

## God's Messengers

The primary issue with which the Hebrew people struggled during the period of the Divided Hebrew Monarchy was **idolatry**.

And God spoke all these words:

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

"You shall have no other gods before me.

"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments. (Exodus 20:1-6, see p.49 in The Story)

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment." (Matthew 22:37-38)

### The Book of Hosea

When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, "Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD." (Hosea 1:2)

Description of Israelites	Verse
No faith, no love, no acknowledgment of God	Hos 4:1
Lying, murder, stealing, adultery, no restraint, violence	Hos 4:2
Relish their wickedness	Hos 4:8
Worship idols, unfaithful to God	Hos 4:12
Corruption	Hos 5:4
Arrogance, waywardness	Hos 7:10
Rebellion against God	Hos 7:13-16
Turn away from God	Hos 7:14

Description of Israelites	Verse
Broken God's covenant	Hos 8:1
Rejected what is good	Hos 8:3
Forgotten his Maker	Hos 8:14
Continued idolatry	Hos 10:1
Deceitful hearts	Hos 10:2
False oaths and agreements, litigation	Hos 10:4
Increasing sin, human sacrifice	Hos 13:2

### Prophesied Fate of the Northern Kingdom of Israel

They will not remain in the LORD's land; Ephraim will return to Egypt and eat unclean food in Assyria. (Hosea 9:3)

They shall not return to the land of Egypt, but Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. (Hosea 11:5; English Standard Version)

Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Damascus," says the LORD, whose name is God Almighty. (Amos 5:27)

### Conquering Idols

"there is no one who does not sin". (1 Kings 8:46)

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God. Your sins have been your downfall! Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to him: "Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips." (Hosea 14:1-2)

I will heal their waywardness and love them freely. (Hosea 14:4a)

Notes: