

Hosea 8:1-14

Overview of chapter 8:

1. 8:1 – The disaster and the reason for the disaster
2. 8:2-3 – False religion
3. 8:4a – False government
4. 8:4b-6 – False religion
5. 8:7 – The resulting disaster
6. 8:8-10 – Failed false government (international affairs)
7. 8:11-13 – Failed false religion
8. 8:14 – Israel's failure, Israel's false hope, Israel's disaster

- Syncretism (means merging different religions, cultures, ideologies together) – YHWH/Baal: Israel claimed the Covenant benefits of YHWH but worshipped with pagan ideas and rituals of Baal.
- Rejected YHWH in their culture by:
 - Assassinating leaders and establishing new leaders through rebellions
 - Sought stability and security from other nations (Israel hoped they could persuade the foreign cultures to be “nice”, but forgot the sin nature of man and rejected YHWH)
 - Israel built up their military, mainly fortresses, instead of trusting YHWH





Baal images: Baal, the god of fertility and storms. Baal was the son of El. The raised right arm is the gesture of Baal smiting. The idol would have been holding a spear or a mace, but it has perished or been lost. These were found at Megiddo which is along the south side of the Jezreel Valley. These artifacts are in the Chicago Oriental Institute Museum and were found during the 1930's excavation.

There is shown below a four horned altar and an offering stand found in the palace complex which would have held a dish for liquid, food or incense offering.





Ivory inlays from Megiddo that at one time were used to decorate wooden furniture, etc. The round ivory is a game board for the game called "Fifty-eight Holes". It still has the gold that inlaid the holes that were the "safe spaces"



Hosea 8:1 – “Set the trumpet to your lips!

One like a vulture is over the house of the Lord,
because they have transgressed my covenant
and rebelled against my law.”

1004 [e]	5921 [e]	5404 [e]	7782 [e]	2441 [e]	413 [e]
bēt	'al-	kan·ne·šer	šō·pār,	hik·kə·kā	'el-
בֵּית	עַל־	כַּנְשָׁר	שׁוֹפָר	חִקְךָ	אֶל־ 1
the house	against	[He shall come] like an eagle	[Set] the trumpet	your mouth	To
N-msc	Prep	Prep-k, Art N-ms	N-ms	N-msc 2ms	Prep

6586 [e]	8451 [e]	5921 [e]	1285 [e]	5674 [e]	3282 [e]	3068 [e]
pā·šā·'ū.	tō·w·rā·tî	wə·'al-	bə·rî·tî,	'ā·bē·rū	ya·'an	Yah·weh;
פָּשְׁעוּ:	תּוֹרַתִי	וְעַל־	בְּרִיתִי	עָבְרוּ	יַעַן	יְהוָה
rebelled	My law	and against	My covenant	they have transgressed	because	of Yahweh
V-Qal-Perf-3cp	N-fsc 1cs	Conj-w Prep	N-fsc 1cs	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Adv	N-proper-ms

1. Literally: Set the shofar to your mouth! Someone is over the house of YHWH like a vulture!”
2. Interpretation: The watchmen should sound the alarm because an enemy is swooping down on Israel like an eagle or a vulture.
3. “the house of YHWH” could be referring to:
 - a. The land of Israel, which means, the Assyrians are coming
 - b. The Temple of YHWH, which means that this is a reference to the priest in the Jerusalem temple blowing horns to make noise to scare the vultures from landing on the Temple. So, the watchmen of Israel should sound the alarm with as much attention and seriousness as the priest blow the shofars in the Jerusalem temple courts.
4. All this trouble is coming because Israel:
 - a. Transgressed, *beriti*, means in Hebrew here “to pass over” the covenant
 - b. Rebelled, *pasau*, means “to rebel” or “transgress” the law.

8:2 – “To me they cry,
“My God, we—Israel—know you.”

3478 [e]	3045 [e]	430 [e]	2199 [e]	
yis·rā·'êl.	yə·da·'ā·nū·kā	'ē·lō·hay	yiz·'ā·qū;	lî
יִשְׂרָאֵל:	יָדַעְנוּךָ	אֱלֹהֵי	יִזְעָקוּ	לִי 2
Israel	we know You	My God	will cry	To Me
N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Perf-1cp 2ms	N-mpc 1cs	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Prep 1cs

1. Israel’s lack of understanding of the covenant and the law allows them to think and say:
 - a. “My God” to YHWH
 - b. “We know you” to YHWH

2. The three phrases – “Israel”, “we know you” and “my God” – are fragments from their liturgy which means they are reciting a religious phrase or the remains of the truth from a time when Israel did know God and he was their God. But, this is no longer the case, although they are still repeating the liturgy.

8:3 – “Israel has spurned the good;
the enemy shall pursue him.”

7291 [e]	341 [e]	2896 [e]	3478 [e]	2186 [e]
yir·dē·pōw	'ō·w·yēb	tō·wb;	yis·rā·'êl	zā·nah
יִרְדְּפוּ:	אֹיֵב	טוֹב	יִשְׂרָאֵל	זָנָה 3
will pursue him	the enemy	the good	Israel	Has rejected
V-Qal-Imperf-3ms 3ms	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	N-ms	N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3ms

- “Good” refers to the good nature of YHWH and his ways.
 - Israel has rejected the “good” but kept the wording
 - Israel has a form of godliness but has rejected the power as the church in 2 Timothy 3:5, “having a form of godliness, but having rejected (denied) the power.”
- These are opposites:
 - If you REJECT the GOOD
 - You will be PURSUED by BAD (or, “enemy”)

8:4a – “They made kings, but not through me.
They set up princes, but I knew it not.”

3045 [e]	3808 [e]	8323 [e]	4480 [e]	3808 [e]	4427 [e]	1992 [e]
yā·dā·'e·tî;	wə·lō	hê·śî·rū	mim·men·nî,	wə·lō	him·lî·kū	hêm
יָדַעְתִּי	וְלֹא	הִשִּׁירוּ	מִמֶּנִּי	וְלֹא	הִמְלִיכוּ	הֵם 4
I did acknowledge [them]	but not	they made princes	by Me	but not	set up kings	They
V-Qal-Perf-1cs	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	V-Hifil-Perf-3cp	Prep 1cs	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	V-Hifil-Perf-3cp	Pro-3mp

3772 [e]	4616 [e]	6091 [e]	6213 [e]	2091 [e]	3701 [e]	
yik·kā·rêṭ.	le·ma·'an	'ā·ṣab·bîm,	lā·hem	'ā·śū	ū·zə·hā·bām,	kas·pām
יִכָּרְתוּ:	לְמַעַן	עֲצָבִים	לְהֵם	עָשׂוּ	וּזְהָבָם	כֶּסֶפָם
they might be cut off	that	idols	for themselves	they made	and gold	from their silver
V-Nifal-Imperf-3ms	Conj	N-mp	Prep 3mp	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Conj-w N-msc 3mp	N-msc 3mp

- Another translation to capture the meaning: “It is they who make kings – kings who are not from me; they appoint rulers whom I do not know”
 - Literally: “They appoint princes but I do not know.”
 - NIV is very weak
- The people chose kings that God does not approve.
- The people chose princes that do not know God’s nature or his salvation.
- 8:4b-6 is exposing the false religion

8:4a – “With their silver and gold they made idols for their own destruction.”

8:5 – “I have spurned your calf, O Samaria. My anger burns against them.

How long will they be incapable of innocence?”

5704 [e]		639 [e]	2734 [e]		8111 [e]	5695 [e]	2186 [e]
'ad-	bām;	'ap·pî	ḥā·rāḥ		šō·mē·rō·wn,	'eḡ·lēk	zā·naḥ
עַד-	בָּמִ	אַפִּי	חַרְהָ		שְׁמֵרוֹן	עֲגֻלְךָ	זָנָה 5
long	against them	My anger	is aroused		Samaria	Your calf	Is rejected
Prep	Prep 3mp	N-msc 1cs	V-Qal-Perf-3ms		N-proper-fs	N-msc 2fs	V-Qal-Perf-3ms

	5356 [e]	3201 [e]	3808 [e]	4970 [e]
	niq·qā·yōn.	yū·kə·lū	lō	mā·ṭay
?	נִקְיוֹן:	יִוְכְלוּ	לֹא	מַתִּי
	to innocence	they attain	not	how long until
	N-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Adv-NegPrt	Interrog

1. They make idols of silver and gold which they think represent the image and character of YHWH (which they have mingled with Baal)
2. This thinking began at Mount Sinai with Aaron and the golden calf in Exodus 32:4.
3. Just like they selected their own leaders who were not in line with YHWH, the people have also made gods for themselves that are not YHWH.
 - a. Leaders are not YHWH's
 - b. gods (idols) are not YHWH

8:6 – “For it is from Israel; a craftsman made it; it is not God.

The calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces.”

	430 [e]	3808 [e]	6213 [e]	2796 [e]	1931 [e]	3478 [e]	3588 [e]
	'ē·lō·hîm	wə·lō	'ā·śā·hū,	ḥā·rāš	wə·hū,	mî·yis·rā·'ēl	kî
-	אֱלֹהִים	וְלֹא	עָשָׂהוּ	חַרָּשׁ	וְהוּא	מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל	כִּי 6
	God	and not	made it	a workman	and even [is] that	from Israel	for
	N-mp	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	V-Qal-Perf-3ms 3ms	N-ms	Conj-w Pro-3ms	Prep-m N-proper-ms	Conj

	8111 [e]	5695 [e]	1961 [e]	7616 [e]	3588 [e]	1931 [e]
	šō·mē·rō·wn.	'ē·gel	yih·yeh,	šə·bā·ḥîm	kî-	hū;
.	שְׁמֵרוֹן:	עֲגֻל	יִהְיֶה	שִׁבְבִים	כִּי -	הוּא
	of Samaria	the calf	Shall be	broken to pieces	but	it [is]
	N-proper-fs	N-msc	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	N-mp	Conj	Pro-3ms

8:7 – “For they sow the wind,
and they shall reap the whirlwind.
The standing grain has no heads;
it shall yield no flour;
if it were to yield,
strangers would devour it.”

369 [e]	7054 [e]	7114 [e]	5492 [e]	2232 [e]	7307 [e]	3588 [e]	
lōw,	'ên-	qā-māh	yiḳ-ṣō-rū;	wə-sū-pā-tāh	yiz-rā-'ū	rū-ah	kî
לו	אֵין-	קָמָה	יִקְצְרוּ	וְסוּפְתָהּ	יִזְרְעוּ	רוּחַ	כִּי
to	has no	the stalk	Reap	and the whirlwind	they sow	the wind	For
Prep 3ms	Adv	N-fs	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Conj-w N-fs 3fs	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	N-cs	Conj

1104 [e]	2114 [e]	6213 [e]	194 [e]	7058 [e]	6213 [e]	1097 [e]	6780 [e]
yib-lā-'u-hū.	zā-rîm	ya-'ā-śeh,	'ū-lay	qe-mah,	ya-'ā-śeh-	bē-lî	še-mah
יִבְלַעְהוּ:	זָרִים	יַעֲשֶׂה	אִלּוּ	לֶמַח	יַעֲשֶׂה-	בְּלִי	צֶמַח
would swallow it up	Aliens	it should produce	If	meal	it shall produce	never	bud
V-Qal-Imperf-3mp 3ms	Adj-mp	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Adv	N-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Adv	N-ms

1. This is a proverbial saying that means what you sow is what you reap in abundance:
 - a. Seeds always multiply in the sowing and reaping principle
 - b. Jesus said, “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”
 - c. This verse is telling Israel that they have sown the seed of wind and the harvest is going to be wind that is pressed down, shaken together and running over – the whirlwind.
 - d. Ideologically, the wind represents empty philosophy and worldview based on a false reality. The harvest for the seeds of empty philosophy and false worldviews is a whirlwind of social, economic, international, military disasters.
 - e. If you think and act stupid, you will get a life and a world overflowing with stupid.
2. The second part of this verse just explains the vanity of a little apparent success would only be lost during the next phase of the cycle:
 - a. The seeds produce a crop (“standing grain”), but the grain has no fruit on it (“heads”)
 - b. The crop will produce no flour
 - c. If the seeds produce a crop, with a head, that is ground into flour, then you still would lose it to strangers.
 - d. Even if Israel is successful in planting, growing, harvesting a crop to produce flour for bread, that bread would be taken by the enemy.
3. POINT:
 - a. Israel’s thinking is so bad that it will always result in failure.
 - b. Israel’s plans are so worthless it is not feasible anything they intend will happen.

VERSES 8:8-10 show Israel as three things:

1. An empty cup that the nations have already drank everything from.
2. A lone donkey in the wilderness even though Israel thinks they are in “the league of nations”!
3. A man who hired someone for services, but never received the services; just lost the money.

4. 8:8 – “Israel is swallowed up; already they are among the nations as a useless vessel.”

	2656 [e]	369 [e]	3627 [e]	1471 [e]	1961 [e]	6258 [e]	3478 [e]	1104 [e]
	bōw.	ḥê-peš	'ên-	kik·lî	bag·gō·w·yim,	hā·yū	'at-tāh	yis·rā·'el;
	בֹּוֹ:	חֶפֶץ	אֵין־	כִּכְלִי	בְּגוֹיִם	הֵיוּ	עַתָּה	יִשְׂרָאֵל
.	in which	pleasure	[is] no	Like a vessel	among the Gentiles	they are	now	Israel
	Prep 3ms	N-ms	Adv	Prep-k N-ms	Prep-b, Art N-mp	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Adv	N-proper-ms
								8
								Is swallowed up
								V-Nifal-Perf-3ms

1. Since the cup is empty, the cup no longer has any value.
2. Once Israel is stripped of their tribute the nations will no longer need Israel.
3. Israel will be thrown away like an empty paper cup.



Shalmaneser's Black Obelisk both records and provides an image of Jehu bringing tribute on Side A in the 2nd Row.

Jehu is on his hands and knees with his face on the ground before Shalmaneser III (859-824 BC).

Israel tribute bears are also seen several times on this obelisk.

8:9 – “For they have gone up to Assyria, a wild donkey wandering alone; Ephraim has hired lovers.”

	158 [e]	8566 [e]	669 [e]	909 [e]	6501 [e]	804 [e]	5927 [e]	1992 [e]	3588 [e]
	'ā-hā·bîm.	ḥit·nū	'ep·ra·yim	lōw; bō·w·dêd	pe·re	'aš·šūr,	'ā·lū	hēm·māh	kî-
.	אֲהָבִים	הִתְנוּ	אֶפְרַיִם	לוֹ בֹדֵד	פָּרָא	אֲשׁוּר	עָלוּ	הֵמָּה	כִּי־ 9
	loves	has hired	Ephraim	by itself alone	[Like] a wild donkey	to Assyria	have gone up	they	For
	N-mp	V-Hifil-Perf-3cp	N-proper-ms	Prep 3ms	V-Qal-PrtcpI-ms	N-ms	N-proper-fs	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Pro-3mp
									Conj

1. Israel compromised thinking they were going to be one of the cool kids on the play ground.
2. The “cool kids” (Assyria and Egypt) never thought Israel was cool. Israel was never befriended by the Assyrians. Israel was left along on the international play ground like a lone donkey in the wilderness.

8:10 – “Though they hire allies among the nations,
I will soon gather them up.
And the king and princes shall soon writhe
because of the tribute.”

6908 [e]	6258 [e]	1471 [e]	8566 [e]	3588 [e]	1571 [e]
'ā·qab·bə·ṣēm;	'at·tāh	bag·gō·w·yim	yit·nū	kī-	gam
אֶקְבְּצֵם	עַתָּה	בְּגוֹיִם	יִתְּנוּ	כִּי	גַם
I will gather them	now	among the nations	they have hired	though	Yes
V-Piel-Imperf-1cs 3mp	Adv	Prep-b, Art N-mp	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Conj	Conj

8269 [e]	4428 [e]	4853 [e]	4592 [e]	2490 [e]
śā·rīm.	me·leḵ	mim·maś·śā	mə·'āṭ,	way·yā·hêl·lū
שָׂרִים:	מֶלֶךְ	מִמַּשָּׂא	מְעַט	וַיִּחְלוּ
of princes	of the king	because of the burden	a little	and they shall sorrow
N-mp	N-ms	Prep-m N-msc	Adj-ms	Conj-w V-Hifil-ConsecImperf-3mp

1. This could follow the image of prostitution from this book. Israel paid for a prostitute (the nations) but the prostitute did not perform (the nations never served Israel).
2. “Gathering up” is NOT a gathering of Israel for salvation, but gathering the nations that did not perform for Israel. The nations will be gathered by YHWH to come against Israel.

8:11 – “Because Ephraim has multiplied altars for sinning,
they have become to him altars for sinning.”

2398 [e]	4196 [e]	1961 [e]	2398 [e]	4196 [e]	669 [e]	7235 [e]	3588 [e]	
la·hā·ṭō.	miz·bə·ḥō·wṭ	lōw	hā·yū-	la·hā·ṭō;	miz·bə·ḥōṭ	'ep·ra·yim	hir·bāh	kī-
לְחַטָּא:	מִזְבְּחֹת	לוֹ	הָיוּ	לְחַטָּא	מִזְבְּחֹת	אֶפְרַיִם	הִרְבָּה	כִּי
for sinning	altars	for him	they have become	for sin	altars	Ephraim	has made many	Because
Prep-I V-Qal-Inf	N-mp	Prep 3ms	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Prep-I V-Qal-Inf	N-mp	N-proper-ms	V-Hifil-Perf-3ms	Conj

8:12 – “Were I to write for him my laws by the ten thousands,
they would be regarded as a strange thing.”

3644 [e]	8451 [e]	7239 [e]	3789 [e]	3789 [e]
kə·mōw-	tō·w·rā·ṭī;	rub·bé	rib·bōw	lōw,
כְּמוֹ-	תּוֹרָתִי	(רַבִּי)	[רבּוֹ]	לוֹ
as	My law	the great [things] of	ten thousand	for him
Prep	N-fsc 1cs	N-mpc	Number-fsc	Prep 3ms

2803 [e]	2114 [e]
neh·śā·bū.	zār
נִחְשְׁבוּ:	זָר
[But] they were considered	a strange thing
V-Nifal-Perf-3cp	Adj-ms

1. “strange thing” – Israel reacts to God’s Word as a strange thing. Something that is ridiculous to them.
2. God has written out instructions and made his plans clear in written form. But, the people of God dismiss it as meaningless and go search somewhere else for direction.

8:13 – “As for my sacrificial offerings,
they sacrifice meat and eat it,
but the Lord does not accept them.

Now he will remember their iniquity
and punish their sins;
they shall return to Egypt.”

7521 [e] rā-ṣām;	3808 [e] lō	3069 [e] Yah-weh	398 [e] way-yō-ḵē-lū,	1320 [e] ḅā-śār	2076 [e] yiz-bə-ḥū	1890 [e] ḥab-hā-ḅay,	2077 [e] zib-ḥē
רָצָם –	לֹא	יְהוָה	וַיֹּאכְלוּ	בָּשָׂר	זִבְחֹו	הַבְּהֵבִי	זִבְחֵי 13
[But] does accept them	not	Yahweh	and eat [it]	flesh	they sacrifice	of My offerings	[For] the sacrifices
V-Qal-Perf-3ms 3mp	Adv-NegPrt	N-proper-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3mp	N-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	N-mpc 1cs	N-mpc

7725 [e] yā-šū-ḅū.	4714 [e] miṣ-ra-yim	1992 [e] hēm-māh	2403 [e] ḥaṭ-ṭō-w-tām,	6485 [e] wə-yip-qōd	5771 [e] 'ā-wō-nām	2142 [e] yiz-kōr	6258 [e] 'at-tāh
יָשׁוּבוּ:	מִצְרַיִם	הֵמָּה –	חַטָּאוֹתָם	וַיִּפְקֹד	עֲוֹנָם	יִזְכֹּר	עַתָּה
shall return	to Egypt	they	their sins	and punish	their iniquity	He will remember	now
V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	N-proper-fs	Pro-3mp	N-fpc 3mp	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjImperf-3ms	N-csc 3mp	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Adv

8:14 – “For Israel has forgotten his Maker
and built palaces,
and Judah has multiplied fortified cities;
so I will send a fire upon his cities,
and it shall devour her strongholds.”

3063 [e] wī-hū-dāh	1964 [e] hē-kā-lō-wt,	1129 [e] way-yi-ben	6213 [e] 'ō-śé-hū,	853 [e] 'et-	3478 [e] yis-rā-’ēl	7911 [e] way-yiš-kaḥ
וַיְהוּדָה –	הַיְכָלוֹת	וַיִּבְנֶן	עֲשָׂהוּ	אֶת-	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וַיִּשְׁכַּח 14
also Judah	temples	and has built	his Maker	-	Israel	For has forgotten
Conj-w N-proper-ms	N-mp	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms	V-Qal-Prtcpl-msc 3ms	DirObjM	N-proper-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms

759 [e] 'ar-mə-nō-ṭe-hā.	398 [e] wə-'ā-ḵə-lāh	5892 [e] be-'ā-rāw,	784 [e] 'ēš	7971 [e] wə-šil-laḥ-ti-	1219 [e] be-ṣu-rō-wt;	5892 [e] 'ā-rīm	7235 [e] hir-bāh
ס . אַרְמְנֹתֶיהָ:	וְאָכְלָה	בְּעָרָיו	אֵשׁ	וְשִׁלַּחְתִּי	בְּצָרוֹת	עָרִים	הִרְבָּה
- his palaces	and it shall devour	upon his cities	fire	but I will send	fortified	cities	has multiplied
Punc	N-mpc 3fs	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3fs	Prep-b N-fpc 3ms	N-cs	Conj-w V-Piel-ConjPerf-1cs	Adj-fp	N-fp

1. Palaces where fortified structures such as strongholds.