entire earth's surface, divided it up into hundreds of equal sections and upon analysis he found that this column exists in less than 1% of the earth's crust? Less than 1%. And that 1% is said to be the model of earth history in the textbook? That's what we mean by an idol. There's nothing really there, it's

just a projection. That chart is nothing more than a depraved mental projection of an image. It has no basis whatsoever in reality. It's pure fiction. We might call it science fiction. And yet if you show this to 1,000 believers, 999 will say, yes, a lovely chart. It's not a lovely chart, it's an idol. It's the geologists altar, it's their worldview. And Israel had done this, they had crafted idols in the mentality of their soul and they were projecting it into this golden calf. The calf or bull is nothing more than a symbol of fertility, maximum fertility. And if you're an agricultural community you want maximum fertility in your fields so you have maximum food and maximum finances. So they gravitated to this image. But every image that you craft, you crafted it, you can knock it down, it's not God, but since you were made to worship you will worship.

Now we come to Verse 7, this is the famous phrase that you'll see in literature, people quote it, don't know where it came from, but they quote it. **For they sow the wind And they reap the whirlwind** or the storm wind. Now the sowing and the reaping, these verbs are verbs in an agricultural context. They were an agricultural society so this talks. Everybody in that society knew that sowing is the cause and reaping is the effect. And Paul uses the same metaphor in the NT when he writes to the Galatians, chapter 6:7, "whatever a man sows, this he will also reap," using it there for spiritual cause/effect.

Now let's look at the principle. Our chart on patterns of suffering is saying that we can detect certain patterns in Scripture for why we suffer. That there is a rhyme and a reason for our suffering and sometimes we can see either in the situation or by hindsight some of these patterns in our own suffering. We're not saying we have a total answer for every suffering situation. To have a total answer we would have to have omniscience. It's autonomous man who says I'll hold off believing in God until God has shown me the total answer and God has justified Himself to Me showing that He has a good and sufficient reason for allowing this suffering and evil to happen. The Christian answer to that is that God has shown His character over and over and over and He has been one-hundred percent faithful to His word and therefore I don't have to have all knowledge to trust Him. What He has shown of Himself is sufficient to trust that He has a good and sufficient purpose for the evil that He allows. So inside of this Christian doctrine we can see certain patterns in the Scripture and we want to apply these in our suffering

situations. In the doctrine there are two categories of suffering: direct and indirect. By direct suffering we mean they are directly a result of creature choices. On one side of the chart we have six possibilities. One, the Effects of the Fall. Don't ever forget that no matter what suffering you're facing. All suffering ultimately goes back to the Fall. All cancer, all earthquakes, all death, it's all ultimately because man sinned against God. That's why the world is a mess. Before the Fall there was no mess. The mess came as a result of human rebellion against God's authority. So number one is effects of the fall bring damage to man and nature. Two, Effects of Personal Sin. This is the principle of cause-effect. It is simply that I do something stupid and because of that I get myself all in a fix. I just bring it on myself. And we've all done this, from the least to the greatest we've all brought it on ourselves. The third one is Suffering by Association. And this is simply an extension of number two, personal sin in your family or your nation and because they make some idiot decision then we all suffer because of it. This one can be very frustrating because you have to deal with the fallout of someone else's idiot decision. But just remember, they have to deal with yours. So we all do this, we all bring down misery on those we are closely associated with. Number four is Eternal Suffering in the Lake of Fire. That's for unbelievers only and that's the most intense suffering, it lasts forever and ever and ever. The Bible doesn't teach that when an unbeliever dies that's it, they just go into non-existence, the Bible teaches a resurrection unto condemnation. And the only reason people have dreamed up this other idea is simply because they can't bear to think about it. And frankly it's not a pretty thought but when we get our resurrection body, when we are totally and completely conformed to image of the Lord Jesus Christ we will see them as sin's finished products. We will have a righteous and holy hatred as God has a righteous and holy hatred and we will realize that they had every opportunity to respond to God's revelation and they rejected, rejected, rejected. So it's their fault. Fifth, Temporal Discipline of Believers, this is also due directly to a choice you or I make, God disciplines us in time to get us to confess our sin and be restored to fellowship. And number six, Judgment Seat of Christ for Believers Rewards and that's a final evaluation, it's an evaluation of the believer's life here on earth. Now those six are direct and they're easier to see because they are direct. It's the second class on the other side that's more difficult to see because they're indirect. And therefore you can't attach them directly to any choice you or a fellow family member or your national leaders make. Very quickly, the first one, which is number seven, suffering as an Evangelistic

Wake-Up Call. Now this is suffering in an unbeliever's life. God brings in some tragedy in an unbeliever's life to shock them out of their arrogant self-confidence, that I can do it all on my own mentality and nothing can knock me down. That's an evangelistic wake-up call. Number eight, A Nudge to Advance Spiritually, this is for believers only. Believers often think they're so great and when they get in that autonomous spirit God will often send some suffering to get them to wake up and realize that my every breath depends on God's grace. So some suffering can be to stimulate growth. It has nothing to do with a sinful choice, it's just that you're starting to veer off toward arrogance and He cuts you off. Nine, Evangelization of Unbelievers, this applies to believers only, when a believer faces some turmoil in life and it's put on display before the world and the believer handles it by God's grace. The believer demonstrates that God's grace is sufficient and that stimulates discussion with unbelievers. Ten, Edification of Believers and in this situation you face some suffering and later on a believer faces a similar situation and they remember your situation, they remember how you handled it, they remember seeing that God's grace was sufficient and so they're edified by how you handled the suffering and their faith is increased. Lastly, and the most mysterious of all is the case of Job and that's Resolution of the Unseen Angelic Conflict. God is working things out on a cosmic scale and so it may be that the suffering you face has absolutely no apparent reason or purpose, you may be all alone on a desert island with no food, no water and God is just using you as a tool to resolve something in His conflict with Satan. That's always a possibility. So these just sketch some of the patterns we see in the Scriptures. You're suffering may involve five or six of these all at the same time, but we want to at least be able to think them through, let them shape how you're thinking, because the battle is in the mind, the battle is over whether you're going to go into questioning whether God really knows what He's doing here or whether you're confident God is doing something and that it's for the good. The two responses are world's apart.

Now which pattern or patterns of suffering are going on in verse 7? **Sow the wind...reap the whirlwind.** That's cause effect. Number two is cause-effect. Cause, people in Israel did stupid things, effect they reap the whirlwind, just as night follows day so if you sin there are consequences. What about number three? Suffering by Association within Families and Nations. The Kings of the northern kingdom made stupid choices for that nation. They trusted in gimmicks to get security and we'll see more of that in

our text tonight. But a fallout of that if you live in the nation is you have to live with the King's decision. So no question number two is involved, number three is involved and then what about number five. Number five is the Temporal Discipline of Believers and when we look at this through the OT lens of Israel, not to say they're all believers, but God looked at the whole nation as His Son so this principle applies to the nation. God is going to discipline the nation because of their rebellion. Again, cause-effect.

Sow the wind, reap the whirlwind, the whirlwind is the "storm wind" and it's a picture of destruction. It was destruction of their fields, destruction of their crops; agriculture was the central feature of their society; their whole economy depended upon agricultural produce. To make it 21st century, just to modernize it to get the impact, what does our prosperity depend on? What single factor if we remove it would bring a collapse to our society?

Technology. Technology is the central feature of our society; the whole economy depends on good technology. If that's destroyed our economy is destroyed, our society is destroyed. Just think if we had no phones, no e-mail, no cars, no computers, no internet, none of that, if that all disappeared in one day that would be it, society would collapse. That would communicate to us. What communicated to the average Israel was this sowing to the wind, reaping the whirlwind. The Jewish farmer would go out and with his hands sow the seed and if a storm wind came it brought hail, it would destroy the work of his hands, it would ruin his crops, and he had no government subsidy to bail him out, he had no hail insurance, he had nothing. So the storm wind communicated; everything's gone, because you've "sown the wind," **the standing grain has no head, it yields no grain.**

Now **the standing grain has no head** means obviously that the cycles of discipline are coming. **It yields no grain** refers to the fact that the stalk doesn't yield its fruit. So there's something disturbing the normal plant physiology that keeps it from coming to harvest. What do plants need to grow and produce? First they need water, got to have H₂O, so one way you can destroy the agriculture is turn off the spicket, just manipulate the meteorology over the land of Israel. A second thing you need is nutrients in the soil. So if you have water, that's great, but if there's no Nitrogen in the soil then you can't get proper growth, you get stunted growth, and the plant can't produce. And even if you have H₂O and Nitrogen, if you don't have sufficient sunlight, again, you don't get sufficient growth because you can't

get photosynthesis going. And finally, you can't have pests because if you have pests then they eat up anything that's produced, that's the entomology side. So all of these are factors God is saying, one way or another I'm going to manipulate the equation so you don't get growth but destruction.

Now the reason he's doing this is obviously because they haven't given thanks. Thanks giving we say is a barometer for whether you're with it or not. You can always check yourself just by asking in the privacy of your soul, am I giving thanks for my family, for my job, for the land, for the food or am I just floating along as if it's all just there, day after day after day, no thanks and in which case God looks down and He says, there's one of My children over there living like a mooch. They're mooching off Me and they could care less for what I'm providing, they just take and take and take and they never give thanks to the One who provides. Now this is the picture of Israel here, they're mooching off God. It's even worse than that; they are giving their thanks somewhere else. So let's see what happened. If we go back about 50 years before this we're in the time of Jonah. One of the significant prophecies of Jonah isn't even in Jonah's book. It's over in the 2nd book of the Kings, 14:25. Jonah was during the reign of Jeroboam II. And Jonah prophesied that we're going to increase our real estate and boy they did, the northern kingdom enjoyed an expansion that stretched way over into modern day Jordan and Syria. When they did that they brought in certain trade routes like the King's Highway that came from down in Saudi Arabia up to Assyria. It was a major trade route with lots of commerce and they were able to exploit that and bring in a lot of money through the import/export business and taxation of goods and services. So they were having an economic boom. Who gave them the boom? God gave them the boom. Did they give thanks to Him? No, they gave thanks to Baal, they gave thanks to the golden calf, but they did not give thanks where thanks was due. So what does God do? In verse 7 He starts turning off the economic boom. Gradually He's pulling back and now the farmers start wondering what's going on that we're not getting the same production we were getting before. What's happened? We're doing the same thing we did last year and the year before and the year before that. Now the procedure for getting production at the time was to go up to the altars of Baal and offer sacrifice and when you went up to give sacrifice you'd have sex with one of the temple prostitutes and that was to stimulate fertility. Sex in the ancient world was always associated with fertility because sex causes reproduction. And their idea was that we have the gods

and the goddesses control nature forces and they're on the scale of the Continuity of Being, they're just amplified versions of humanity. So they do the same things as humanity and one of the things humanity does is sexually reproduce. And so the gods and goddesses sexually reproduce. And because they're greater than man they can work for the good or evil of man. So we always have to appease the gods and goddesses, that's the mentality. And to get the gods and goddesses to bring fertility to the agriculture they'd offer sacrifices and to get their attention they'd have sex, everybody likes to watch sex they said so we'll have sex and the gods and goddesses will see us having sex and that will communicate that we want you to make our crops grow, we want you to make our cows reproduce, we want good genetic lines, we want strong production. That's the annual procedure they'd been following. So now they're not getting the strong production and so they trot down to the local altar again, they offer more sacrifices, they have more sex, they go out in the field and sow their seed, nothing, no production. What's wrong? Baal doesn't exist. Baal is just a figment of their imagination. You don't manipulate Nature Forces to produce good agriculture. Ancient paganism believed man could manipulate the gods to get what he wanted. So really what this is is works, our works can manipulate the gods and goddesses to give us agricultural produce. This is the works mentality and it's the opposite of the grace mentality, that God supplies all our needs. Their theology was diametrically opposed to Torah. And now that the works theology doesn't appear to be working anymore and no matter how many sacrifices they offer, no matter how many temple prostitutes they have sex with, they get nothing and now they start feeling the pressure. Hey, maybe my sacrifices aren't working, maybe my worship system isn't valid. Now that's what God wants them to realize. God wants them to come to Him, get re-oriented to grace and give thanks to Him. The application is clear for us, anything we have we have by God's grace, it's not because of how great we are, it's not because of the work of our hands. We only have hands because God gave us hands. And if we don't give thanks for our hands don't be surprised if the production goes down the tubes.

Now obviously God is pulling back the grace because they're in violation of the covenant. We haven't reviewed in some time the five degrees of discipline or the five cycles of discipline so let's turn to Deut 28:38 because Hosea presupposes you understand he's referring to the five degrees of discipline. Deut 28:38 sketches agricultural disaster, "You shall bring out much seed to

the field but you will gather in little, for the locust will consume it. ³⁹“You shall plant and cultivate vineyards, but you will neither drink of the wine nor gather *the grapes*, for the worm will devour them. ⁴⁰“You shall have olive trees throughout your territory but you will not anoint yourself with the oil, for your olives will drop off.” Now it was all spelled out in advance. This is nothing new, this should be no surprise, they should have known that when production went down that meant they were in violation of the covenant. Was anyone reading Deut 28? Did anyone even think to look in the Torah? Apparently not.

Now look back in Hosea. Let's say you have five bad years and then in year six the stalks grow up fine, the heads start putting out buds, hey, we're going to get some food. What does he say? **Should it yield, strangers would swallow it up.** Now psychologically that will wipe you out because here you are without food for five years, you have to scratch out a living and then there's a glimmer of hope, hope that you're going to be able to feed your family, hope that you're going to be able to feed your animals and then in one night, **strangers** come in and **swallow it all up.** Now that's devastating, psychologically that will do a number on you. The moment you thought you were going to make out alright; the whole thing went to pieces. And you're sitting over there with no backup plan and you've got no doctrine in your soul to handle the problem because you've been wasting your time down at the Baal temple and so you go to pieces. It's the exact same story for believers today. If their portfolio goes down the tubes they go down the tubes. They can't handle the pressures of life; if you just press on them they fall apart. And the reason is because they have not taken the time to do what is truly important. They have not given thanks, they have not taken in the word of God and they don't really know God, saved yes, sanctified, no.

Hosea 8:8, **Israel is swallowed up**, it's past tense in the Hebrew and it's what we call a prophetic perfect, “Israel has been swallowed up,” literally she hasn't because as we've seen from verse 7 she's still in the cycles of discipline, but Hosea anticipates the fifth degree of discipline in verse 8. **Israel has been swallowed up; They are now among the nations [Gentiles] Like a vessel in which no one delights.** This is one of those places where the prophet uses language that communicates and he doesn't use language that is particularly pious. **A vessel in which no one delights** is a toilet bowl; and that, he says, is what the Jew is going to be among the **nations.** Now

there's a humor to this thing. Every house needs a toilet, but you don't consider it the most prized possession you own. And that's his point about Israel's history, he says from this point on the Jew is going to be the Gentile's toilet; you can't get along without it but you don't like it. So there's humor but there is sarcasm about the whole thing. **a vessel in which no one delights.** That's what the Jew is going to be like to the Gentile in history.

They are going to be **swallowed up**, that's where the Ten Lost Tribes idea comes from. They are out there among the nations and from a human perspective we don't know where those tribes are. The only tribe we know for sure is Levi because Levi is the priestly tribe and they have names that carry through history, names like Cohen, Kohane, Levy, Levi, Leventhal, and they maintain their identity but the rest, who knows. It's very difficult to trace because they got all mixed up with the Gentiles. And another thing that makes it difficult is simply the fact of how you define a Jew. Who is a Jew? Is a Jew someone who has a mother who's Jewish? Is a Jew someone who practices Judaism? Is a Jew someone who lives in the modern state of Israel? Or is a Jew someone who has a Jewish father? Jews themselves argue about this question. And so, of course, when you ask someone are you a Jew, they may say yes, but which definition are they using? Now the only definition given in the Scriptures is that if the father is Jewish the child is Jewish. It doesn't matter what the mother is, Rahab was a Canaanite harlot and she was in the line of Jesus Christ. And He's still a Jew because the men were Jews. But the point is that this only compounds the problem of seeing from a human perspective who the Jews really are. But that doesn't mean that God doesn't have His single eye on every one of them. He knows were every single Jew is on the planet all the time. If He didn't how could He call 144,000 in the future tribulation, 12,000 from each of the tribes of Israel? It's not a problem for Him but it is a problem for us. Israel will be **swallowed up**, they'll be out among the nations and they're the Gentile toilet bowl, a lovely picture. But it is a picture that communicates a thousand words. They'd gone against the authority of God's word and therefore divine discipline; your future career is going to be something on par with the career of a toilet bowl. God doesn't play around, He says if you want to be a toilet bowl, be a toilet bowl.

Then he goes on and it gets better, in Hosea 8:9, **For they have gone up to Assyria, Like a wild donkey all alone; Ephraim has hired lovers.** Look

at this, this is an embarrassing text but it's what communicates and when you've got believers that are so far gone sometimes this is the only thing that communicates. He's just telling it the way it is, and he's telling it in language that communicates. **For they have gone up to Assyria** again a prophetic perfect, they haven't yet, they will in 722BC, but then again it's anticipatory because in a way they have gone up to Assyria, they've sought to make deals with the king, Tiglath-Pileser III. They've tried to work out a deal where instead of trusting the Lord for national security they would trust Tiglath-Pileser, it's a gimmick.

Now injected between the first and the last part of Hosea 8:9 is this parenthesis, **Like a wild donkey all alone**. Now why does he put that in there? Because, a wild donkey by itself would be a female out looking for a male. She's in heat and in the ancient ecology the male donkey wouldn't be looking for the female. The male didn't have to go anywhere, when the female was in heat she would go off looking for the male. She's looking to have sex. So they would wander around tracking males by following the smell of their urine. And what this is saying is that Israel is like a female donkey in heat and she is striving, looking for an idol, searching for a place of security. We've got to get security because our economy is falling apart, we've got to get security because we've got Egypt to our SW and Egypt is a growing power, we've got to get security because Assyria is to the NE and Assyria is a growing threat. And so it's saying just like a wild donkey you go pursuing security, so now besides calling them a toilet he's called them a wild donkey, now the end of verse 9 we have more of the picture.

Ephraim has hired lovers. Now she's pictured as a prostitute. Ephraim has prostituted herself out; she has sold herself to lovers. And obviously she has violated the marriage contract. She's in a marriage contract with God from Mt Sinai. Now she's defiled the marriage bed. She's sold herself to the Assyrians and the Egyptians. It's spiritual idolatry, only YHWH is her husband.

Hosea 8:10, **Even though they hire lovers among the nations, Now I will gather them up; And they will begin to diminish Because of the burden of the king of princes**. Now it is very difficult to translate the end of verse 10 but it is an announcement of what God is going to do. See, these are all prophetic perfects; they have "gone up to Assyria" is partially fulfilled

but not fully. And because God sees that intent in their heart, in verse 10 He says, **Even though they hire lovers among the nations** even though they've gone ahead and signed a peace contract with Egypt and Assyria, this is what I'm going to do to you. Remember God was in a contract with them and now they've gone and signed a contract with someone else. Now here's what God is going to do, God is going to **gather them up**, them is plural and the nearest antecedent is **the nations**. So God is now going to use the enemies of Israel as His rod to spank them, God can do that. God can use the enemies of our sanctification for our sanctification; He uses even His enemies for His own glory. Now the enemies here are the nations of Assyria and Egypt together. So now I'm going to **gather the nations**, so all your lovers that you gathered to protect you, I am going to use them in your sanctification. It would be analogous to the Christian finding security in something here in the world system, some gimmick which is demonically inspired and then God using the demonic powers together to bring discipline. **And they will begin to diminish**, as far as I can tell the **they** here refers to Israel. We have to get this from the syntax and the context. **they will begin to diminish** and that's pretty accurate description. They're going to become little under the thumb of the **king of princes**.

Now who is the **king of princes**. That is the Assyrian king, Tiglath-Pileser III; we'll show you evidence of it in a moment. King Menahem of the northern kingdom made a deal with Tiglath-Pileser III. That deal is described in 2 Kings 15:19-20. It says here in the Bible that "19Pul, king of Assyria, came against the land," Pul is another name of Tiglath-Pileser, "and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver so that his hand might be with him to strengthen the kingdom under his rule." So he bought him off. Verse 20, "Then Menahem exacted the money from Israel, even from all the mighty men of wealth, from each man fifty shekels of silver to pay the king of Assyria." So the government got the money from the wealthy citizens, always penalizing people for having wealth under the ethics of socialism, that it's wrong to have wealth. All the while we're stealing from you and that's okay. Nothing wrong with theft. So he exacts money from the wealthy, and "the king of Assyria returned and did not remain there in the land." So he went home, smart man, get a big paycheck, threaten them a few years later and get another paycheck, this is the operation.

So Menahem bought into this gimmick of a deal; see, this is what happens when you get in deep, deep carnality, you get to the point you see no other way out than your gimmicks and you have no doctrine in your soul to fall back on so there's nothing left but gimmicks.

Now Hosea finishes, he says, **you will begin to diminish**, Israel is phasing out as a viable national entity, sovereignty is being transferred to Assyria and they're going to suffer, they're going to see their economy collapse, they're going to see their military defeated, they are going to see their whole society destroyed **because of the burden** or tribute, the pay off, **of the king of princes**. Because you went over to the gimmick and you didn't trust Me, therefore you're coming under the fifth degree of discipline, Exile. The King of princes, Tiglath-Pileser III and his armies are the instrument.

Alright, we've seen another warning about sin in the area of foreign policy and not trusting the Lord to solve your national problems. It's plain and simple idolatry, either we will worship God the Creator or we'll worship an idol, some other absolute, some gimmick that we project out of our soul. We have to do this because we were made to worship and all men worship and we want to make sure we're worshipping at the foot of the Cross and not the foot of Chance.

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