

HOSEA 5 vs 1

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¹ **Hear this, O priests; and pay attention house of Israel; and listen, O house of the king** / the LORD has a word for the faithless religious leaders -- false shepherds feeding God's people junk food; and false leaders, blind guides stumbling in darkness; leading the people either in circles, or worse... into devious alliances with strangers... much like we see happening now days;

for judgment is toward you, because you have been a snare at Mizpah / which means: watchtower... beyond the river Jordan to the East; they were to be security on the east,

and a net spread upon Tabor / the mountain to the West. Hosea tells us, the prideful priests and rulers luxuriated in their positions and traditions and pushed aside the very knowledge of the HOLY; so in their new alliances, in their religious, and political infidelity, they had snared the inheritors of promise, dealing them a death sentence.

² **And the rebels are profound to kill** / the rebels, the rebellious priests and king's household; they are all good, very skillful, but this verse is deceptive; the problem of the religious and political ruling classes is their awesome destruction of the people of God; not a good thing,

though I correct all of them / in Hebrew: **musar**, means: **to correct**; to train; **to instruct**. The LORD is an equal opportunity Boss... He measures out justice rightly not only to shepherds not doing their job, but also to sheep... who are not sheep... [who should have been smarter than dumb sheep](#) -- **Ezekiel 34**.

³ **I know Ephraim, Israel is not hid from Me** / those carrying the birthright promises God gave to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who blessed the young, half-Egyptian son of Joseph when they were in Egypt; the whole house, all the generations of the 12 sons of Israel... the LORD knows where they are, whether or not they seem lost to history. In the last 200 years of archaeology we can -- with a high degree of certainty estimate just where Ephraim -- **Israel in the isles**... and his many nations, with **Manasseh** and his great nation went... as they pushed their enemies to the ends of the earth; they're probably in the NEWS today:

for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom / in Hebrew, this is one word: **zana**... it's a verb; an action word. We could say: **bleeping**... or the **F-word**... or the other F-word: **fornicating**... or **whoring** or **dinging** or any of the hundreds of trash words we all hear on the street / get the point?

for now, O fornicating Ephraim: Israel is defiled / the NASB says: Israel has defiled itself. Now days we might say: Israel has bleeped itself. In other words, they were doing what any good whore would do... but like addictive addicts... they probably didn't realize they were just doing it to themselves.

⁴ **They will not give up their doings to return to their God: for a spirit of male-whoring is in the midst of them and they do not know the LORD** / in Hebrew: **znumin** is a **masculine** noun... used 6 times in this little book... not the feminine noun only mentioned twice; including males whoring with males to work their business schemes... to pillage the unsuspecting; and to destroy their competition.



⁵ **And the pride of Israel testifies against him** / in their arrogance they said: **Abraham was our father!** They would presume to say: **Emmanuel = God is with us!** And we have Moses our great leader who led us from slavery to our sacred, **holy land**. **At the trial of Stephen, what led to his death was his understanding of history**, setting the record straight. **There was no holy land; there was no holy place**; the leaders murdered all the prophets the LORD God sent them.

We in the 21st century would do well to look more closely and rethink what the Lord really taught... because we live in a generation that has equally pushed aside His will, His words and His ways... that alone transform minds, that we might know Him, the Sun of Righteousness... and we rise with healing... when we keep Him in view; when we walk as He said; when we challenge one another to do the same:

the pride of Israel testifies against him, therefore all Israel / this verse verifies **what Zechariah tells us about 3 faithless shepherds: Ephraim and Manasseh** and others included: **will fall in their iniquity** / pride always comes before the fall: **Judah will also fall with them**.

⁶ **They will go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD, but they will not find Him; He has withdrawn from them** / stuck in their boring manmade traditions; yawning, easily distracted, half-heartedly going through the motions; just to ponder this phrase, the sobering reality would be dangerous. Dr. Dallas Willard said, we know God is powerful; but if His power is anything like electricity... then He is dangerous... and we better learn how to approach Him correctly. Prophet Isaiah said, Seek the LORD while He can be found; because one day He plans to move on in His agenda.

⁷ **They have dealt treacherously against the LORD:**

for they gave birth to stinky children / in Hebrew: the word is: **zur**... and instead of this sounding racist or against foreigners, remember, there is only one race: the race of Adam. Abraham's blessing went to Joseph's 2 sons who were half-Egyptian. For centuries, the House of Israel already had learned to sing: **Praise the Lord all nations; praise Him all peoples** -- Psalm 117. Our Father in heaven is a good Father; His parenting skills are excellent. The Hebrew word: **zur**... means: **to stink**. I guess: like father, like son. We just read: their pride was destroying them; so definitely... we conclude: their kids did **not** fare any better, they did not look like... and certainly did not smell like... they were made in the image and likeness of God.

now a month / a new moon... will devour them with their portions /perhaps, this means that the coming judgment from Assyria was fast approaching...30 days and counting; and since the LORD will not be found, Hosea has given the House of Israel fair warning that nothing would stop the inevitable.

⁸ **Blow the shofar in Gibeah, the trumpet in Ramah:**

cry aloud at Beth-aven; "behind you O Benjamin" / sound the alarm at the house of wickedness... Hosea's scornful name for **Bethel**... where Abram first set an altar to the Lord; where Jacob saw a stairway to heaven; Benjamin, take the lead.

⁹ **Ephraim will be destroyed in the day of rebuke: among the tribes of Israel I made known what will surely be.**

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¹⁰ **The princes of Judah were like those who remove the boundary** / even Solomon wrote: Do not remove the ancient landmarks, which your fathers set -- **Proverbs 22**. From ancient times they knew: Some thieves and robbers... remove the landmarks, and violently take its flocks and feed -- **Job 24**. So was the **House of Judah** up to monkey business seizing property instead of helping out brothers?

so **I will pour out My wrath on them like water** / obviously not difficult for the Lord to accomplish.

¹¹ **Ephraim oppresses, he tramples justice, because he was intent to walk after friga-fraga precepts** / after their nonsensical, spiritual sounding... hocus pocus ways of the world.

¹² **Therefore I will be to Ephraim as a moth, and to the house of Judah as rot** / God will creatively consume the pride and deceit of these rebels.

¹³ **When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then Ephraim went to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet he could not heal you, nor cure you of your wound.**

¹⁴ **For I will be to Ephraim as a lion, and as a young lion to the house of Judah: I, even I, will tear to pieces and go away; I will take away, and none will rescue him** / the **House of Israel** had become so faithless... that the LORD wants us to know... HE was fully involved in this separation as Assyrians carried the 10 northern tribes into captivity... resettling them in the area of modern day Mosul in northern Iraq... which is in the news even today.

¹⁵ **I will go and return to My place** / Isaiah fills in detail what happened to the great nation **Manasseh** in the last days of the Gentiles... the LORD said, I will take My rest, and I will consider in My dwelling place - **Isaiah 18**. He will observe the summer growth **before the harvest**; but Hosea didn't know those things.

Hosea knew what the LORD told him about the **House of Israel**:

I, even I, will tear to pieces... I will take away, and none will rescue; I will go and return to My place... till they acknowledge their offence and seek My face in their affliction... they better seek Me early / till they face their error and their pride; till they admit their endless stepping over the line; going beyond what is right and proper; instead of sneaking around and hiding in fear from the only One who can help us; the Lord says, someday they will seek Me while He can still be found!

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