

HOSEA 14 vs 1

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One last time prophet Hosea says: Ephraim, turn around.

¹ Return, O Israel to the LORD Your God;

for you have fallen because of your iniquity / those who claim to be **ruled by God**; **Ephraim**, the forefather and leader of Israel's sons who inherited **the promises of God given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob**; from earliest biblical history **Ephraim and his older brother Manasseh were greatly blessed by God**; they were both to become a blessing to the world; not a curse; but they abandoned the Lord in pursuit of paganism and hocus pocus traditions; and fell from His grace.



² Take words with you and return to the LORD / it is always good to turn around, no sense wandering further... especially when we discover we've gone the wrong way. Take to the Lord good words, real words; the Lord is not interested in shallow lip service:

say to Him, take away all our iniquity, and receive us for our good, that we may present the fruit of our lips / receive us for our benefit; clearly, that we may rightly praise You.

³ Assyria will not save us, we will not ride on horses; we will not say again "Our god" to the work of our hands / Israel says, been there done that... not all that we thought it would be; while attempting to direct our destinies; we learned how to make a mess of things; our military might won't save us; it is the Spirit of God who saves us; we cannot save our sorry carcasses:

for in You the orphan finds mercy.

Notice, the Lord GOD who speaks to us good words; generously responds to their good words...

⁴ I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for My anger will turn from them / I will heal their moral lapse, their rebellion and infidelity.

⁵ I will be like the dew to Israel: he will blossom like the lily, and he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ His branches will spread, his beauty will be like the olive tree, and his scent will be like the cedars of Lebanon / in other words: he will no longer stink.

⁷ Those who dwell in his shadow will again raise grain, they will blossom like the vine: his renown will be as the wine of Lebanon / not all Ephraim will return to the Lord, but a remnant of Israel will have enough sense to return; the psalmist sings of **those who dwell under the shadow of the Almighty** – Psalm 91;



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⁸ **Ephraim** reflects on the Lord, **what more do I have to do with idols?**

I hear and observe You / I not only hear You, but also observe to do what You say:

I am like a luxuriant cedar; Your fruit is found in me / Your love, joy and peace for one another; kindness and self-control, is found in me.

And prophet Hosea asks...

⁹ **Who is wise? he will understand this. Who is discerning? he will know. For the ways of the LORD are right, and those who do right will walk in them** / they will walk in His ways; His way is the way of truth:

but the wrongdoers will stumble in them.

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