

# The Book of Hosea

## Chapter 10

### Introduction

- This chapter makes use of agricultural imagery to show the guilty state of Israel and the judgment that will come upon them,

### Chapter Ten

- vs. 1 - The image here is of a vine that is uncultivated and wild. It grows unpruned and its purpose unfulfilled. Instead of producing fruit it grows even larger.
- vs. 2 - I Kings 18:1, Matthew 6:24
- vs. 3 - This is despair. But note the focus on the king instead of the Lord.
- vs. 4 - their empty words and empty promises led to empty fields.
- vs. 5 - Bethaven - “house of iniquity”, also known as Bethel or “House of God”. The name change seems to correspond with the setting up of idols there (I Kings 12:28-33)
- vs. 5 – Even in judgment the people and priests will long for their old, sinful ways.
- vs. 6 – The people will be ashamed when the object of their trust (golden calf) is taken away and proves powerless.
- vs. 7 - nice imagery here with the foam. Ever see how easily a wave washes it away on a shore?
- vs. 8 - Aven = Bethaven, here dropping “house of” and simply called “iniquity”
- vs. 9 - Gibeah - the terrible crime of Judges 19. Also mentioned in 9:9
- vs. 10 - between two furrows - image of plowing but not staying straight until bound and forced to.
- vs. 11 - Lot of agricultural imagery here. First, the heifer treading the corn in a mill had a cushy job with lots of snacking (Deuteronomy 25:4). Below this job, and with much harder labor, was being yoked to a plow and pulling it over fields. Ephraim is thus humbled, with Judah working alongside, with Jacob, or Israel itself, having the lowly job of busting up chunks of earth the blow didn't properly work.
- vs. 12-13 - the laws of sowing and reaping are in affect (Galatians 6:7-9)
- vs. 14 - Shalman and Betharbel - probably refers to a great victory by the Assyrian king Shalmaneser that is sadly lost to history. This probably was a recent event for Hosea.
- vs. 15 - Note the name change of Bethel, no longer Bethaven. Why? The idols have been removed through judgment.