

of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is kept in store. ¹³ The pangs of childbirth come for him, but he is an unwise son, for at the right time he does not present himself at the opening of the womb. ¹⁴ Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death? O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion is hidden from my eyes. ¹⁵ Though he may flourish among his brothers, the east wind, the wind of the LORD, shall come, rising from the wilderness, and his fountain shall dry up; his spring shall be parched; it shall strip his treasury of every precious thing. ¹⁶ Samaria shall bear her guilt, because she has rebelled against her God; they shall fall by the sword; their little ones shall be dashed in pieces, and their pregnant women ripped open.

“He **destroys** you, O Israel, for you are against me, against your helper.”

God poses two sets of questions which reveal their imminent destruction:

- **The LORD summons their rulers** (vv. 10-13)

“Where now is your king, to **save** you in all your cities? Where are all your rulers - those of whom you said, “Give me a king and princes”?”

“I gave you a king in my anger, and I took him away in my wrath.”

“The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is kept in store.”

“The pangs of childbirth come for him, but he is an unwise son, for at the right time he does not present himself at the opening of the womb.”

- **The LORD summons their death** (vv. 14-16)

“Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death? O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting?”

What are we to make of these questions in light of 1 Cor 15:55?

“Compassion is hidden from my eyes.”

“Though he may flourish among his brothers, the east wind, the wind of the LORD, shall come, rising from the wilderness, and his fountain shall dry up; his spring shall be parched; it shall strip his treasury of every precious thing.”

“Samaria shall **bear** her **guilt**, because she has rebelled against her God; they shall fall by the sword; their little ones shall be dashed in pieces, and their pregnant women ripped open.”

See Deuteronomy 4:15-24, 25-40 and 2 Kings 17:1-23

- Guilt and God...
- Guilt and destruction...
- Guilt and arrogance...

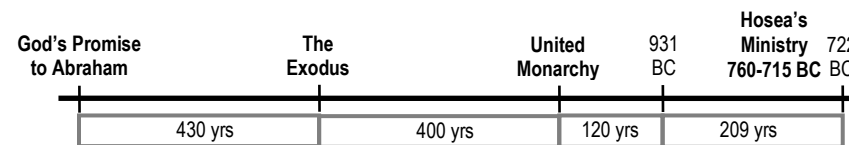
Sunday, May 3, 2026
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

Hosea—Faithless People Faithful God
No. 20 | God’s Contention with Israel—
Emotion and Relationship, pt. 11

Hosea 13:1-16

Review

The Book of Hosea: (1) It is the first book of the minor prophets in the Old Testament (starting on page 751 in the ESV Pew Bible); (2) It recounts the “word of the LORD” to Hosea, a man who served as a prophet in deed and in word; (3) His prophetic ministry was most immediately to the northern kingdom of Israel (Samaria), then to the southern kingdom of Judah (Jerusalem); (4) He began his prophetic ministry likely shortly before Jeroboam II died (753 BC) and concluded shortly after Hezekiah began to reign (729 BC).



The Book of Hosea is about the *faithlessness* of God’s people and his *faithfulness* to them, illustrated most poignantly through marital (in)fidelity.

God’s Contention with Israel—Emotion and Relationship, pt. 11 **13:1-16**

ESV **Hosea 4:1** Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a **controversy** with the inhabitants of the land.

What is the “**controversy**” (contention) God has with Israel?

ESV **Hosea 1:2** “...the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD.”

ESV **Hosea 3:1** “...the children of Israel...turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.”

ESV **Hosea 4:** ¹ There **is no** faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; ² there **is** swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.

How does God’s contention with Israel (4:1-3) relate to 11:1-13:16?

This section, while continuing to make use of several themes, especially emphasizes the **relationship** God has with Israel, and the **emotion** related to it.

God’s contention with Israel (4:1-3)

Against the priests and people—the religious life of Israel (4:4-5:7)

Against the princes and people—the political life of Israel (5:8-7:16)

Reveals cause and effect—the *present* economy of Israel (8:1-9:9)

Reveals cause and effect—the *historical* economy of Israel (9:10-10:15)

Reveals emotion and relationship—the Lord’s *historical* affection for Israel (11:1-11)

Reveals emotion and relationship—Jacob’s (Israel’s) *historical* relationship with the Lord (11:12-12:14)

Reveals emotion and relationship—the *present* reality of the Lord’s historical relationship with Israel (13:1-16)

“While introducing some new themes, (this section, 13:1-16) also repeats earlier themes, and appears to **summarize** Ephraim’s failure and the devastating effect of divine judgment....This summary then prepares the way for the call to repent and the further message of hope in chapter 14. As an **overview** of the sin of the northern kingdom, it is probably set close to the fall of Samaria. However, sin is continuing and judgment is still future, suggesting that the kingdom has not fallen yet. The passage is framed by references to Ephraim’s **guilt** (*asham*) and its consequences (vv. 1, 16), indicating that this is a major emphasis.” (Routledge, p. 167)

God tells Israel to listen up because he has a contention against them, which also reveals the reality of emotion and relationship.

Presently...

- **Israel’s guilt has definitively changed their relationship with the LORD.** (13:1-8)

ESV **Hosea 13:1** When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling; he was exalted in Israel, but he incurred guilt through Baal and died. ² And now they sin more and more, and make for themselves metal images, idols skillfully made of their silver, all of them the work of craftsmen. It is said of them, "Those who offer human sacrifice kiss calves!" ³ Therefore they shall be like the morning mist or like the dew that goes early away, like the chaff that swirls from the threshing floor or like smoke from a window. ⁴ But I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and besides me there is no savior. ⁵ It was I who knew you in the wilderness, in the land of drought; ⁶ but when they had grazed, ¹ they became full, they were filled, and their heart was lifted up; therefore they forgot me. ⁷ So I am to them like a lion; like a leopard I will lurk beside the way. ⁸ I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs; I will tear open their breast, and there I will devour them like a lion, as a wild beast would rip them open.

Ephraim with the LORD (vv. 1-3)

What they once were like (vv. 1-2):

“When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling; he was exalted in Israel...”

What happened though?

“...but he (Ephraim) **incurred guilt** through Baal and died.”

Numbers 25:3 (with Deuteronomy 4:3)
Judges 2:11 (with 1 Samuel 7:4 and 12:10)

Jeroboam I (c. 931-910 BC), 1 Kings 12:28-29
Ahab (c. 874-853 BC), 1 Kings 16:31-32

Elijah (c. 850s BC), 2 Kings 18:21, 40
Jehu (c. 841-814), 2 Kings 10:19, 27-28

“And now they sin more and more...”

“...and make for themselves metal images, idols skillfully made of silver, all of them the work of craftsmen.”

“It is said of them, ‘Those who offer human sacrifice kiss calves!’”

ESV **2 Kings 17:17** And they burned their sons and their daughters as offerings and used divination and omens and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.

What they now are like (v. 3):

“Therefore they shall be like the morning mist (6:4)...”
like the dew that goes early away (6:4)
like the chaff that swirls from the threshing floor
like smoke from a window

The LORD with Israel (vv. 4-8)

What he once did (vv. 4-6):

“But I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt; you know no God but me and besides me there is no **savior**.”

“It was I who knew you in the wilderness, in the land of drought...”

What happened though?

“But when they had grazed, **they became full**...
...they were filled, and **their heart was lifted up**...
...therefore **they forgot me**.”

ESV **Deuteronomy 8:11** "Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, ¹² lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, ¹³ and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴ then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt..." (See Deuteronomy 8:1-10, 11-20)

What he now will do (vv. 7-8):

“So I am to them like a lion (5:14-15)...
like a leopard I will lurk beside the way
like a bear robbed of her cubs
like a lion, as a wild beast would rip them open

- **Israel’s guilt has irreversibly established their imminent destruction.** (13:9-16)

ESV **Hosea 13:9** He destroys you, O Israel, for you are against me, against your helper. ¹⁰ Where now is your king, to save you in all your cities? Where are all your rulers - those of whom you said, "Give me a king and princes"? ¹¹ I gave you a king in my anger, and I took him away in my wrath. ¹² The iniquity