

# HOSEA 8 vs 1

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<sup>1</sup> **Set the trumpet to your mouth** / Hosea is told to sound the alarm; call a solemn assembly, that all might be warned. An enemy is coming with speed and fury to seize their land, and he must awaken them to expect it. The prophet – the watchman in the land... must lift up his voice like a trumpet to call the besieged to stand ready with their arms when he sees the besiegers making their attack -- Matthew Henry.

**as a vulture comes against the household of the LORD** / as swift as a predator... swoops down on its prey; this is a prophetic sign of what is happening in our 21<sup>st</sup> century,

**because they transgress My covenant** / the rebels and traitors among us, who are against the Lord... who move swiftly to rebel against God who makes covenant with His people,

**and rebelled against My law** / the leaders thought they could edit or abolish His 10 commandments; and moving swiftly, they revolted from their allegiance, violating the pact: calling good, evil and evil, good.

<sup>2</sup> **Israel** cries out to Me, “O God, we know You” / they give God lots of lip service, but do not serve Him as He required: to fear the LORD, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, and serve Him with all their heart and with all their soul; to keep the commandments of the Lord... for their good -- **Deuteronomy 10**.

<sup>3</sup> **Israel** rejected the good / they put away and rejected good, that is, God himself; so, they foolishly declared they were no longer His people. He is good, and does good, and is our goodness... there is none good but one, that is God; those who claim to be **ruled by God**... have rejected the true service and worship of God; no longer valuing God; they falsely thought they could go it alone... after all they were very certain: it was their might, and their power that caused their wealth – Matthew Henry:

And based on all the evidence, what is the just God's verdict?

**the enemy will pursue him** / as a vulture-eagle suddenly, swiftly, strongly, furiously attacks its prey; those who break their covenant with God expose themselves to the hatred of all that surrounds them; and they make themselves a cheap and easy prey – Matthew Henry.

<sup>4</sup> **They installed kings, but not by Me** / in their civil affairs: it was quite fashionable; installing or deposing... all depending on who was the most popular contender for the crown:

**they appointed princes, but not with My consent** / wannabe royalty; junior achievers, do-nothings in the making; all led on by their own humor, hurried on by their own passion... all competing for the big chair; none with the character of David; so they were rather busy creating their own reality, doing their own thing.



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**Of silver and gold, they made idols, to their own destruction** / In their religious affairs, endlessly, brazenly violating the 10 simple commands of God that Moses warned them about as they prepared to possess the land. Idolaters spare no cost worshiping their idols. Their silver and gold are the gods to where they place their happiness, where they set their hearts, where they pay their homage, and where they place their confidence... things that have no breath, that cannot speak and cannot guide; and cannot save.



**<sup>5</sup> Your calf, O Samaria, has cast you off** / Israel cast off the only good they knew, their GOD; so, God in just retribution takes what they thought was great and casts off Israel: it was Jeroboam who journeyed to Egypt where he saw in Memphis, Luxor and Heliopolis the worship in the form of a fat ox – Baal worship;

**My anger is ignited against them: how long will it take before they return innocent** / blameless, guiltless? Regarding these idols of silver and gold; regarding this golden calf... Aaron tried to bring one with them, and the LORD would have destroyed him on the spot, thankfully Moses interceded.

**<sup>6</sup> For from Israel is all this! A craftsman made it; so, it is not from God. Surely the calf of Samaria will be broken in pieces** / it will become sawdust, shards and debris.

**<sup>7</sup> For they sow the wind, and they will reap the whirlwind** / they sowed idolatry; they will reap Assyrian captivity:

**it has no stalk; it yields no fruit, if it yield fruit, the strangers would swallow it up** / Hosea says, Israel is a worthless planting; a profitless venture; the LORD says, let the foreigners have it.

**<sup>8</sup> Israel is swallowed up: they are now among the nations like a vessel that no one delights** / for now they are nothing special, even to God; they lost their credit and reputation; they are bankrupt; none of the neighbors value them, none care to have anything to do with them; they have grown ordinary.

**<sup>9</sup> For they went to Assyria, Ephraim like a wild jackass wandering alone, has hired lovers** / it was their choice; they paid tribute to in exchange for protection; obviously, they had wandered from God's promise to protect them; they paid Assyria male-prostitute fees for their services.

**<sup>10</sup> Even though they hired allies among the nations, I will now gather them up** / the LORD hasn't given up on Israel; but He is going to turn up the heat,

**and they will sorrow a little while...**

**under the burden of the king of princes** / under the weight of the Assyrian king, they were going to feel a little pain; even though they paid for security, it would not come.

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<sup>11</sup> Since **Ephraim** built many altars to sin, so, they will be altars of sinning to him / they built altars to Baal; and the Lord says, your will be done, whether or not they like the outcome.



➡ <sup>12</sup> **If I wrote ten thousand commands for him in My law, they would be counted as strange** / His 10 commands and no more... were for a long, healthy, prosperous life HERE ON EARTH; none of the 10 even mentioned the word: perfectly. The 10 commands have nothing to do with eternal promises. I imagine the Creator isn't much impressed if like pigs, we ignore His orderliness on earth; and then claim we want to live with Him forever. To most He will say: No thank you!! already the 10 are strangely ignored by most who claim they belong to Him; no need to create any more laws ([see this idea mirrored in: Ezekiel 20:25](#)).

<sup>13</sup> **They sacrifice flesh, offering sacrifices to Me and eat, but the LORD does not accept them** / they became so demonized, that like their evil pagan neighbors... they too could callously offered their own children to the fires of Baal, thinking the God of life and joy and peace was impressed.

**Now He will remember their iniquity, and punish their sins: they will return to Egypt / they will be sent as slaves among the nations; they will be taken captive.**

<sup>14</sup> For **Israel** has forgotten his Maker and builds temples / to Baal, both **the great commonwealth** and **great nation** are in focus;

and **Judah** has multiplied its fortified cities, but I will send a fire upon its cities, and it will devour its strongholds / so Judah saw what **Israel** was doing, instead of waking up; and doing what was right before the Lord; they too, showed their defiance; and the Lord says... they are next in His sightlines; **these 3 faithless shepherds will be dealt with** -- Zechariah 11.

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