HOSEA CHAPTER 8

ANCIENT ISRAEL AND AMERICA - JUDGMENT

INTRODUCTION

• TREI ASAR

 HOSEA IS INSTRUCTED TO CONTINUE HIS CASTIGATION OF THE CHILDREN OF ANCIENT ISRAEL FOR THEIR MISDEEDS, WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE SIN OF IDOLATRY. HE ALSO FORETELS OF THE DISASTER WHICH IS TO BEFALL THEM IN RETRIBUTION. ACCORDING TO THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMENTATORS, THESE VERSES RECORD THE WORDS OF THE ALMIGHTY THAT WERE STATED TO HOSEA. RADAK INTERPREST THE FIRST VERSE AS THE PROPHET'S WORDS TO THE NATION.

HOSEA 8 KEY VERSES

- HOSEA 8:1B, 7-8, 11-12, 14
- Hos 8:1A Put a shofar to your mouth! Like a vulture he comes against the house of Adonai. For they overstepped My covenant and transgressed My Torah.
- Hos 8:7 "For they sow wind, and reap a whirlwind. There is no mature grain—the sprout yields no meal. Should it produce anything, strangers would swallow it up.
- Hos 8:8 Israel has been swallowed up! Now they are among the nations, like an ornament with no delight in it.

HOSEA 8 KEY VERSES

- HOSEA 8:1B, 7-8, 11-12, 14
- Hos 8:11 "When Ephraim multiplied altars for making sin offerings, they became his altars for sinning.
- Hos 8:12 Though I were to write out for him ten thousand things from My Torah, they are regarded as something strange.
- Hos 8:14 For Israel has forgotten his Maker and built temples, while Judah has multiplied fortified cities. So I will send fire upon its cities that will consume their citadels."

THE SIN OF IDOLATRTY

- TORAH SPELLS OUT THAT IDOLATRY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED
- Exo 20:2 "I am Adonai your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- Exo 20:3 You shall have no other gods before Me.
- Exo 20:4 Do not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or on the earth below or in the water under the earth.
- Exo 20:5 Do not bow down to them, do not let anyone make you serve them. For I, Adonai your God, am a jealous God, bringing the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,
- Exo 20:6 but showing lovingkindness to the thousands of generations of those who love Me and keep My mitzvot.

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- Isa 9:8 (9:7) The Lord sent a word into Jacob, and it hath lighted upon Israel.
- Isa 9:9 (9:8) And all the people shall know, even Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria, that say in pride and in arrogancy of heart:
- Isa 9:10 (9:9) 'The bricks are fallen, but we will build with hewn stones; the sycamores are cut down, but cedars will we put in their place.' TLV

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- THE MYSTERY BEGINS IN THE LAST DAYS OF ANCIENT ISRAEL, THE NORTHERN KINGDOM, AS NINE HARBINGERS, PROPHETIC SIGNS, WARNINGS OF NATIONAL JUDGMENT AND DESTRUCTION, APPEAR IN THE LAND. THE NATION IS GIVEN A PERIOD OF GRACE TO EITHER CHANGE ITS COURSE OR HEAD TO DESTRUCTION. HOWEVER, THE PEOPLE AND THEIR LEADERS RESPOND NOT WITH REPENTANCE BUT WITH DEFIANCE. THEY CONTINUE ON THEIR COURSE OF MORAL AND SPIRITUAL APOSTASY. IN A MATTER OF YEARS THE NATION WILL BE WIPED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH. (NORTHERN KINGDOM)

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- WHAT IS THE SHEMITAH? CHABAD.ORG
- The Sabbatical Year basics: absolution of loans, desisting from all field work, and the spiritual objective of all the above.
- As soon as the Jews settled in the Holy Land,¹ they began to count and observe seven-year cycles. Every cycle would culminate in a Sabbatical year,² known as Shemittah,³ literally: "to release."
- The year following the destruction of the second Holy Temple was the first year of a seven-year Sabbatical cycle. In the Jewish calendar, counting from Creation, this was the year 3829, 68-69 CE on the secular calendar. By counting sevens from then, we see that the next Shemittah year will be the year 5782 after Creation, which runs from September 7, 2021 September 25, 2022.

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- WHAT IS THE SHEMITAH? CHABAD.ORG
- At the end of seven years you will make a release. And this is the manner of the release: to release the hand of every creditor from what he lent his friend; he shall not exact from his friend or his brother, because the time of the release for the L-rd has arrived. (Deuteronomy 15:1-2)
- The Shemittah year waives all outstanding debts between Jewish debtors and creditors.

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Take a Break from Farming

- For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in its produce. But in the seventh year, the land shall have a complete rest, a Sabbath to the L-rd; you shall not sow your field, you shall not prune your vineyard, nor shall you reap the aftergrowth of your harvest . . . And [the produce of] the Sabbath of the land shall be yours to eat for you, for your male and female servants, and for your hired worker and resident who live with you . . . (Leviticus 25:3-6)
- During the Shemittah year, the residents of the Land of Israel must completely desist from cultivating their fields. They also relinquish personal ownership of their fields; whatever produce grows on its own is considered communal property, free for anyone to take.
- This aspect of the Shemittah year is known as *shemittat karka*, "release of the land."

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- WHAT IS THE SHEMITAH? CHABAD.ORG
- Refocus
- I, [G-d,] will command My blessing for you in the sixth year, and it will yield produce for three years. And you will sow in the eighth year, while still eating from the old crops. Until the ninth year, until the arrival of its crop, you will eat the old crop! (Leviticus 25:21-22)

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- JUDGMENT CAME BECAUSE OF NOT OBEYING THE COMMAND OF SHEMITAH AND FOR IDOLATRY
- SEE DANIEL 9 READ
- Jer 25:11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and a waste; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.
- Jer 25:12 And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it perpetual desolations.
- Jer 25:13 And I will bring upon that land all My words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations.

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- Pg. 13-18
- SECOND HARBINGER THE TERRORIST
- THIS HARBINGER MANISFESTED IN ANCIENT ISRAEL AS THOSE WHO MASTERMINDED THE ATTACK WERE THE ASSYRIANS- THE WORLD'S FIRST TERRORISTS AND THE FATHERS OF ALL TERRORISTS, EMPLOYING TERROR AS A STRATEGIC MEANS TO ACCOMPLISH A POLITICAL GOAL.

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- Pg. 13-18
- THIRD HARBINGER THE FALLEN BRICKS
- THE MOST TANGIBLE SIGNS OF WHAT TOOK PLACE IN 732 BC WERE THE RUIN HEAPS OF THE BUILDINGS THAT THE ASSYRIANS HAD DESTROYED.

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- Pg. 13-18
- FOURTH HARBINGER THE TOWER
- IN THE WAKE OF THE ASSYRIAN ATTACK THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL VOWED TO REBUILD THE FALLEN BUILIDINGS AND BUILD THEM BIGGER, BETTER AND STRONGER THAN BEFORE. RISING UP FROM THE RUIN HAEPS WOULD BE WALLS, DWELLINGS, TOWERS.

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- FIFTH HARBINGER THE GAZIT STONE
- THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL VOWED TO REBUILD, NOT WITH THE CLAY BRICKS THAT HAS FALLEN, BUT WITH 'HEWN STONES,', THE HEBREW GAZIT, INDICATING A MASSIVE RECTANGULAR BLOCK OF STONE CHISELED OUT OF MOUNTAIN ROCK. THEY GO UP TO THE MOUNTAINS AND BEDROCK OF THE LAND, CARVE OUT THE MASSIVE STORIES, AND BRING THEM BACK TO THE GROUND OF DESTRUCTION WHERE THEY VOW TO REBUILD AND COME BACK STRONGER THAN BEFORE.

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- SIXTH HARBINGER THE SYCAMORE
- IT MANIFESTED IN ANCIENT ISRAEL AS THE SYCAMORES WERE STRUCK DOWN IN THE MIDST OF THE ATTACK.

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- SEVENTH HARBINGER THE EREZ TREE
- THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL PLANTED EREZ TREES IN THE PLACE OF THE FALLEN SYCAMORES, ANOTHER SIGN OF THEIR DEFIANCE AND THEIR RESOLVE TO COME BACK STRONGER THAN BEFORE.

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- EIGHTH HARBINGER THE UTTERANCE
- THE VOW WAS UTTERED BY ONE OR MORE OF ISRAEL'S LEADERS, AS ONLY A LEADER CAN SPEAK FOR A NATION AND DETERMINE ITS COURSE. THE VOW, INTENDED AS A RALLYING CRY, INSTEAD PRONOUNCED JUDGMENT AND SET THE STAGE FOR DESTRUCTION.

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- NINTH HARBINGER THE PROPHECY
- SOON AFTER THE ATTACK OF 732 BC A LEADER UTTERED THE VOW, SPEAKING OF WHAT WOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE IT DID, BEING RECORDED BY THE PROPHET ISAIAH, AND SETTING THE NATION'S COURSE TO JUDGMENT. ISAIAH 9:9 (10).

THE SECRET ISRAEL

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- Pg. 55-5
- BEYOND 586 BC (WHEN JUDAH WAS TAKEN TO BABYLON)
- IN ITS FIRST ORIGINAL CONTEXT THE SHEMITAH IS CONNECTED TO ISRAEL. IT IS THE ONLY NATION COMMANDED TO OBSERVE IT. AND, AS WE HAVE SEEN, IT IS STILL KEPT, IN VARYING DEGREES, BY THE OBSERVANTS OF THE NATION OF MODERN ISRAEL. BUT WE ARE NOT DEALING HERE WITH THE SHEMITAH AS AN OBSERVANCE BUT AS A PROPHETIC SIGN- PARTICULARLY AS A WARNING OR MANIFESTATION OF NATIONAL JUDGMENT.
- SUCH A PROPHETIC SIGN COULD BE GIVEN TO ANY NATION AS LONG AS THAT NATION IN SOME WAY MATCHED THE DESCRIPTION OR SHARED THE ATTRIBUTES OF ANCIENT ISRAEL IN 586 BC....

THE SECRET ISRAEL

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- Pg. 55-57
- IN OTHER WORDS, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE...
 - A NATION WARRANTING A PROPHETIC WARNING OR MANIFESTATION OF JUDGMENT, A NATION IN DEFIANCE OF GOD'S WAYS
 - A NATION THAT HAD ONCE KNOWN GOD, BUT HAD NOW TURNED AWAY FROM HIM AND REJECTED HIS WAYS
 - A CIVILATION ESTABLISHED ON THE WORD OF GOD, DEDICATED TO HIS PURPOSES, AND CONSECRATED TO HIS GLORY FROM ITS VERY INCEPTION

THE FIRST WAS ISRAEL, THE SECOND WAS AMERICA. AMERICAN CIVILIZATION WAS ESTABLISEND AND DEDICATED AT CAPE HENRY, PLYMOUTH AND MASSACHUSETSS BAY TO THE PURPOSES OF GOD.

THE SECRET ISRAEL

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- Pg. 55-57
- IN OTHER WORDS, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ...
- THE ISRAEL OF THE NEW WORLD...
 - A CIVILIZATION SPECIFICALLY ESTABLISEHD AFTER THE PATTERN OF ANCIENT ISRAEL
 - QUOTE PAGE 57
 - NO CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN HISTORY IDENTIFIED MORE WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK THAN DID THE EARLY SETTLERS OF THE MASSACHUSETSS BAY COLONY, WHO BELIEVED THEIR OWN LIVES TO BE A LITERAL REENACTMENT OF THE BIBLICAL DRAMA OF THE HEBREW NATION.

THE FALL OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

- The Mystery of the Shemitah Rabbi Jonathan Cahn
- Pg. 58-59
- ISRAEL WAS UNIQUE AMONG THE NATIONS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD, BUT AT THE PEAK OF ITS BLESSINGS A METAMORPHOSIS BEGAN..
- THEY REDEFINED WHAT WAS RIGHT AND WRONG
- AS FOR THOSE IN THEIR MIDST WHO REFUSED TO GO ALONG WITH THEIR MORAL AND SPIRITUAL APOSTASY THOSE WHO REMAINED FAITHFUL TO GOD AND HIS WAYS, THEY WERE NOW MARGINALIZED, MOCKED, VILIFIED, AND, FINALLY, PERSECUTED. THE NATION THAT HAD BEEN BROUGHT INTO EXISTENCE TO BE A VESSEL OF GOD'S PURPOSES HAD NOW TRANSFORMED INTO ITS VERY OPPOSITE - A CIVILIZATION TURNED IN UPON ITSELF, AT WAR AGAINST ITS OWN FOUNDATION, AND AT WAR WITH GOD.

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- Pg. 60-61
- AMERICA'S FOUNDERS PROPHESIED THAT INASMUCH AS THE NEW CIVILIZATION WOULD FOLLOW THE WAYS OF GOD, IT WOULD BE BLESSED WITH THE BLESSINGS GIVEN TO ISRAEL; AND WHAT THEY FORETOLD CAME TRUE. AMERICA BECAME THE MOST BLESSED NATION ON EARTH. BY THE TWENTIETH CENTURY IT HAD BECOME THE MOST PROSPEROUS, THE MOSE SECURE, THE MOST REVERED, AND THE MOST POWERFUL NATION ON EARTH.

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- Pg. 60-61
- BUT AT THE PINNACLE OF ITS POWER AND THE HEIGHT OF ITS PROSPERITY RELATIVE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD, A METAMORPHOSIS BEGAN. THE "ISRAEL OF THE NEW WORLD" WOULD REENACT THE APOSTACY AND FALL OF THE ISRAEL OF THE ANCIENT WORLD.

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- Pg. 60-61
- THE METAMORPHOSIS WAS SUBTLE AT FIRST BUT, IN TIME, WOULD GROW MORE AND MORE BLATANT AND BRAZEN.
- AS DID ANCIENT ISRAEL, AMERICA PROGRESSIVELY REDEFINED WHAT WAS RIGHT AND WRONG, ADOPTING A NEW MORALITY TO REPLAE THE OLD. IT NOW CALLED EVIL "GOOD" AND GOOD "EVIL'.
- AMERICA WAS BROUGHT INTO EXISTENCE AND DEDICATED BY ITS FOUNDERS TO BE A VESSEL OF GOD'S PURPOSES, HAD NOW TRANSFORMED INTO ITS VERY OPPOSITE A CIVILIZATION TURNED IN UPON ITSELF, AT WAR WITH GOD.

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- Pg. 60-61
- THOSE WHO FOUNDED AMERICA NOT ONLY FORETOLD ITS FUTURE BLESSINGS- BUT ALSO GAVE WARNING. IT WAS THIS: IF AMERICA EVERY TURNED AWAY FROM GOD, THEN THE SAME JUDGEMENTS THAT FELL UPON ANCIENT ISRAEL WOULD FALL UPON AMERICA. THE APPEARANCE OF THE SAME HARBINGERS IN AMERICA THAT HAD ONCE APPEARED IN THE LAST DAYS OF ANCIENT ISRAEL MATCHES THEIR PROPHECIES.

DANGER SIGNALS

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- Pg. 129
- WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF A NATION IN DANGER OF JUDGMENT? ONE OF THE CLASSICAL BIBLICAL SIGNS OF NATIONAL JUDGMENT IS THIS: YEARS BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION FALLS, A WARNING IS GIVEN. THE NATION'S HEDGE OF PROTECTION IS REMOVED. ITS BORDERS AND NATIONAL SECURITY ARE BREACHED. AN ENEMY IS ALLOWED TO MAKE A STRIKE INTO THE LAND. THE STRIKE IS CONTAINED, LIMITED IN TIME AND SCOPE. IT IS A SHAKING, A WAKE-UP CALL, AN ALARM- THE FIRST MASSIVE WARNING OF JUDGMENT. THE NATION IS THEN GIVE A GRACE PERIOD TO EITHER TURN BACK TO GOD OR TO CONTINUE ON ITS COURSE AND HEAD TO DESTRUCTION. 1.E. 9/11

THE FIRIST SHAKING

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- Pg. 136-137
- THE SECOND SHAKING
 - IF A NATION REJECTS THE FIRST SHAKING AND WARNING OF JUDGMENT, THERE WILL COME ANOTHER, AND ANOTHER, UNTIL THE NATION EITHER RETURNS TO GOD OR DESCENDS INTO THE FULL END OF JUDGMENT
 - THE ISAIAH 9:10 Effect THE ATTEMPT OF A NATION TO DEFY THE COURSE OF ITS JUDGMENT, APART FROM REPENTANCE, WILL, INSTEAD, SET IN MOTION A CHAIN OF EVENTS TO BRING ABOUT THE VERY CALAMITY IT SOUGHT TO AVERT.

THE SECOND SHAKING

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- THE SECOND SHAKING
- IN THE DAYS AFTER 9/11 AMERICANS FLOCKED TO HOUSES OF WORSHIP TO IMPLORE GOD'S BLESSING ON THE NATION. SOME THOUGHT IT COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF A NATIONAL REVIVAL, A MASSIVE RETURN TO GOD. BUT IT LASTED ABOUT THREE WEEKS. THERE WAS NO REVIVAL. THERE WAS NO REPENTANCE. IN THE YEARS AFTER 9/11 AMERICA'S MORAL AND SPIRITUAL APOSTASY ONLY INCREASED IN INTENSITY, DEPTH AND SPEED.

- Hos 8:1 Put a shofar to your mouth! Like a vulture he comes against the house of Adonai. For they overstepped My covenant and transgressed My Torah.
- TRIE ASAR In this manner, proclaim to the nation that the enemy shall swoop down like an eagle upon the House of Hashem for having violated My covenant and rebelled against My Torah

- Hos 8:2 Will they cry out to Me, 'My God, we—Israel—knew You'?
- To me they should have cried out in their time of trouble, and proclaimed, "We know you, O God, and recognize that You are our only source of salvation" However, they have not done so, but have rather abandoned good therefore the enemy shall pursue them
- Hos 8:3 Israel has rejected goodness—an adversary will pursue him.
- Radak explains, This is Hashem Who is the only Being that is totally good, with no aspect of evil.

- Hos 8:4 They crowned kings, but not by Me. They appointed princes I did not approve. Their silver and gold they made into idols—just so they would be cut down.
- The people of Israel have anointed officers without My knowledge (i.e. consent)
- Hos 8:5 Samaria! Your calf is thrown down! My anger is kindled against them! How long will they be incapable of innocence?
- In the place of the Almighty, whose service they abandoned, the Children of Israel turned to the worship of the golden calves of Jeroboem. In truth however, these are not deities at all, but merely the handiwork of human beings, and they are thus incapable of providing aid in a time of crisis.

- Hos 8:8 Israel has been swallowed up! Now they are among the nations, like an ornament with no delight in it.
- Hos 8:9 For they have gone up to Assyria, like a wild donkey alone by itself. Ephraim has hired lovers.

Along with their neglect of My commandments has come an abandonment of My faith. This, in their hour of need, they seek their salvation from foreign nations rather than from Me. However, their efforts are to no avail, for they are continuously spurned and rejected by the gentile world.

 Hos 8:10 Although they hire among the nations, I will now round them up. So they will begin to decrease under the burden of king and princes.

Nevertheless, despite their infidelity to Me in seeking the support and friendship of the gentile nations, I will not turn away from them forever. Rather when the time for their redemption eventually arrives. I shall gather them together (and return them to their land) However, they will first undergo a period of exile in which they will be humbled due to their fear of the burdens imposed upon them by the kings and officers of the gentile nations.

- Hos 8:12 Though I were to write out for him ten thousand things from My Torah, they are regarded as something strange.
- I constantly send My Prophets to admonish them and to seek to inscribe (in their hearts) the great and noble laws and principles which are written in My Torah. But their words elicit no response and inspire o repentance, for the people have come to view these laws and principles as something alien, to which they do not relate.

- Hos 8:13 Sacrifices are gifts for Me—should they sacrifice meat and then eat it? Adonai will not accept them. Now He will remember their iniquity and punish their sin—they will return to Egypt.
- In this verse, the prophet addresses the people of Judah, who eventually followed in the wicked ways of the ten tribes and relied upon the merit of their sacrifices in the Temple to protect them from punishment.

- Hos 8:14 For Israel has forgotten his Maker and built temples, while Judah has multiplied fortified cities. So I will send fire upon its cities that will consume their citadels."
- The people of the nations of Israel have forgotten the Almighty Who elevated them and glorified them. They have built great fortifications for protection rather than placing their faith in the Almighty. However, all their efforts will be to no avail, for I will send against them the enemy who will conquer their land and set fire to all their palaces and fortifications - even the Temple of Hashem.

The Shemitah of the American Age

- The Shemitah is the reminder to any nation or civilization that its blessings come from God, and without God those blessings can not endure. It is a warning to a nation founded on the purposes of God and blessed by God's hand, but now increasing warning against the God of its blessings. The Shemitah is a warning to that nation that it's blessings cannot endure.
- Then there is the prophetic warning contained within the Hebrew, as Shemitah literally means "the letting fall", "the letting collapse"

The Shemitah of the American Age

- The warning is this No nation can defy the ways and will of Him who is its source of blessings and expect those blessings to continue. Without Him as the foundation, the blessings will be removed and that which has been built up, no matter how highly built up, will collapse.
- The "American age" and the "American Empire" as some have called it, have been highly built up. The warning here is this if America continues on its present course, its place as the head of nations will fall and the American age and global order will be allowed to collapse.