

Amos and Hosea

Class 4 — Texts

The Sign of the Ransomed Bride

(Hosea 3:1-5)

1 *Then Yahweh said to me again:*

“Go, love a woman,
lover of a paramour and an adulteress,
As Yahweh loves the sons of Israel,
while they turn to other gods,
and love raisin cakes.”

2 So I ransomed her for myself for fifteen pieces of silver and a homer and a lethek
of barley.

And I said to her:

“You will wait for me for many days
— without prostituting yourself
or belonging to any man —
and I, too, will wait for you.

4 For the sons of Israel will wait for many days,
without king and without prince,
without sacrifice or sacred pillar,
without ephod or teraphim.

5 Afterward the sons of Israel will return
and seek Yahweh their God
They will come in fear to Yahweh and his goodness
in the latter days.

Father and Son

(Hosea 11:1-11)

I

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

2 As I called them,
so they left me.
To Baals they sacrificed;
to idols they burned offerings.

3 And it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
 I that took them in my arms;
 but they did not know I cared for them.
 4 I led them with cords of devotion,
 with bonds of love.
 And I was with them as one
 who lifts an infant to his cheek,
 and I bent down to give them food.

II

5 He will return to the land of Egypt,
 and Asshur will be his king,
 because they refused to return.
 6 The sword will whirl in his cities,
 and destroy his gates,
 and wreck his fortresses.
 7 And my people will weary of their apostasy;
 together they will call to Baal,
 but he can not raise them up.

III

8 How can I give you up, O Ephraim?
 How can I surrender you, O Israel?
 How can I make you like Admah?
 How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
 My heart recoils within me;
 all my compassion is stirred.
 9 I will not execute my wrath;
 I will not again destroy Ephraim.
 For God am I and not man,
 the Holy One in your midst,
 and I will not come to destroy.

IV

10 After Yahweh they will go;
 and like a lion he will roar.
 When he roars, the children
 will come trembling from the sea.
 11 They will hurry like birds out of Egypt
 like doves from the land of Asshur,
 and I will restore them to their homes.