

Hosea 9:1-17

1. Chapter 9:1-17 can be divided into two sections:
 - a. 9:1-9 – announcing the Assyrian deportation
 - b. 9:10-17 – the fading glory of Israel

Hosea 9:1 – “Rejoice not, O Israel!

**Exult not like the peoples;
for you have played the whore, forsaking your God.
You have loved a prostitute's wages
on all threshing floors.”**

2181 [e]	3588 [e]	5971 [e]	1524 [e]	413 [e]	3478 [e]	8055 [e]	408 [e]
zā·nî·tā	kî	kā·am·mîm,	gîl	'el-	yîs·rā·'êl	tiš·mah	'al-
זָנִיתְּ	כִּי !	כַּעַמִּים	גִּיל	אֶל-	יִשְׂרָאֵל	תִּשְׂמַח	אֶל-
you have played the harlot	for	like [other] peoples	joy	with	Israel	do rejoice	Not
V-Qal-Perf-2ms	Conj	Prep-k, Art N-mp	N-ms	Prep	N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-2ms	Adv

1715 [e]	1637 [e]	3605 [e]	5921 [e]	868 [e]	157 [e]	430 [e]	5921 [e]
dā·gān.	gā·rē·nō·wî	kāl-	'al	'et·nān,	'ā·hab·tā	'ē·lō·he·kā;	mē·'al
דָּגָן:	גְּרָנוֹת	כָּל-	עַל	אֶתְנֹן	אָהַבְתְּ	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	מֵעַל
threshing floor	floors	every	on [for] hire	You have made love	your God	against	
N-ms	N-fpc	N-msc	Prep	N-ms	V-Qal-Perf-2ms	N-mpc 2ms	Prep-m

9:2 – “Threshing floor and wine vat shall not feed them,
and the new wine shall fail them.”

3584 [e]	8492 [e]	7462 [e]	3808 [e]	3342 [e]	1637 [e]	
bāh.	yə·ka·heš	wə·tî·rō·wōš	yir·'êm;	lō	wā·ye·qeb	gō·ren
בָּהּ:	יִכָּשׁ	וְתִירוֹשׁ	יִרְעֵם	לֹא	וַיִּקֶּב	גֶּרֶן
in her	shall fail	and the new wine	shall feed them	not	and the winepress	The threshing floor
Prep 3fs	V-Piel-Imperf-3ms	Conj-w N-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms 3mp	Adv-NegPrt	Conj-w N-ms	N-fs

1. Other nations could rejoice in their Pagan rituals, but Israel could not rejoice like the Pagans. They had a covenant with YHWH.
2. When Israel participated in Pagan worship they were a prostitute forsaking their true God.
3. Israel praised the Pagan gods for their harvest of grain and wine, but YHWH was going to shut off the supply.
4. The Pagan fertility cults practiced sexual immorality at their feasts on the threshing floor while they drank the wine.

9:3 – “They shall not remain in the land of the Lord,
but Ephraim shall return to Egypt,
and they shall eat unclean food in Assyria.”

4714 [e]	669 [e]	7725 [e]	3069 [e]	776 [e]	3427 [e]	3808 [e]
miṣ·ra·yim,	'eḇ·ra·yim	wə·šāb	Yah·weh;	bə·'e·reṣ	yê·šə·bū	lō
מִצְרַיִם	אֶפְרַיִם	וְשָׁב	יְהוָה	בְּאֶרֶץ	יֵשְׁבוּ	לֹא 3
to Egypt	Ephraim	but shall return	of Yahweh	in the land	they shall dwell	Not
N-proper-fs	N-proper-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3ms	N-proper-ms	Prep-b N-fsc	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Adv-NegPrt

398 [e]	2931 [e]	804 [e]
yō·kê·lū.	ṭā·mé	ū·bə·'aš·šūr
יֹאכְלוּ:	טָמֵא	וּבְאֶשׁוּר
shall eat	unclean [things]	and in Assyria
V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Adj-ms	Conj-w, Prep-b N-proper-fs

1. Assyria is identified here as the place of Israel’s dispersion/captivity.
 - a. In 8:13 the place was identified as “Egypt” probably for:
 - i. Symbolism of what they were returning to
 - ii. Indication of the reversal of Israel’s deliverance from Egypt to enter a covenant with YHWH
 - b. 11:5 clearly identifies Israel’s place of exile as Assyria:
 - i. ESV: “They shall not return to the land of Egypt, but Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me.”
 - ii. NIV: ““Will they not return to Egypt and will not Assyria rule over them because they refuse to repent?”

1931 [e]	804 [e]	4714 [e]	776 [e]	413 [e]	7725 [e]	3808 [e]
hū	wə·'aš·šūr	miṣ·ra·yim,	'e·reṣ	'el-	yā·šūb	lō
הוּא	וְאֶשׁוּר	מִצְרַיִם	אֶרֶץ	אֶל-	יָשׁוּב	לֹא 5
it	but Assyria	of Egypt	the land	to	He shall return	Not
Pro-3ms	Conj-w N-proper-fs	N-proper-fs	N-fsc	Prep	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Adv-NegPrt

7725 [e]	3985 [e]	3588 [e]	4428 [e]
lā·šūb.	mê·'ā·nū	kî	mal·kōw;
לְשׁוּב:	מֵאֲנִי	כִּי	מֶלֶכוֹ
to repent	they refused	because	shall be his king
Prep-I V-Qal-Inf	V-Piel-Perf-3cp	Conj	N-msc 3ms

2. Obviously, in a Pagan land Israel will NOT be allowed to follow their rituals. They will be forced to eat unclean food.
 - a. Note: When Daniel went into Babylon he refused to eat the unclean food.
 - i. Daniel was likely familiar with this verse.
 - ii. Daniel also negotiated with Nebuchadnezzar and put the pressure on YHWH

9:4 – “They shall not pour drink offerings of wine to the Lord,
 and their sacrifices shall not please him.
 It shall be like mourners’ bread to them;
 all who eat of it shall be defiled;
 for their bread shall be for their hunger only;
 it shall not come to the house of the Lord.”

2077 [e]	6148 [e]	3808 [e]	3196 [e]	3068 [e]	5258 [e]	3808 [e]
zib·hê·hem,	lōw	ye·er·bū-	wə·lō	ya·yin	Yah·weh	yis·sə·kū
זְבִיחֵיהֶם	לוֹ	יִעְרְבוּ-	וְלֹא	יַיִן	לַיהוָה	יִסְכּוּ
their sacrifices	to Him	shall be pleasing	nor	wine [offerings]	to Yahweh	they shall offer
N-mpc 3mp	Prep 3ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	N-ms	Prep-I N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp
						Adv-NegPrt

3588 [e]	2930 [e]	398 [e]	3605 [e]	205 [e]	3899 [e]
kî-	yi·tam·mā·'ū;	'ō·kə·lāw	kāl- lā·hem,	'ō·w·nîm	kə·le·hem
כִּי	יִטַּמְאוּ	אֲכָלוּ	כָּל־ לָהֶם	אוֹנִים	כְּלֶחֶם
for	shall be defiled	who eat it	all to them	of mourners	[it shall be] like the bread
Conj	V-Hitpael-Imperf-3mp	V-Qal-Prtcl-mpc 3ms	N-msc Prep 3mp	N-mp	Prep-k N-msc

3068 [e]	1004 [e]	935 [e]	3808 [e]	5315 [e]	3899 [e]
Yah·weh.	bēt	yā·bō·w	lō	lə·nap·šām,	lah·mām
יְהוָה:	בֵּית	יָבֹוא	לֹא	לְנַפְשָׁם	לֶחֶמָם
of Yahweh	into the house	it shall come	not	for their [own] life	their bread [shall be]
N-proper-ms	N-msc	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Adv-NegPrt	Prep-I N-fsc 3mp	N-msc 3mp

1. They will not be able to perform the drink offerings that involved pouring out wine to YHWH
2. They will not have a Temple or an altar that is sanctified and useable to please the Lord.
3. If they do perform any sacrifices or rituals (such as eating food, bread before the Lord) it would only defile them because it is not pure nor is it done according to the Law.
4. They will only eat to survive. They will not have fellowship with the Lord during this time.

9:5 – “What will you do on the day of the appointed festival,
 and on the day of the feast of the Lord?”

3068 [e]	2282 [e]	3117 [e]	4150 [e]	3117 [e]	6213 [e]	4100 [e]
Yah·weh.	hag-	ū·lə·yō·wm	mō·w·'êḏ;	lə·yō·wm	ta·'ā·śū	mah-
יְהוָה:	חַג־	וּלְיוֹם	מוֹעֵד	לְיוֹם	תַּעֲשׂוּ	מָה
of Yahweh	of the feast	and in the day	appointed	in the day	will you do	What
N-proper-ms	N-msc	Conj-w, Prep-I N-msc	N-ms	Prep-I N-msc	V-Qal-Imperf-2mp	Interrog

1. This rhetorical question is emphatic because the two phrases are synonymous. The Lord is repeating his sarcasm for emphasis:
 - a. “the day of the appointed festival”
 - b. “the day of the feast of the Lord”
2. QUESTION: What will the Israelites do in these days on the festive days?
 ANSWER: Nothing. They have nothing to celebrate. They have no Temple to celebrate in. They have no God with whom they can celebrate with. They cannot celebrate!

9:6 – “For behold, they are going away from destruction;
but Egypt shall gather them;
Memphis shall bury them.
Nettles shall possess their precious things of silver;
thorns shall be in their tents.”

4644 [e]	6908 [e]	4714 [e]		7701 [e]	1980 [e]	2009 [e]	3588 [e]
mōḇ	tə·qab·bə·ṣēm	miṣ·ra·yim	—	miš·šōd,	hā·lə·kū	hin·néh	kí-
מֶרֶץ	תִּקְבְּצֵם	מִצְרַיִם	—	מִשָּׂד	הֵלְכוּ	הִנֵּה	כִּי 6
Memphis	shall gather them up	Egypt	because of destruction	they are gone	indeed		for
N-proper-fs	V-Piel-Imperf-3fs 3mp	N-proper-fs		Prep-m N-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Interjection	Conj

168 [e]	2336 [e]	3423 [e]	7057 [e]	3701 [e]	4261 [e]	6912 [e]
bə·'ā·ho·lê·hem.	hō·w·ah	yî·rā·šēm,	qim·mō·wś	lə·kas·pām,	maḥ·maḏ	tə·qab·bə·rēm;
בְּאֹהֲלֵיהֶם:	חֹה	יִרְשֵׁם	קִמוֹשׁ	לְכֶסֶף	מַחֲמַד	תִּקְבְּרֵם
in their tents	Thorns [shall be]	shall possess	Nettles	of their silver	valuables	shall bury them
Prep-b N-mpc 3mp	N-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms 3mp	N-ms	Prep-l N-msc 3mp	N-msc	V-Piel-Imperf-3fs 3mp

1. Israel has wanted to return to Egypt since the first days after they left Egypt. So, God has NO intention of letting them go back to Egypt for help or protection.\
2. The Hebrew “ki-hinneh haleku”:
 - a. literally means, “because, indeed, thy will have gone”
 - b. the point is “even if some Israelites escape Assyria by fleeing south they will be gathered up by Egypt.
3. Egypt will not be a place for Israel to live because Memphis, Egypt would be the Israelites place of burial.
 - a. Wikipedia describes Memphis like this: “The Memphite Necropolis is an ancient Egyptian necropolis located in the city of Memphis, Lower Egypt. It includes the sites of Giza, Saqqara and Dahshur. Most of the pyramids of the Old Kingdom were built here, along with many mastabas (A type of ancient Egyptian tomb in the form of a flat-roofed, rectangular structure with inward sloping sides, constructed out of mudbricks.) and other tombs.
4. Israel’s homes and their land will be overrun with thorns and briars:
 - a. “precious things of silver” – Israel’s possessions
 - b. “their tents” – Israel’s land

9:7 – “The days of punishment have come;
the days of recompense have come;
Israel shall know it.
The prophet is a fool;
the man of the spirit is mad,
because of your great iniquity
and great hatred.”

191 [e]	3478 [e]	3045 [e]	7966 [e]	3117 [e]	935 [e]	6486 [e]	3117 [e]	935 [e]
'ē-wīl	yís-rā-'êl;	yê-də-'ū	ha-šil-lum,	yə-mê	bā-'ū	hap-pə-qud-dāh,	yə-mê	bā-'ū
אָוִל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	יָדְעוּ	הַשְּׁלֹם	יָמֵי	בָּאוּ	הַפְּקוּדָה	יָמֵי	בָּאוּ 7
a fool	Israel	knows	of recompense	the days	have come	of punishment	the days	Have come
N-ms	N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Art N-ms	N-mpc	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Art N-fs	N-mpc	V-Qal-Perf-3cp

4895 [e]	7227 [e]	5771 [e]	7230 [e]	5921 [e]	7307 [e]	376 [e]	7696 [e]	5030 [e]
maś-ṭē-māh.	wə-rab-bāh	'ā-wō-nə-kā,	rōḇ	'al	hā-rū-ah,	'iš	mə-šug-gā'	han-nā-bī,
מִשְׂטֵמָה:	וְרַבָּה	עֲוֹנוֹךָ	רַב	עַל	הַרוּחַ	אִישׁ	מְשֻׁגָּע	הַנְּבִיא
enmity	and great	of your iniquity	of the greatness	because	the spiritual	man [is]	insane	the prophet [is]
N-fs	Conj-w Adj-fs	N-csc 2ms	N-msc	Prep	Art N-cs	N-msc	V-Pual-Prtcpl-ms	Art N-ms

1. Two things here:
 - a. The days of judgment have come. It is too late.
 - b. The days of warning have been wasted because Israel considered the warning prophet to be crazy.
2. When the “days of punishment” and “the days of recompense” come, Israel:
 - a. will not have to ask, “Do you think this is judgment from YHWH?” or “Do you think this is bad?”
 - b. “Israel shall know it!” – there will be no doubt that these are the days the prophet Hosea announced were coming.
3. Israel rejected Hosea or they considered him a fool or overreacting because:
 - a. Israel’s sin or iniquity was so great they could not think clearly.
 - i. Their thinking had become so futile (Romans 1:21)
 - ii. Thinking to be wise they became fools (Romans 1:22)
 - iii. They called darkness light and light darkness (Isaiah 5:20)
 - iv. They exchanged the Glory of God for images made like mortal beings (Rm. 1:23)
 - v. They had exchanged the Truth for a lie (Romans 1:25)
 - vi. They had a false worldview. They embraced false ideologies, false philosophies.
 - vii. They had separated themselves from Reality.
 - b. Israel had given themselves over to hatred:
 - i. Passion ruled their soul, not logic (Romans 1:26)
 - ii. Animal instincts were their mode of operation, not reason (“like brute beasts”, 2 Peter 2:12 and Jude 1:10)
4. There is no recovery option available. It is at this point in 30 AD Jesus wept over Jerusalem.
 - a. Luke 19:41-44 – “And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”
 - b. Matthew 23:37-39 – “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left

to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

5. So consider the “prophet” in this verse to be a reference to the “false prophets” that were misleading the people of Israel. Thus, the false prophet was the snare for God’s people.
 - a. This concept is not foreign to Scripture, the people of God. And, it is a problem identified by the prophets themselves.
 - b. This does not seem to be the direction Hosea is going here. It seems he is announcing his failure to be heard or received by the people.
 - c. Calling the true prophet of God a “madman” or “maniac” did occur at this very time period consider Jonah (the young prophet sent by Elisha to anoint Jehu) and Jeremiah:
 - i. 2 Kings 9:11 – When Jehu went out to his fellow officers, one of them asked him, “Is everything all right? Why did this maniac come to you?” “You know the man and the sort of things he says,” Jehu replied.
 - ii. Jeremiah 29:26 – “The LORD has made you priest instead of Jehoiada the priest, to have charge in the house of the LORD over every madman who prophesies, to put him in the stocks and neck irons. So why have you not reprimanded Jeremiah from Anathoth, who poses as a prophet among you?”

9:8 – “The prophet is the watchman of Ephraim with my God; yet a fowler's snare is on all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God.”

5921 [e]	3352 [e]	6341 [e]	5030 [e]	430 [e]	5973 [e]	669 [e]	6822 [e]
'al-	yā·qō·wōš	paḥ	nā·ḇî	'ē·lō·hāy;	'im-	'eḇ·ra·yim	šō·pēh
עַל־	יְקוֹשׁ	פַּחַ	נְבִיא	אֱלֹהֵי	עִם־	אֶפְרַיִם	צִפְּהָ 8
in	of fowler	a snare	but the prophet [is]	my God	[is] with	of Ephraim	The watchman
Prep	N-ms	N-msc	N-ms	N-mpc 1cs	Prep	N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms

430 [e]	1004 [e]	4895 [e]	1870 [e]	3605 [e]
'ē·lō·hāw.	bē·ḇêṭ	maš·ṭê·māh	dē·rā·kāv,	kāl-
אֱלֹהֵיוֹ:	בְּבַיִת	מִשְׂטֵמָה	דְּרָכָיו	כָּל־
of his God	in the house	Enmity	his ways	all
N-mpc 3ms	Prep-b N-msc	N-fs	N-cpc 3ms	N-msc

1. The prophet was sent by God to be a “watchman”
 - a. The prophet is NOT:
 - i. a judge to bring condemnation,
 - ii. sent to embarrass
 - iii. attempting to insult.
 - iv. the enemy
 - b. The prophet IS sent to:
 - i. protect
 - ii. guard
 - iii. defend

- iv. warn of a coming enemy
- 2. Yet the people of Israel respond to the prophet by:
 - a. Setting a fowler's snare on all the prophets ways
 - i. The people are constantly trying to trap the prophet in his words.
 - ii. Or, accuse the prophet in his ways
 - iii. Or, prove the prophet's words are wrong
 - iv. Or, find some false motivation
 - b. Hatred from the house of God
 - i. The prophet of YHWH is hated in the house of YHWH!?!
 - 1. Consider how Israel responded to Moses in the wilderness.
 - 2. Consider how the religious leaders responded to Jesus
 - ii. The house of God (Israel) responds to God's acts of grace and direction with hatred.
 - 1. Consider how Israel responded to Moses in the wilderness.
 - 2. Consider how the religious leaders responded to Jesus

9:9 – “**They have deeply corrupted themselves as in the days of Gibeah: he will remember their iniquity; he will punish their sins.**”

5771 [e]	2142 [e]	1390 [e]	3117 [e]	7843 [e]	6009 [e]
'ā·wō·nām,	yiz·kō·wr	hag·gib·'āh;	kî·mê	ši·hê·tū	he'·mî·qū-
עֲוֹנָם	יִזְכֹּר	—	כִּימֵי	שִׁחֲתוּ	הָעֲמִיקוּ 9
their iniquity	He will remember	of Gibeah	as in the days	corrupted	They are deeply
N-csc 3mp	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Art N-proper-fs	Prep-k N-mpc	V-Piel-Perf-3cp	V-Hifil-Perf-3cp

	2403 [e]	6485 [e]
s	h̄aṭ·ṭō·w·tām.	yīp·qō·wd
ס	הַטְּאוּתָם:	יִפְקֹד
-	their sins	He will punish
Punc	N-fpc 3mp	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms

1. The people of Israel have reached the depths of the fourth generation which is described as “deeply corrupted themselves”
2. The fact that Israel here in 738 BC (or, around that time) are considered to be at the same moral depreciation as “the days of Gibeah” are shocking.
 - a. Consider how bad the days of the Judges were.
 - b. Then, consider the very worst, the very lowest level reached by Israel in Judges.
 - c. Read Judges 19-20
 - d. This is where Northern Israel has sunk to. And, there is no way out.
3. God WILL remember and God WILL punish...it is over!

9:10 – “Like grapes in the wilderness,
I found Israel.

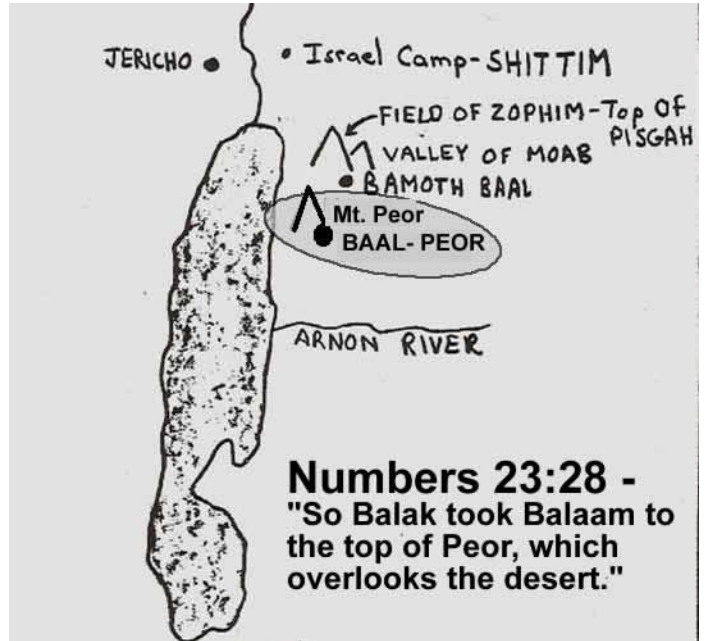
Like the first fruit on the fig tree
in its first season,
I saw your fathers.

But they came to Baal-peor
and consecrated themselves to the thing of shame,
and became detestable like the thing they loved.”

7200 [e] rā·'î·tî	7225 [e] bə·rê·šî·tāh,	8384 [e] bīt·'ê·nāh	1063 [e] kə·bik·kū·rāh	3478 [e] yis·rā·'êl,	4672 [e] mā·šā·tî	4057 [e] bam·mid·bār,	6025 [e] ka·'ā·nā·bîm		
רָאִיתִי	—	בְּרֵאשִׁיתָהּ	בְּתֵאנָהּ	כַּבְּכוּרָהּ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	מָצָאתִי	—	בַּמִּדְבָּר	כַּעֲנַבִּים 10
I saw		in its first season	on the fig tree	as the firstfruits	Israel	I found		in the wilderness	Like grapes
V-Qal-Perf-1cs		Prep-l N-fsc 3fs	Prep-b N-fs	Prep-k N-fs	N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Perf-1cs		Prep-b, Art N-ms	Prep-k N-mp
	1322 [e] lab·bō·šet,		5144 [e] way·yin·nā·zə·rū	1187 [e] pə·'ō·wr,	ba·'al-	935 [e] bā·'ū	1992 [e] hēm·māh	1 [e] 'ā·bō·w·tē·kem;	
	—	לְבִשֶׁת	וַיִּנְזְרוּ	פְעֹר	בְּעַל-	בָּאוּ	הֵמָּה	אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם	
		[to [that] shame	and separated themselves	Baal Peor	to	[But] went	they	your fathers	
		Prep-l, Art N-fs	Conj-w V-Nifal-ConsecImperf-3mp	N-proper-fs	Prep	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Pro-3mp	N-mpc 2mp	
				157 [e] ke·'ā·ho·bām.		8251 [e] šiq·qū·šîm		1961 [e] way·yih·yū	
				כְּאֵהָבָם		שְׂקֻצִים		וַיְהִיוּ	
				like the thing they loved		an abomination		and they became	
				Prep-k V-Qal-Inf 3mp		N-mp		Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3mp	

1. The Lord recalls Israel’s earlier days after leaving Egypt as released slaves ready to be formed into a nation...Abraham’s nation...the chosen nation.
2. Israel’s early days in the desert becoming a nation are compared to:
 - a. “grapes in the wilderness”
 - i. Grapes are not usually found in the wilderness or the desert
 - ii. If grapes are found in the wilderness it is a special treat
 - b. “first fruit on the fig tree in its first season”
 - i. The first figs are exceptionally delicious
3. “I saw your fathers” – the Lord remembers how special that wilderness generation was when he first organized them into his chosen nation.
 - a. Deuteronomy 32:10 – ““He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.”
4. This special generation soon became extremely disappointing
 - a. At Baal-peor the men consecrated themselves to the thing of shame
 - i. Numbers 25:1-18
 - ii. “shame” – *boset* – is the shameful idol of the BAAL at Peor
 1. This was Israel’s first time to worship a Baal god. (1406 BC)

2. Israel would persist in this worship until the day of Hosea in 730 BC
3. BAAL-PEOR was the local deity worshiped by the Moabites.
4. Balaam could not curse Israel, but he did make the suggestion to seduce the men into idol worship at Peor. (see Numbers 31:16)
5. Matching with the theme of Hosea the Moabite woman seduce the men of Israel into sexual sin and sacrifice to the BAAL at Peor.



6. YHWH sent a plague among the people of Israel in judgment.

b. At Baal-peor the men became detestable like the thing they loved

i. They became like the thing they worship

5. Hebrew “bikkura” is the early ripe fig and is related to terms for “firstborn child such as “bakir”, “bekira” and “bekor”.

a. In Exodus 4:22 Israel is YHWH’s “firstborn son.

b. So, Hosea may be making an explicit reference to Israel as God’s son in Egypt with the privilege of being the firstborn and heir in YHWH’s household.

9:11 – “Ephraim’s glory shall fly away like a bird—
no birth, no pregnancy, no conception!”

3205 [e]	3519 [e]	5774 [e]	5775 [e]	669 [e]
mil·lê·dāh	ke·bō·w·dām;	yit·'ō·w·pēp	kā·'ō·wō	'ep·ra·yim
מְלֵדָה	כְּבוֹדָם	יִתְעוֹפֵף	כְּעוֹף	אֶפְרַיִם 11
No birth	their glory	shall fly away	like a bird	[As for] Ephraim
Prep-m V-Qal-Inf 3fs	N-msc 3mp	V-Hitpael-Imperf-3ms	Prep-k, Art N-ms	N-proper-ms

2032 [e]	990 [e]
ū·mê·hê·rā·yō·wn.	ū·mib·be·ṭen
וּמֵהָרִיוֹן	וּמִבֶּטֶן
and no conception	and no pregnancy
Conj-w, Prep-m N-ms	Conj-w, Prep-m N-fs

- 9:11-12 is almost staccato in expression in the Hebrew conveying a burst of emotions.
- Israel's YHWH is the God of glory, so Israel has had their God's glory. By forsaking him that "glory shall fly away like a bird".
- "no birth, no pregnancy, no conception"
 - Israel will fail to sustain their population growth
 - The corruption of sexual relations results in sexual practice, but no conception, pregnancy or birth. Like the worship of false gods is empty vanity, their false sexual relationships will be empty vanity.

9:12 – **“Even if they bring up children,
I will bereave them till none is left.**

**Woe to them
when I depart from them!”**

3588 [e]	120 [e]	7921 [e]	1121 [e]	853 [e]	1431 [e]	518 [e]	3588 [e]
kî-	mê·'ā-dām;	wə·šik·kal·tîm	bē·nê·hem,	'et-	yə·gād·dē·lū	'im-	kî
כִּי	מְאֲדָם	וְשִׁכַלְתִּים	בְּנֵיהֶם	אֶת־	יַגְדִּלוּ	אִם־	כִּי 12
Yes	to the last man	and yet I will bereave them	their children	-	they bring up	Though	Yes
Conj	Prep-m N-ms	Conj-w V-Piel-ConjPerf-1cs 3mp	N-mpc 3mp	DirObjM	V-Piel-Imperf-3mp	Conj	Conj

1992 [e]	5493 [e]	188 [e]	1571 [e]
mê·hem.	bə·šū·rî	lā·hem	'ō·w
מֵהֶם:	בְּשׁוּרֵי	לָהֶם	אֵוִי
from them	when I depart	to them	woe
Prep-m Pro-3mp	Prep-b V-Qal-Inf 1cs	Prep 3mp	Interjection

- Even if they do have children, their children will endure the cultural consequences of this fourth generation's corruption.
- "Woe to them (the children) when I depart from them"
 - Luke 23:28 – Jesus says the same thing to the fourth generation in Israel in 30 AD: "turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.
 - Deuteronomy 32:25 says the children would die, "Outdoors the sword shall bereave, and indoors terror, for young man and woman alike, the nursing child with the man of gray hairs."
- The concept here is that before the Assyrian's 722 BC deportation climaxes YHWH's judgment on Northern Israel, there would be catastrophic plagues and slaughter of the population beginning around 738 BC that would precede the fall of the nation. Israel then would have roughly 15 years of death, famine, plague and slaughter before they are completely destroyed.

9:13 – **“Ephraim, as I have seen, was like a young palm planted in a meadow;
but Ephraim must lead his children out to slaughter.”**

5116 [e] bə·nā·weh; בְּנֵה in a pleasant place Prep-b N-ms	8362 [e] šə·tū·lāh שָׁתוּלָה planted V-Qal-QalPassPrtcpl-fs	6865 [e] lə·šō·wr לְצֹר like Tyre Prep-l N-proper-fs	7200 [e] rā·'î·tî רָאִיתִי I saw V-Qal-Perf-1cs	834 [e] ka·'ā·šer- כַּאֲשֶׁר just as Prep-k Pro-r	669 [e] 'eḇ·ra·yim אֶפְרַיִם 13 Ephraim N-proper-ms
--	---	--	---	---	---

1121 [e] bā·nāw. בָּנָיו his children N-mpc 3ms	2026 [e] hō·rêḡ הַרְג the murderer V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	413 [e] 'el- אֶל- to Prep	3318 [e] lə·hō·w·šî לְהוֹצִיא will bring out Prep-l V-Hifil-Inf	669 [e] wə·'eḇ·ra·yim וְאֶפְרַיִם so Ephraim Conj-w N-proper-ms
---	--	---------------------------------------	---	---

1. The positive benefits of Israel (Ephraim) described as:

“Ephraim, as I have seen, was like a young palm planted in a meadow.”

This refers to:

 - a. Israel’s location on the major trade routes:
 - i. Trade routes ran north to south: Anatolia and Aram in the north to Egypt and Edom in the south.
 - ii. Trade routes ran east to west: Mesopotamia and Arabia in the east to the Greek islands in the west accessed by the Mediterranean coast
 1. For example, the Phoenicians in Tyre had developed as a seafaring people building sea port cities throughout the Mediterranean world. Israel could have done this!
 - b. Possession of the most fertile land in Israel, the Jezreel Valley
 - c. Youthful indicating they were a young vibrant nation with many years left to develop and enjoy their blessings.
2. Israel’s sin prevented them from understanding, developing and realizing the tremendous potential they had.
3. Instead of their children inheriting the parent’s rich history and productive economic system, the children would be led by their parents to slaughter.
 - a. Literally: “So Ephraim will bring out to the murderer his children”, or, “Ephraim will bring his children out to the slayer.”
 - b. The “murderer” or “slayer” is NOT yet the Assyrian military, but something that comes before. This would be the culture of death created by corrupt Israelite society that is built of false realities, false ideologies – murder, civil strife, local warfare.
4. The contrast is obvious: Instead of parents providing a rich cultural heritage for the children to continue developing, the parents will lead their children to a slaughter that ends their culture.
5. “sor” is the term for “rock” and the name for the Phoenician city Tyre. The NASB translates: “Ephrai, as I have seen, is planted in a pleasant meadow like Tyre.”
6. In Ezekiel 11:22-23 the Glory of YHWH flies away out of the Temple leaving Jerusalem to be marked for slaughter.

9:14 – “Give them, O Lord—
 what will you give?
 Give them a miscarrying womb
 and dry breasts.”

7358 [e]	5414 [e]	5414 [e]	4100 [e]	3068 [e]	5414 [e]
re·hem	lā·hem	tên-	tit·tên;	mah-	Yah·weh
לָהֶם	לָהֶם	תֵּן ?	תִּתֶנּוּ	מַה -	יְהוָה לָהֶם
a womb	them	Give	will You give	what	Yahweh them
N-ms	Prep 3mp	V-Qal-Imp-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-2ms	Interrog	N-proper-ms

6784 [e]	7699 [e]	7921 [e]
ṣō·mə·qîm.	wə·šā·da·yim	maš·kîl,
צְמָקִים :	וְשָׂדִים	מִשְׁכִּיל
dry	and breasts	miscarrying
V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp	Conj-w N-md	V-Hifil-Prtcpl-ms

1. “Provide for them, YHWH; what will you provide? Give them a womb that miscarries and dry breasts!”
2. This is either bitterness or sarcasm of Hosea speaking to YHWH in frustration to Israel for refusing to hear his words of advice.

9:15 – “Every evil of theirs is in Gilgal;
 there I began to hate them.
 Because of the wickedness of their deeds
 I will drive them out of my house.
 I will love them no more;
 all their princes are rebels.”

4611 [e]	7455 [e]	5921 [e]	8130 [e]	8033 [e]	3588 [e]	1537 [e]	7451 [e]	3605 [e]
ma·'al·lê·hem,	rō·a'	'al	śe·nê·'îm,	šām	kî-	bag·gil·gāl	rā·'ā·tām	kāl-
מֵעַלְלֵיהֶם	רָע	עַל	שְׂנֵאתֵיהֶם	שָׁם	כִּי -	בְּגִלְגַּל	רָעָתָם	כָּל- 15
of their deeds	of the evil	because	I hated them	there	for	in Gilgal	their wickedness	All [is]
N-mpc 3mp	N-msc	Prep	V-Qal-Perf-1cs 3mp	Adv	Conj	Prep-b, Art N-proper-fs	N-fsc 3mp	N-msc

5637 [e]	8269 [e]	3605 [e]	160 [e]	3254 [e]	3808 [e]	1644 [e]	1004 [e]
sō·rē·rîm.	šā·rê·hem	kāl-	'a·hā·bā·tām,	'ō·w·sêp	lō	'ā·gā·rē·šém;	mib·bê·'îf
סָרְרִים :	שָׂרֵיהֶם	כָּל-	אֶהְבֶּתֶם	-	אוֹסֵף	לֹא	אֶגְרֹשׁ
[are] rebellious	their princes	all	I will love them	more	no	I will drive them	from My house
V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp	N-mpc 3mp	N-msc	V-Qal-Inf 3mp	V-Hifil-Imperf.Jus-1cs	Adv-NegPrt	V-Piel-Imperf-1cs 3mp	Prep-m N-msc 1cs

1. Gilgal was originally a memorial place for the fathers to teach their children the national history and their national religion of YHWH worship. See Joshua 4:1-24:
“Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord....Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. He said to the Israelites, ‘In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them, “Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.” For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God.’ ” – Joshua 4:5-7; 20-24
2. By Hosea day around 740 BC Gilgal had become a place of corrupted national history and false national religion:
 - a. False history included the wrong god getting credit for delivering them from Egypt
 - b. False religion included the wrong form of worship to worship the false god.

Jeroboam I declared two hundred years before in 930 BC:
“So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” – 1 Kings 12:28

 - c. Hosea rejected Gilgal for being a place of sacrifice with many altars. (12:11)
 - d. Amos criticized Gilgal along with Bethel (Amos 4:4; 5:5)
3. “Hate” and “Love” should be consider as covenant terms.
 - a. God has shown faithful covenant love to Israel.
 - b. Now, because they have broken the covenant the Lord will not show them covenant love. The opposite would be no covenant, or “hate”.
 - c. Jacob I have “loved”; Esau I have “hated” means exactly that: Jacob has a covenant with YHWH, but Esau does not.
 - d. This is the language of divorce:
 - i. Deut 24:1-4, giving the wife a certificate of divorce and sending her “from his house”
 - ii. Driving out of the house is a reference to driving out family members, not enemies: Lev. 21:7, 14
4. “all their princes are rebels”
 - a. Israel’s leadership is in rebellion to YHWH and his covenant
 - b. The leaders are leading the society to slaughter, not blessing.
 - c. Isaiah uses the same two terms – “rebellious princes” (“rebellious officials”) or “*sorerim sarim*”
 - i. They were corrupt
 - ii. “Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves. Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do not bring justice to the fatherless, and the widow’s cause does not come to them.” – Isaiah 1:23
 - iii. In Isaiah 65:2 “rebellious” refers to people who choose behavior that is destructive even though they have been told and know it is destructive. They do

so because they want to follow their own false realities and their corrupt ideologies:

“I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices.” – Isaiah 65:2

9:16 – **“Ephraim is stricken;
their root is dried up;
they shall bear no fruit.**

**Even though they give birth,
I will put their beloved children to death.”**

1. Israel is struck deep to the root.
 - a. The root is “dried up” dead. There is no hope. No chance of life
 - b. There will be no fruit. No more chance to be productive or useful.
 - c. This is final
2. Even if Israel seems to organize their best efforts to rebuild and regroup:
 - a. They will not only be working against Truth and Reality, the Lord will himself strike them. Israel will fail because:
 - i. They have a false worldview that will not produce
 - ii. They have YHWH working against them
 - b. Israel can try to produce unity and production like the Tower of Babel, but the Lord will respond the same way.
 - c. Whatever they do produce the Lord is going to kill it.

1571 [e]	1077 [e]	1097 [e]		6529 [e]	3001 [e]	8328 [e]	669 [e]	5221 [e]
gam	ya-‘ā-šūn;	bal-	bal-lī-	pə-rî	yā-bêš	šā-rə-šām	‘eḇ-ra-yim,	huk-kāh
וְגַם	יַעֲשׂוּן	(בְּלִי-)	[בְּלִי-]	פְּרִי	יָבֵשׁ	שְׁרָשָׁם	אֶפְרַיִם	הִכָּה 16
Yes	they shall bear	No	-	fruit	is dried up	their root	Ephraim	Is stricken
Conj	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp Pn	Adv	Adv	N-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3ms	N-msc 3mp	N-proper-ms	V-Hofal-Perf-3ms
		990 [e]	4261 [e]	4191 [e]	3205 [e]	3588 [e]		
	s	biṭ-nām.	ma-ḥā-mad-dē	wə-hē-mat-tî	yê-lê-dūn,	kî		
ס	בְּטֶנָּם:	מִחֲמַדֵּי	וְהִמַּתִּי	וְהִמַּתִּי	יִלְדוּן	כִּי		
-	of their womb	the darlings	and I would kill	and I would kill	they to bear children	were		
Punc	N-fsc 3mp	N-mpc	Conj-w V-Hifil-ConjPerf-1cs	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp Pn	Conj			

9:17 – “My God will reject them
because they have not listened to him;
they shall be wanderers among the nations.”

	8085 [e]	3808 [e]	3588 [e]	430 [e]	3988 [e]
lōw;	šā·mə·'ū	lō	kî	'ē·lō·hay,	yim·'ā·sēm
לֹוּ	שָׁמְעוּ	לֹא	כִּי	אֱלֹהֵי	יִמְאַסֵּם 17
Him	they did obey	not	because	My God	Will cast them away
Prep 3ms	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Adv-NegPrt	Conj	N-mpc 1cs	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms 3mp

	1471 [e]	5074 [e]	1961 [e]
s	bag·gō·w·yim.	nō·dē·dīm	wə·yih·yū
ס .	:בְּגוֹיִם	נִדְדוּיִם	וַיִּהְיוּ
-	among the nations	wanderers	and they shall be
Punc	Prep-b, Art N-mp	V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjImperf-3mp

1. Hosea’s God will reject this nation.
2. Israel was a nation because YHWH made them a nation. But, since they would not listen to the one who made them a nation, they will have no nation for themselves, but will wander among the nations.
3. Remember this began around 740 BC and was fully implemented in 722 BC. This judgment has never been reversed. This sentence to “be wanderers among the nations” is still in effect and waiting for an eschatological fulfillment.
 - a. The Babylonian captivity and return for exile is NOT the Assyrian dispersion.
 - b. The Rome destruction of 70 AD was not a repeat of Assyrian dispersion. If anything it was a repeat of the Babylonian destruction.
 - i. But, Babylonian captivity was given a limit of a 70 year period
 - ii. The Roman destruction would continue until the time of the Gentiles is over.
During this time the temple mount will continue to be trampled on by the Gentiles.
 - c. The Assyrian dispersion is yet to be reversed.
4. 9:17 is Hosea basically providing a commentary on the previous verses clarifying this is an announcement of destruction on Israel.