

ESV **Hosea 8:1** Rejoice not, O Israel! Exult not like the peoples; for you have played the whore, forsaking your God. You have loved a prostitute's wages on all threshing floors. <sup>2</sup> Threshing floor and wine vat shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail them. <sup>3</sup> They shall not remain in the land of the LORD, but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean food in Assyria.

"...for you have played the whore, forsaking your God."

"You have loved a prostitute's wages on all threshing floors."

-- What they thought they earned, would prove to be nothing.

"Threshing floor and wine vat shall not feed the, and the new wine shall fail them."

-- Where they called home, would end up being somewhere foreign.

"They shall not remain in the land of the LORD, but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean food in Assyria."

What was the reality of cause and effect?

-- What was supposed to bring them joy, would cause them to mourn (9:4-6)

ESV **Hosea 9:4** They shall not pour drink offerings of wine to the LORD, and their sacrifices shall not please him. It shall be like mourners' bread to them; all who eat of it shall be defiled; for their bread shall be for their hunger only; it shall not come to the house of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> What will you do on the day of the appointed festival, and on the day of the feast of the LORD? <sup>6</sup> For behold, they are going away from destruction; but Egypt shall gather them; Memphis shall bury them. Nettles shall possess their precious things of silver; thorns shall be in their tents.

-- What was supposed to give them insight, would ensnaring them (9:7-9)

ESV **Hosea 9:7** The days of punishment have come; the days of recompense have come; Israel shall know it. The prophet is a fool; the man of the spirit is mad, because of your great iniquity and great hatred. <sup>8</sup> The prophet is the watchman of Ephraim with my God; yet a fowler's snare is on all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God. <sup>9</sup> They have deeply corrupted themselves as in the days of Gibeah: he will remember their iniquity; he will punish their sins.

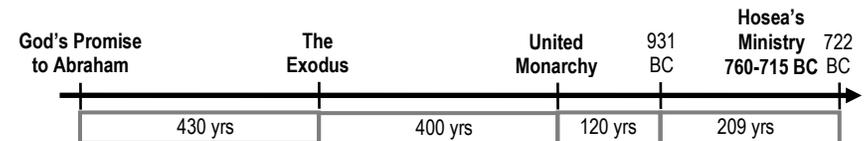
- There are effects...of causes
- The effects are commensurate (in kind)
- The effects are often compounded

Sunday, March 15, 2026  
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

**Hosea—Faithless People Faithful God**  
No. 14 | God's Contention with Israel—  
Cause and Effect, pt. 7  
**Hosea 8:1-9:9**

## 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—Cause and Effect, pt. 7

8:1-9:9

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:** <sup>1</sup> There **is no** faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; <sup>2</sup> 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 8:1-10:15?

Is this (8:1-10:15) a new section? Is it addressing anything new?

Example from 8:1-10:15

ESV **Hosea 8:7** For they **sow** the wind, and they shall **reap** the whirlwind.

ESV **Hosea 10:12** **Sow** for yourselves righteousness; **reap** steadfast love;

Example from 8:1-9:9

ESV **Hosea 8:13** ...Now he will **remember** their iniquity and **punish** their sins; they shall return to Egypt.

ESV **Hosea 9:9** ...he will **remember** their iniquity; he will **punish** their sins.

sowing and reaping—**cause and effect**

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)

**God tells Israel to listen up because he has a contention against them, which reveals the reality of cause and effect.**

Presently...

- **They should prepare for imminent disaster** (8:1-14)

ESV **Hosea 8:1** Set the trumpet to your lips!

**Why should they set the trumpet to their lips?**

ESV **Hosea 8:1** Set the trumpet to your lips! One like a vulture is over the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant and rebelled against my law. <sup>2</sup> To me they cry, My God, we- Israel- know you. <sup>3</sup> Israel has spurned the good; the enemy shall pursue him. <sup>4</sup> They made kings, but not through me. They set up princes, but I knew it not. With their silver and gold they made idols for their own destruction.

"One like a vulture is over the house of the LORD..."

like a vulture (*nesher*)

ESV **Deuteronomy 28:15** "But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you...<sup>49</sup> The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle (*nesher*), a nation whose language you do not understand, <sup>50</sup> a hard-faced nation who shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young.

over the house of the LORD (9:4, 8)

"...because they have transgressed my covenant and rebelled against my law."

-- They thought they were in a right relationship with God, but proved they deserve punishment.

"To me they cry, 'My God, we—Israel—know you.'"

"Israel has spurned the good; the enemy shall pursue him."

-- They gave themselves to political and religious practices, but all apart from God.

"They made kings, but not through me. They set up princes, but I knew it not."

"With their silver and gold they made idols for their own destruction."

What was the reality of cause and effect?

-- What they had sown, they would end up reaping (8:5-10)

Religiously...

ESV **Hosea 8:5** I have spurned your calf, O Samaria. My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of innocence? <sup>6</sup> For it is from Israel; a craftsman made it; it is not God. The calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces.

Politically...

ESV **Hosea 8:7** For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. The standing grain has no heads; it shall yield no flour; if it were to yield, strangers would devour it. <sup>8</sup> Israel is swallowed up; already they are among the nations as a useless vessel. <sup>9</sup> For they have gone up to Assyria, a wild donkey wandering alone; Ephraim has hired lovers. <sup>10</sup> Though they hire allies among the nations, I will soon gather them up. And the king and princes shall soon writhe because of the tribute.

-- What they had multiplied, they would find to be not enough (8:11-14)

Religiously...

ESV **Hosea 8:11** Because Ephraim has multiplied altars for sinning, they have become to him altars for sinning. <sup>12</sup> Were I to write for him my laws by the ten thousands, they would be regarded as a strange thing. <sup>13</sup> As for my sacrificial offerings, they sacrifice meat and eat it, but the LORD does not accept them. Now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins; they shall return to Egypt.

Politically...

ESV **Hosea 8:14** For Israel has forgotten his Maker and built palaces, and Judah has multiplied fortified cities; so I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour her strongholds.

- **They should not give themselves over to rejoicing** (9:1-9)

ESV **Hosea 9:1** Rejoice not, O Israel! Exult not like the peoples...

**Why should they not rejoice like the peoples?**