

WHO IS.... The Whore of Babylon?



- Hosea chapter 10: “Rejection of cult and kingship”
- Revelation 17 expands the scope of the identity of the Whore of Babylon to include ALL who pervert their worship of God, not just ancient Ephraim/Israel
- Christianity has adopted many pagan and Roman holidays and practices



- God does not accept intense worship if it is not worship as He prescribed it
- Despite their troubles, Israel looked around them and deemed all they were doing to be good
- Only when we accept that His Holy Word is the one and only truth and standard will we correct our course

HOSEA CHAPTER 10



- The style of writing and use of metaphors using poetic license makes meaning harder to extract
- Vs. 1, Israel is compared to a vine that is either abundant or ravaged... which is it?
- Thought-for-thought = Israel used all that God had given them not to His glory, but to Baal's credit



- Israel believed they had built a perpetual motion machine by building more altars to Baal in thanks for more abundance from their fields and crops
- Deuteronomy 29:17 – 20
- **Lev** means heart, but can be used to mean branches
- 2Samuel 18:14 – 15
- **Chalaq** doesn't mean divided, but rather broken-up

THE PROBLEM WITH ICONS



- God will destroy un-authorized symbols and images
- Icons serve no useful purpose before the Lord
- Vs. 3 God's judgment against Israel's monarchy
- Fear God = know God
- Both mean obedient loyalty to God's written moral law code



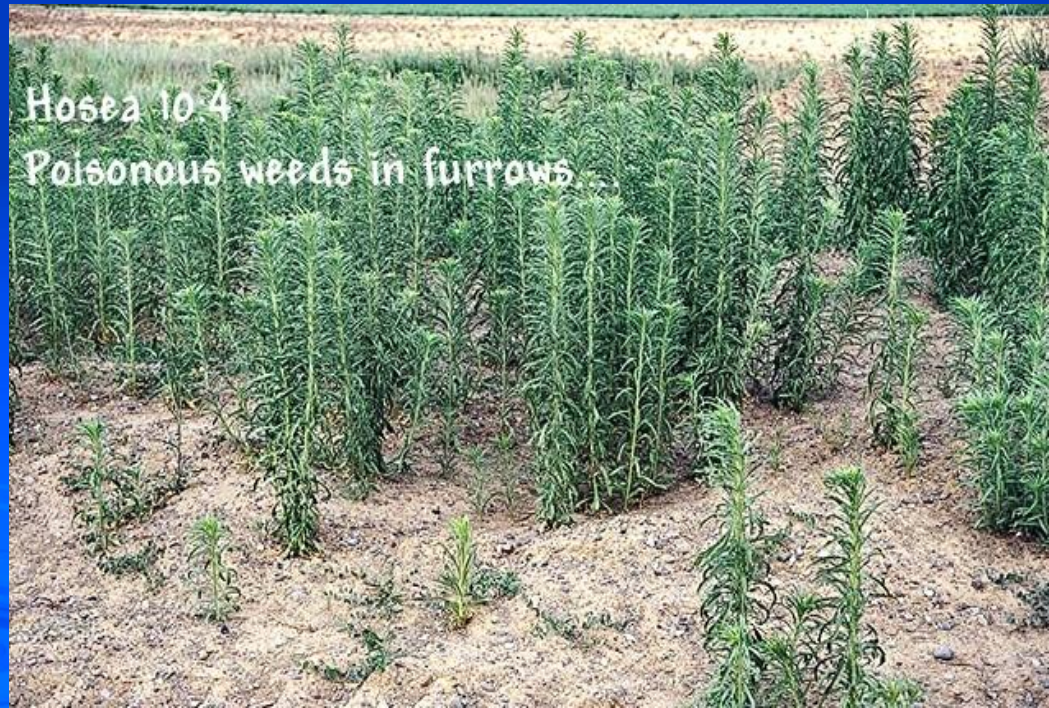
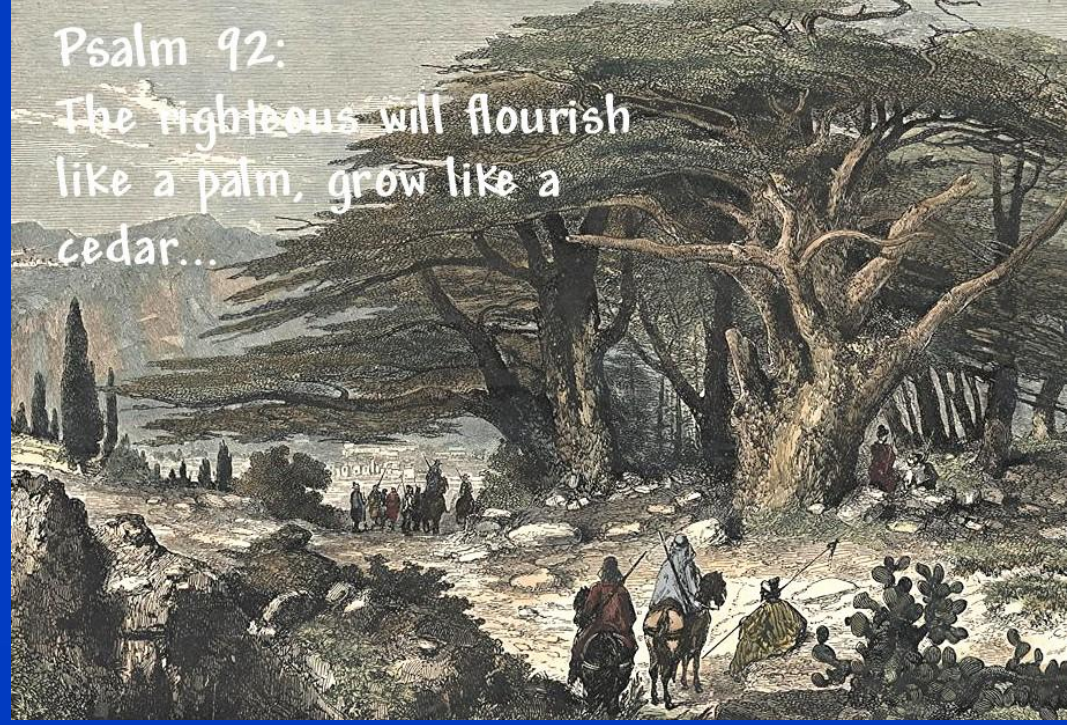
GOD IS ISRAEL'S KING

- To demand a human king was to reject God as king
- 1Samuel 8:4 – 9
- Now Israel has no heavenly nor earthly king
- Israel's kings are now powerless before the mighty Assyrian army
- Vs. 4 "They" = series of Israel's short-lived kings
- God's name was used as the guarantor of covenants and vows
- To use God's name falsely is to use God's name in vain

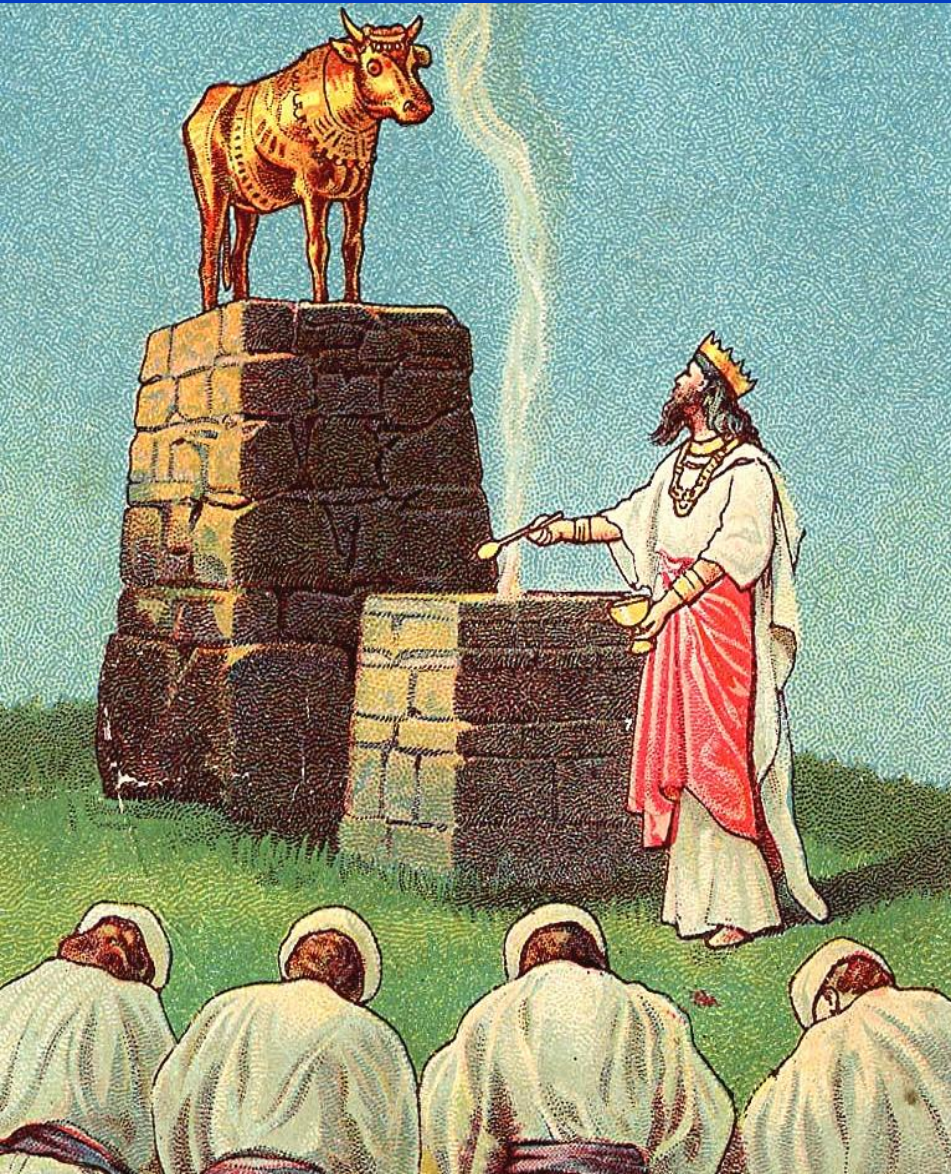


JUSTICE IS CHOKED-OUT

- A stark contrast between the ideal Israel and the actual Israel of Hosea's era
- Vs. 5 Icons and symbols were counted on for prosperity
- Beth-Aven is a sarcastic insertion in place of Beth-El
- **Aven** = troubles or wrong-doing



IDOLATRY REVEALED



- The Golden Calf had become the centerpiece of Israel's religion
- Israel no longer knew the Torah
- Custom and Tradition overrode God's commands
- "The Glory" = a manifestation of God
- Vs. 6 The Calf Gods will be carried away by the enemy
- Carried away to the god Ashur, not to "Assyria"



Ashamed!



- ***Boshnah*** = shame
- ***Boosh*** = ashamed
- Shame =
a societal status
- Ashamed =
embarrassed
- Vs. 7 “Foam on water”
- ***Qetseph*** =
twig or splinter
- The thought is:
Israel’s kings float
aimlessly upon the
waters of history

ISRAEL'S SIN



- The “sin of Israel” is those shrines they erected
- So much value and trust was placed in them that it was an insult to the Lord
- The many altars and shrines would soon be abandoned and overgrown with weeds and thistles
- A systematic betrayal of God

DEATH MIGHT BE PREFERABLE

- Mountains “bury us”, hills “fall on us”
- Luke 23:28 – 30
- A hyperbolic expression of grief and sorrow
- “I wish I had never been born!!”
- Better to die than fall into enemy hands
- Revelation 9:6

