



unfoldingWord® Literal Text

v90

Hosea

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Hosea

1 ¹ The word of Yahweh that was to Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, **and** Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam, the son of Joash, king of Israel.

² The beginning of **when** Yahweh spoke through Hosea. And Yahweh said to Hosea, "Go, take for yourself a wife of prostitutions and children of prostitutions, for prostituting, the land prostitutes **itself** from after Yahweh."

³ So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore a son to him.

⁴ And Yahweh said to him, "Call his name Jezreel, for yet a little **while** and I will visit the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu, and I will cause the kingdom of the house of Israel to cease. ⁵ And it will be on that day that I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel."

⁶ And she conceived again and bore a daughter. And he said to him, "Call her name Lo Ruhamah, for I will not continue again to have compassion on the house of Israel, but carrying away, I will carry them away. ⁷ But the house of Judah I will have compassion on, and I will save them by Yahweh their God. And I will not save them by bow and by sword and by battle, by horses, and by horsemen."

⁸ And she weaned Lo Ruhamah, and she conceived and bore a son.

⁹ And he said, "Call his name Lo

Ammi, for you **are** not my people, and I **am** not 'I am' for you."

¹⁰ And it will be **that** the number of the sons of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured and cannot be counted. And it will be **that** in the place where it was said to them, "You **are** not my people," it will be said to them, "Sons of the living God."

¹¹ And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel will be gathered together, and they will appoint for themselves one head, and they will arise from the land, for great **is** the day of Jezreel.

2 ¹ Say to your brothers, "Ammi,"

and to your sisters, "Ruhamah."

² Contend with your mother, contend,

for she **is** not my wife, and I **am** not her husband.

And let her remove her prostitutions from her face, and her adulteries from between her breasts,

³ lest I strip her naked, and place her as **on** the day of her being born,

and I make her like the wilderness, and set her like a land of dryness,

and I kill her with the thirst.

⁴ And I will not have compassion on her children,

for they **are** children of prostitutions.

⁵ For their mother has prostituted **herself**;

the one who conceived them has acted shamefully,

for she said, "Let me go after my lovers,

the givers of my bread and my water,

my wool and my linen,

my oil and my drink."

6 Therefore, behold me blocking your way with the thorns,

and I will wall up a wall against her,

and her paths she will not find.

7 And she will pursue her lovers, but she will not overtake them,

and she will seek them,

but she will not find **them**.

And she will say, "Let me go and return

to my first husband,

for **it was** better for me then than now."

8 And she, she did not know that I, I gave to her

the grain and the new wine and the oil,

and silver I multiplied to her,

and gold **which** they made for the Baal.

9 Therefore I will return and take my grain in its time,

and my new wine in its appointed time,

and I will snatch away my wool and my linen

meant to cover her nakedness.

10 And now I will uncover her lewdness

to the eyes of her lovers,

and no man will deliver her from my hand.

11 And I will cause all of her joy to cease,

her feast, her new moon, and her Sabbath,

and all of her appointed festivals.

12 And I will devastate her vine and her fig tree,

of which she said, "A payment they **are** to me,

which my lovers gave to me."

And I will make them a forest,

and the beasts of the field will eat them.

13 And I will visit on her the days of the Baals,

in which she burned **incense** to them,

and she put on her ring and her jewelry,

and she went after her lovers, but me she forgot.

—the declaration of Yahweh.

14 Therefore, behold, I am alluring her,

and I will lead her **into** the wilderness,

and I will speak on her heart.

15 And I will give to her her vineyards from there,

and the Valley of Achor as a door of hope.

And she will answer there as **in** the days of her youth,

and as **on** the day of her going up from the land of Egypt.

16 And it will be on that day—the declaration of Yahweh—you will call **me** "My Husband,"

and you will no longer call me "My Baal."

17 And I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth,

and they will no longer be remembered by their name.

18 And I will cut a covenant for them on that day,
with the beasts of the field,
and with the birds of the heavens,
and the creeping things of the ground.

And bow and sword and battle I will break from the land,
and I will make them lie down in safety.

19 And I will betroth you to me forever,
and I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice,
and in covenant faithfulness and in compassion.

20 And I will betroth you to me in faithfulness,
and you will know Yahweh.

21 And it will be on that day,
I will answer—the declaration of Yahweh—I will answer the heavens,
and they, they will answer the earth.

22 And the earth will answer the grain and the new wine and the oil,
and they will answer Jezreel.

23 And I will sow her for myself on the earth,
and I will have compassion on Lo Ruhamah,
and I will say to Lo Ammi, “You **are** my people,”
and he, he will say, “My God.”

3 ¹ And Yahweh said to me,
“Again go, love a woman loved by a friend and committing adultery, like the love of Yahweh for the sons of Israel, and they turning to other gods and lovers of raisin cakes of

grapes.” ² So I bought her for myself for 15 of silver, and a homer of barley, and a lethek of barley.

³ And I said to her, “Many days you will dwell with me. You will not prostitute **yourself**, and you will not be to a man, and also I **will be** to

you.” ⁴ For many days the sons of Israel will dwell without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without a pillar, and without an ephod, and teraphim.

⁵ Afterward, the sons of Israel will return and will seek Yahweh their God and David their king, and they will tremble toward Yahweh and toward his goodness in the latter days.

4 ¹ Hear the word of Yahweh, sons of Israel,

for Yahweh has a dispute with the dwellers of the land,

for there is no truth

and there is no covenant faithfulness,

and there is no knowledge of God in the land.

² Swearing and deceiving and murdering and stealing and committing adultery!

They have broken out, and bloodshed touches bloodshed!

³ Therefore the land mourns,
and every dweller in it languishes,

along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the heavens,
and even the fish of the sea are gathered away.

⁴ Surely no man may dispute,
and no man may reprove,
but your people **are** like those disputing with a priest!

⁵ And you will stumble by day,

and also the prophet will
stumble with you by night,
and I will destroy your
mother.

6 My people are destroyed from
lack of the knowledge.

Because you, you have
rejected the knowledge,
I will reject you from being a
priest to me.

And you have forgotten the
law of your God;

I, I also will forget your sons.

7 As they multiplied, so they
sinned against me.

I will exchange their glory for
dishonor.

8 They eat the sin of my people,
and to their iniquity they lift
up his soul.

9 And it will be like people, like
priest.

And I will visit upon him his
ways, and I will return his
deeds to him.

10 And they will eat but not be
full.

They prostituted **themselves**, but
they will not increase,

for they have forsaken to heed
Yahweh.

11 Prostitution and wine and
new wine take heart.

12 My people inquires of his
wood,

and his staff declares to him,
for a spirit of prostitutions has
led astray,

and they have prostituted
themselves from under their
God.

13 On the tops of the mountains
they sacrifice,

and on the hills they burn
incense,

under oak and poplar and
terebinth,

for its shade **is** good.

Therefore your daughters
prostitute **themselves**,

and your daughters-in-law
commit adultery.

14 I will not visit upon your
daughters when they prostitute
themselves,

and upon your daughters-in-
law when they commit
adultery,

for the men, they go aside with
the prostitutes,

and they sacrifice with the
temple prostitutes,

and a people **who** does not
understand will be thrown
down.

15 If you are prostituting
yourself, Israel,

let not Judah become guilty.

And do not go **to** Gilgal, and do
not go up **to** Beth Aven, and do
not swear, "**By** the life of
Yahweh."

16 For Israel is stubborn like a
stubborn cow.

Now will Yahweh pasture
them like a lamb in a wide
place?

17 Ephraim **is** joined to idols.
Leave him alone.

18 Their drink has ceased.
Prostituting, they have
prostituted **themselves**.

Her shields have loved, loved
dishonor.

19 A wind has wrapped her in its
wings,
and they will have shame from
their sacrifices.

5 ¹ Hear this, priests,
 and pay attention, house of
 Israel,
 and give ear, house of the
 king,
 for the judgment **is** for you,
 for you have been a snare to
 Mizpah
 and a net spread over Tabor.
2 And the revolvers have made
 the slaughter deep,
 but I **will** be a reproof to all of
 them.
3 I, I know Ephraim,
 and Israel is not hidden from
 me,
 for now you have prostituted
yourself, Ephraim;
 Israel is defiled.
4 Their deeds will not allow **them**
 to return to their God,
 for a spirit of prostitutions **is** in
 their midst,
 and they do not know Yahweh.
5 And the pride of Israel testifies
 against his face,
 and Israel and Ephraim will
 stumble in their sin;
 Judah also stumbles with
 them.
6 With their flocks and with their
 herds
 they will go to seek Yahweh,
 but they will not find **him**.
 He has withdrawn from them.
7 They have betrayed Yahweh,
 for they have borne strange
 children.
 Now **at** the new moon he will
 devour them
 with their portions.
8 Blow a shofar in Gibeah,

a trumpet in Ramah!
 Sound the alarm at Beth Aven!
 After you, Benjamin!
9 Ephraim will become a
 desolation
 in the day of rebuke.
 Among the tribes of Israel
 I have made known what is
 certain.
10 The princes of Judah have
 become
 like the movers of a boundary.
 I will pour out my wrath on them
 like water.
11 Ephraim is oppressed,
 crushed **in** judgment,
 because he was determined,
 he walked after nonsense.
12 So I **am** like a moth to
 Ephraim,
 and like rot to the house of
 Judah.
13 And Ephraim saw his
 sickness,
 and Judah **saw** his wound,
 then Ephraim went to Assyria
 and sent to the king of Yareb.
 But he, he is not able to heal you,
 and he will not remove the
 wound from you.
14 For I **will be** like a lion to
 Ephraim,
 and like a young lion to the
 house of Judah.
 I, I, I will tear and go away;
 I will carry off,
 and there will be no rescuer.
15 I will go, I shall return to my
 place,
 until they acknowledge their
 guilt and seek my face.
 In their distress
 they will earnestly seek me.

6 ¹ “Come, and let us return
to Yahweh,
for he, he has torn, and he will
heal us;
he struck, and he will bind us
up.

2 He will revive us after two
days;
on the third day he will raise
us up,
and we will live to his face.

3 And let us know, let us pursue
to know Yahweh.
Like the dawn, **his** going forth
is established,
and he will come like the rain
to us,
like the latter rain **that** waters
the land.”

4 What shall I do for you,
Ephraim?
What shall I do for you,
Judah?
And your covenant
faithfulness **is** like a cloud of
the morning,
and like the dew rising early
and going **away**.

5 Therefore I have hewn **them** by
the prophets;
I have killed them by the
words of my mouth,
and your judgments **are as**
light **that** goes forth.

6 For I desire covenant
faithfulness and not sacrifice,
and the knowledge of God
more than burnt offerings.

7 But they, like Adam, they
transgressed **the** covenant;
there they acted
treacherously against me.

8 Gilead **is** a city of workers of
evil,

tracked with blood.

9 And, as lying in wait for a man,
are bands;
a company of priests murder
on the way toward Shechem,
for they have done villainy.

10 In the house of Israel I have
seen the horrible;
Ephraim’s prostitution **is**
there;
Israel is defiled.

11 Also, Judah, he has appointed
a harvest for you.
When I restore the fortunes of
my people,

7 ¹ when I would heal Israel,
then the iniquity of Ephraim is
uncovered,
and the evils of Samaria,
for they practice falsehood,
and a thief comes in;
a raiding band strips **them**
outside.

2 And they do not say to their
heart
that I remember all of their
evil.

Now their deeds surround them;
they are before my face.

3 By their evil they make **the**
king glad,
and by their lies, **the** princes.

4 All of them **are** adulterers,
like an oven burning from a
baker;
he ceases from awakening **it**,
from the kneading of the
dough until leavening it.

5 **On** the day of our king,
the princes made **him** sick
with heat from wine.

He extended his hand with the
mockers.

6 For they have brought near
their heart like an oven
in their ambush.
All the night their baker **is**
asleep;
in the morning it is burning
like a fire of flame.

7 All of them are hot like an
oven,
and they devour their judges.
All of their kings have fallen;
there is none among them
calling to me.

8 Ephraim, he mixes himself
among the peoples.
Ephraim is a bread cake not
turned over.

9 Strangers have devoured his
strength,
and he does not know **it**.
Moreover, gray hair is sprinkled
on him,
and he does not know **it**.

10 And the pride of Israel
testifies against his face,
and they have not returned to
Yahweh their God,
and they have not sought him
in all this.

11 And Ephraim has been like a
dove,
being silly, without heart.
They called **to** Egypt;
they went **to** Assyria.

12 Whenever they go, I will
spread my net over them;
like birds of the heavens I will
bring them down.
I will discipline them
according to the report to
their congregation.

13 Woe to them, for they have
wandered from me!

Destruction to them, for they
have revolted against me!
And I, I would redeem them,
but they, they have spoken
lies against me.

14 And they have not cried out to
me in their heart,
but they wail on their beds.
For grain and new wine they
sojourn;
they turn away from me.

15 And I, I trained,
I strengthened their arms,
but against me they plan evil.

16 They turn, **but** not upward;
they are like a deceitful bow.
Their princes will fall by the
sword
from the indignation of their
tongue.
This **is** their scorn in the land of
Egypt.

8 ¹ "To your palate, a shofar!
Like a vulture over the house of
Yahweh,
because they have
transgressed my covenant
and against my law they have
rebelled.

2 To me they cry out,
'My God, we, Israel, know
you.'

3 Israel has rejected the good;
an enemy will pursue him.

4 They, they have made kings,
but not from me.
They have appointed princes,
but I did not know.
Their silver and their gold
they have made for
themselves **into** idols,
so that he will be cut off."

5 “He has rejected your calf,
Samaria.

My nose burns against them.
Until when will they not attain
innocence?

6 For from Israel **is** even this:
a craftsman made it,
and it **is** not God!

Surely the calf of Samaria
will become broken pieces.

7 For they sow wind,
and they will reap a
whirlwind;
standing grain on which there is
no head.

It will not yield flour.
If perhaps it yields,
strangers will swallow it up.

8 Israel is swallowed up.
Now they are among the
nations
like a vessel in which there is
no delight.

9 For they, they have gone up to
Assyria,
a wild donkey alone by itself.
Ephraim has hired lovers.

10 Even though they hire among
the nations,
now I will gather them.
And they will begin **in** a little
from the burden of the king of
princes.

11 Because Ephraim has
multiplied altars for sin,
they have become for him
altars for sin.

12 Were I to write for him
myriads of my law,
they would be regarded as
something strange.

13 The sacrifices of my gifts

they sacrifice flesh and they
eat.

Yahweh does not accept them.

Now he will remember their
iniquity

and punish their sins.

They, they will return to Egypt.

14 And Israel forgot his maker
and built palaces.

And Judah has multiplied
fortified cities,

but I will send fire on his
cities,
and it will devour her
citadels.”

9 **1** Do not rejoice, Israel,
to joy like the peoples,
for you have prostituted **yourself**
from upon your God.

You have loved prostitute-
wages
on all the threshing floors of
grain.

2 The threshing floor and the
winepress will not feed them,
and the new wine will fail her.

3 They will not dwell in the land
of Yahweh,
and Ephraim will return **to**
Egypt,
and in Assyria they will eat
unclean **food**.

4 They will not pour out wine to
Yahweh,
and their sacrifices will not be
pleasing to him;
like bread of mourning **they will**
be to them;
all the eaters of it will be
defiled.

For their bread **will** be for their
appetite;

it will not enter the house of
Yahweh.

5 What will you do for the day of meeting,

and for the day of the festival of Yahweh?

6 For behold, they go away from destruction,

Egypt will gather them;

Memphis will bury them.

Nettles will possess the precious things of their silver;

thorns **will be** in their tents.

7 The days of punishment have come;

the days of retribution have come.

Israel will know **it**!

The prophet **is** a fool;

the man of the Spirit is insane,

because of the abundance of your iniquity

and great hostility.

8 The watcher of Ephraim **is** with my God;

as for the prophet, a snare of a fowler **is** on all his ways;

hostility **is** in the house of his God.

9 They have made deep, they have corrupted **themselves**

as **in** the days of Gibeah.

He will remember their iniquity;

he will punish their sins.

10 Like grapes in the wilderness, I found Israel.

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

They, they came to Baal Peor, and they devoted themselves to the shame,

and they became abominations like **what** they loved.

11 Ephraim—like a bird their glory will fly away—

from birth, and from womb, and from conception.

12 Even if they raise their children,

I will bereave them from a man.

For indeed, woe to them

when I turn away from them!

13 Ephraim—just as I have seen for Tyre,

planted in a meadow,

so Ephraim **is** to bring out his children to the slayer.

14 Give to them, Yahweh—what will you give?

Give to them a miscarrying womb

and dry breasts.

15 All their evil **is** in Gilgal, for there I hated them.

Because of the evil of their deeds,

I will drive them out of my house.

I will not continue loving them; all their princes **are** rebels.

16 Ephraim is struck;

their root has dried up;

they will not produce fruit.

Even if they do give birth,

then I will kill the precious ones of their womb.

17 My God will reject them,

for they have not listened to him,

so they will be wanderers among the nations.

10 ¹ Israel **is** an emptying vine;

he places fruit for himself.

According to the abundance of
his fruit,
 he made abundant altars.
According to the goodness of his
land,
 they made good pillars.

2 Their heart is slippery;
 now they will bear guilt.
He, he will break the neck of
their altars;
 he will destroy their pillars.

3 For now they will say,
 "There is no king for us,
for we did not fear Yahweh,
 and the king—what could he
do for us?"

4 They have spoken words,
 swearing oaths of
 worthlessness, cutting a
 covenant,
so judgment sprouts like a
poisonous weed
 on the furrows of a field.

5 The inhabitant of Samaria will
be afraid
 for the calves of Beth Aven,
for its people will mourn over it,
 and its idolatrous priests will
shout
over it, over its glory,
 for it has departed from it.

6 Even it will be carried to
Assyria,
 a tribute to the king of Yareb.
Ephraim will receive shame,
 and Israel will be ashamed of
his counsel.

7 Samaria—its king will be
ended,
 like a splinter on the face of
the waters.

8 And the high places of Aven
will be destroyed,

the sin of Israel.
Thorn and thistle will grow up on
their altars,
 and they will say to the
mountains, "Cover us!"
 and to the hills, "Fall on us!"

9 From the days of Gibeah
you have sinned, Israel.
There they have stood.
Will not war overtake them in
Gibeah,
 against the sons of injustice?

10 When it is my desire, I will
chastise them,
 and peoples will be gathered
against them
 when they are bound to their
two eyes.

11 And Ephraim **is** a trained
heifer
 loving to thresh,
but I, I have passed over upon
the goodness of her neck.
I will harness Ephraim;
Judah will plow;
Jacob will harrow by himself.

12 Sow for yourselves for
righteousness;
 reap to the mouth of covenant
faithfulness.
Till for yourselves tillage,
 and **it is** time to seek Yahweh,
until he comes
 and rains righteousness on
you.

13 You have plowed wickedness;
you have reaped injustice.
You have eaten the fruit of
deception,
 for you trusted in your way,
in the multitude of your
warriors.

14 And a tumult will arise among
your people,
and all your fortresses will be
destroyed,
as Shalman destroyed Beth Arbel
on the day of battle—
a mother was dashed to pieces
upon **her** sons.

15 Thus he will do to you, Bethel,
from the face of the evil of
your evil.
At the dawn, the king of Israel
being destroyed,
will be destroyed.

11 ¹ When Israel was a child
I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my
son.

² They called to them, thus they
went from their faces.
They kept sacrificing to the Baals
and burning to the idols.

³ Yet I, I taught Ephraim to walk.
He took them upon his arms,
but they did not know that I
healed them.

⁴ I led them with cords of
humanity,
with bands of love.
And I was to them like the lifters
of a yoke on their jaws,
and I bent down to him; I fed
him.

⁵ He will not return to the land
of Egypt,
but Assyria—he **will be** his
king,
because they refused to return.

⁶ The sword will whirl against
his cities,
and will destroy his bars,
and will devour because of
their plans.

⁷ And my people are bent on
turning away from me.
Though they call to him on
high,
he will not raise **them** up at
all.

⁸ How can I give you up,
Ephraim,
surrender you, Israel?
How can I make you like Admah,
set you like Zeboiim?
My heart is turned over within
me;
all my compassions are
aroused together.

⁹ I will not carry out the burning
of my nose; I will not repeat to
destroy Ephraim! For I **am** God
and not man, the Holy **One** in
your midst, and I will not come in
wrath. ¹⁰ They will come after
Yahweh;
he will roar like a lion.
When he, he roars,
sons will come trembling from
the sea.

¹¹ They will come trembling like
a bird from Egypt, and like a
dove from the land of Assyria.
And I will settle them in their
homes—the declaration of
Yahweh. ¹² Ephraim has
surrounded me with lies, and the
house of Israel with deceit. But
Judah still roams with God, and
is established with the Holy **One**.

12 ¹ Ephraim is feeding on
wind
and pursuing the east-wind all
the day.
He multiplies lies and
destruction.
And they cut a covenant with
Assyria,
and oil is carried to Egypt.

2 And a dispute **is** to Yahweh
with Judah,
and to punish Jacob according
to his ways;
according to his deeds he will
repay to him.

3 In the womb he took his
brother by the heel,
and in his manhood he
struggled with God.

4 And he struggled with an angel
and prevailed.
He wept and begged favor of
him.
At Bethel he found him,
and there he spoke with us.

5 And Yahweh, the God of
Armies—
Yahweh **is** his memorial name.

6 And you, by your God you must
return.
Keep covenant faithfulness
and justice,
and wait for your God
continually.

7 A merchant—in his hand **are**
scales of deceit—
he loves to oppress.

8 And Ephraim said, “Surely I
have become rich;
I have found wealth for
myself.
All of my labors—they will not
find iniquity in me
that **would be** sin.”

9 “And I **am** Yahweh your God
from the land of Egypt.
I will make you dwell in tents
again,
as in the days of the
appointed festival.

10 And I spoke through the
prophets,
and I, I multiplied visions,

and by the hand of the
prophets I gave parables.”

11 If Gilead **is** iniquity,
surely they have become
worthlessness.
In Gilgal, they sacrifice bulls;
even their altars **will be** like
heaps
on the furrows of the field.

12 And Jacob fled **to** the field of
Aram,
and Israel served for a wife,
and for a wife he kept **sheep**.

13 And by a prophet Yahweh
brought Israel up from Egypt,
and by a prophet he was kept.

14 Ephraim has provoked
bitternesses,
and his Lord will leave his
bloodguilt on him
and will return his reproach to
him.

13 ¹ When Ephraim spoke—
trembling!
He lifted up himself in Israel.
But he became guilty through
Baal
and died.

2 And now they continue to sin,
and they have made for
themselves a cast image from
their silver,
idols according to their skill,
all of it the work of craftsmen.
To them they are saying **things**,
the sacrificers of humanity,
they kiss calves!

3 Therefore they will be like a
cloud of the morning
and like the dew rising early,
going;
like chaff—it is blown away from
the threshing floor—

and like smoke from a window.

4 “Yet I **am** Yahweh your God from the land of Egypt, and you will not know a god except me, and there is no savior besides me.

5 I, I knew you in the wilderness, in the land of drought.

6 According to their pasturage, then they became satisfied; they were satisfied, and their heart was lifted up. Therefore they forgot me.

7 So I am to them like a lion; like a leopard along the path I will watch.

8 I will encounter them like a bereaved bear, and I will tear open the enclosure of their heart. And I will devour them there like a lioness; the beast of the field will rip them open.

9 It has destroyed you, Israel, that **you are** against me, against your help.

10 Where **is** your king now, that he may save you in all of your cities, and your judges of whom you said, ‘Give to me a king and princes’?

11 I give to you a king in my nose, and I take **him** away in my wrath.

12 The iniquity of Ephraim **is** bound up; his sin **is** stored up.

13 The pains of a woman giving birth will come to him; he **is** a son not wise, for **at** the time he does not stand at the womb opening of sons.

14 From the hand of Sheol I would ransom them; from death I would redeem them! Where are your plagues, Death? Where is your destruction, Sheol? Relenting is hidden from my eyes.

15 Although he, among brothers, he bears fruit, an easterly will come, the wind of Yahweh, coming up from the wilderness, and his fountain will be ashamed and his spring will dry up. It, it will plunder the treasury of every vessel of desire.

16 Samaria will bear guilt, for she has rebelled against her God. By the sword they will fall; their young children will be dashed to pieces, and his pregnant women will be ripped open.”

14 ¹ Return, Israel, to Yahweh your God, for you have stumbled in your iniquity.

2 Take with you words and return to Yahweh. Say to him, “Take away all iniquity and accept **what** is good, and let us repay **with** bulls of our lips.

3 Assyria will not save us;
 we will not ride on a horse.
 And we will not say anymore,
 'Our God,'
 to the work of our hands,
 who by you the fatherless is
 shown compassion."

4 "I will heal their turning away;
 I will love them freely,
 for my nose has turned away
 from them.

5 I will be like the dew to Israel;
 he will blossom like the lily,
 and he will strike his roots
 like Lebanon.

6 His shoots will go forth,
 and his splendor will be like
 the olive tree,
 and the scent of him like
 Lebanon."

7 They will return, dwellers in
 his shadow;
 they will revive grain
 and blossom like the vine.
 His remembrance **will be** like the
 wine of Lebanon.

8 "Ephraim, what to me still to
 idols?

I, I have answered and I will
 look after him.

I **am** like a luxuriant cypress;
 from me your fruit is found."

9 Who **is** wise? Then let him
 understand these things.

Discerning? Then let him
 know them.

For the ways of Yahweh **are**
 right,

and the righteous will walk in
 them,

but the transgressors will
 stumble in them.