

# The Minor Prophets

**OBADIAH**

**MICAH**

**JOEL**

**HOSEA**

**AMOS**

**NAHUM**

**ZEPHANIAH**

**JONAH**

**HABAKKUK**

**ZECHARIAH**

**HAGGAI**

**MALACHI**

*The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Jewish school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The Rabbi made a note, and posted on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching."*

*Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."*





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The Mi

**OBADIAH**

**MICAH**

**JOEL**

**AMOS**

**HOSEA**

**HOSEA**



# Metaphors in Hosea

# HOSEA

# Metaphors in Hosea

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People think in metaphors





We use metaphors to link one  
idea to another





*As You Like It*  
Act 2, Scene 7  
Enter Jacques

They have not their lights, and take  
their lamps; this contemner is even  
a jester;





The Bible and Prophets are about  
God communicating to humanity





The background of the entire image is a solid orange color. Scattered across this background are numerous small, stylized human figures in various poses and colors, creating a sense of a large crowd. Overlaid on this background are several orange rectangular boxes with white text. The central box is the largest and contains the main question. Surrounding it are seven smaller boxes, each containing a different form of communication. The boxes are arranged in a roughly circular pattern around the central text.

Poetry

Songs

Stories/  
parables

Prose

What are the  
different forms of  
communicating?

Questions

Metaphors

Instructions

Similes

Speeches

A large crowd of diverse people, including men, women, and children of various ages and ethnicities, are walking across a bright orange background. They are scattered throughout the frame, some in small groups and others alone. Overlaid on this scene are several rectangular text boxes in shades of orange and white. The text boxes contain words and phrases related to communication and literature. The overall composition suggests a theme of human communication and the use of various forms of expression.

Poetry

Songs

Stories/  
parables

Prose

God uses them all!

Questions

Metaphors

Instructions

Similes

Speeches



The background of the entire image is a solid orange color. Scattered across this background are numerous small, stylized human figures of various colors and poses, creating a sense of a large, diverse crowd. Overlaid on this background are several semi-transparent orange and white rectangular boxes containing text.

Songs

Prose Poetry | Stories/  
parables

God uses them all!

Metaphors Similes

Questions Speeches

Instructions



The background of the entire image is a vibrant orange. Scattered across this background are numerous small, stylized human figures in various poses and colors (red, blue, green, yellow, etc.). These figures are arranged in a way that they seem to be walking or standing in a large, open space. Overlaid on this background are several semi-transparent orange and white rectangular boxes containing text.

Songs

Prose Poetry | Stories/  
parables

God uses them all!

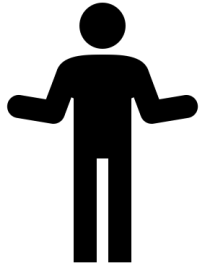
Metaphors Similes

Questions Speeches

Instructions



Understand this ...



Life

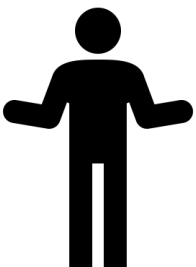
as



Competition

...that





Life

as



Competition



## Hosea 12:10

I spoke to the prophets;  
it was I who multiplied  
visions, and through the  
prophets gave parables.

## Hosea 12:10

וְדַבַּרְתִּי עַל־הַנְּבִיאִים  
וְאַנְכִי חֲזֹן הִרְפֵּיתִי  
וּבֶיֶד הַנְּבִיאִים אֶדְמָה:

## Hosea 12:10

I spoke to the prophets;  
it was I who multiplied  
visions, and through the  
prophets gave **parables**.

## Hosea 12:10

וְדַבַּרְתִּי עַל-הַנְּבִיאִים  
וְאַנְכִי חֲזֹן הִרְבֵּיתִי  
וּבֶיֶד הַנְּבִיאִים **אֲדַמָּה**:

*Damah* to be like, to resemble,  
a “simile” or “metaphor”

## Hosea 12:10

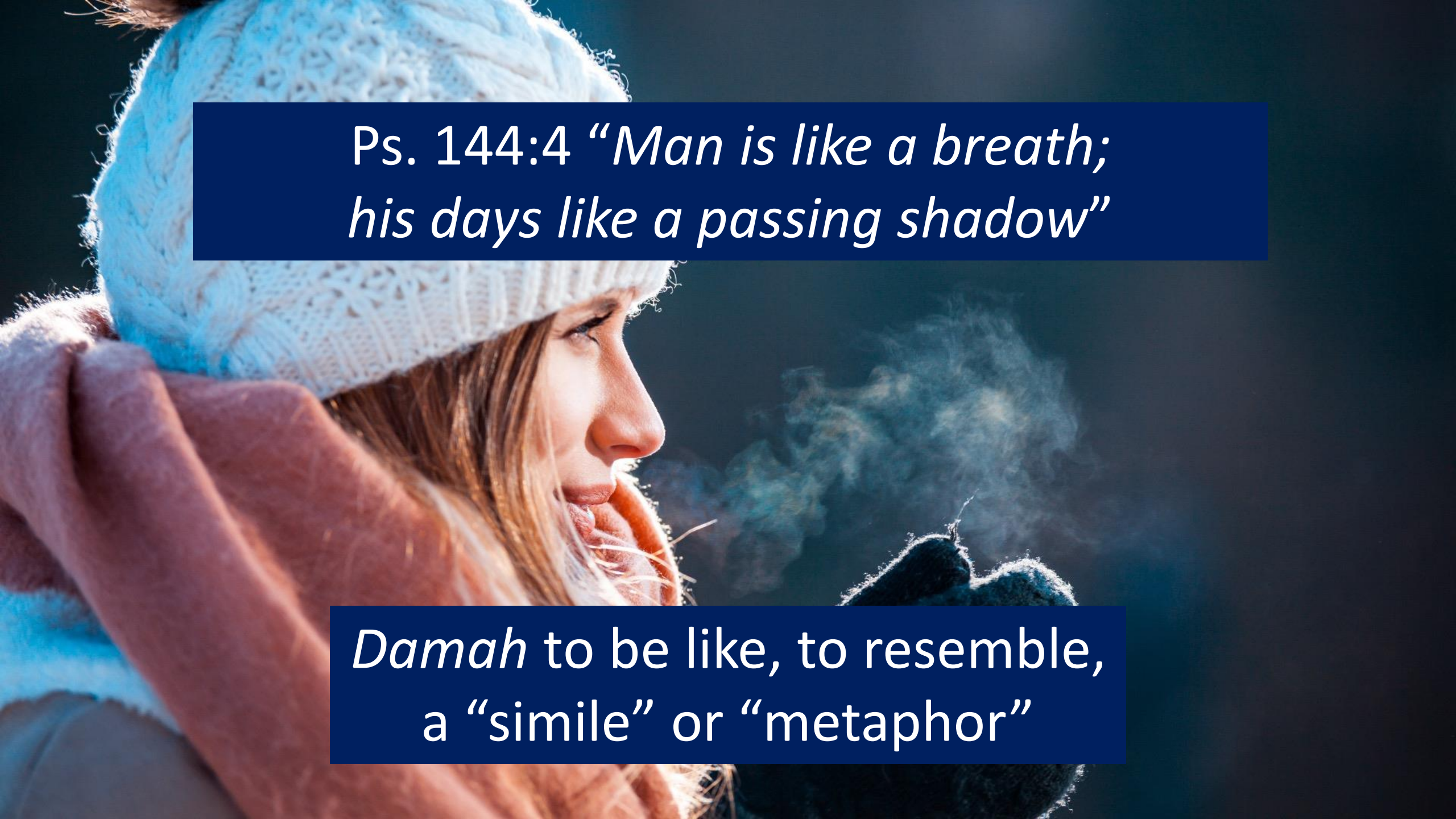
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וְדַבַּרְתִּי עַל-הַנְּבִיאִים  
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*Damah* to be like, to resemble,  
a “simile” or “metaphor”




A close-up photograph of a woman with long brown hair wearing a white knit beanie and a red scarf. She is looking off to the side with a slight smile. In the foreground, a dark cup of coffee is visible, with steam rising from it. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and white, suggesting a cold, misty day.

*Ps. 144:4 “Man is like a breath;  
his days like a passing shadow”*

*Damah* to be like, to resemble,  
a “simile” or “metaphor”



An ancient Egyptian chariot is depicted in a desert setting, moving from left to right. The chariot is pulled by two dark horses adorned with blue and white striped blankets and ornate golden harnesses. The lead horse's head is decorated with a large, elaborate headdress of white feathers. Two warriors are seated in the chariot; the front warrior is holding a bow and arrow, aiming towards the right. He wears a blue kilt and a headband. The rear warrior is also shirtless, wearing a white kilt and a headband, and is holding the reins. The background is a hazy, golden-brown desert landscape with other figures visible in the distance. Two dark blue text boxes are overlaid on the image: one at the top center and one at the bottom center.

*Song 1:9 “I compare you,  
my love, to a mare among  
Pharaoh’s chariots”*

*Damah to be like, to resemble,  
a “simile” or “metaphor”*



## Hosea 12:10

I spoke to the prophets;  
it was I who multiplied  
visions, and through the  
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and similes.

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וְדַבַּרְתִּי עַל-הַנְּבִיאִים  
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## Hosea 1:2

The LORD said to Hosea,  
“Go, take to yourself a  
wife of whoredom and  
have children of  
whoredom, for the land  
commits great whoredom  
by forsaking the LORD.”

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# Agricultural metaphors





## Hosea 2:3

...lest I strip her naked  
and make her as in the  
day she was born, and  
make her like a  
wilderness, and make her  
like a parched land, and  
kill her with thirst.

## Hosea 2:3

פֶּן־אֶפְשִׁיטָנָה עֲרֹמָה  
וְהַצַּגְתִּיהָ כְּיוֹם הַוָּלְדָּהּ  
וְשִׁמַּתִּיהָ כַּמִּדְבָּר וְשִׁתְתָּהּ  
כַּאֲרֶץ צִיָּה וְהַמַּתִּיהָ  
בַּצָּמָא:



## Hosea 2 – Israel is on trial

The charge: Ex. 20:14  
“Thou Shalt not  
commit adultery”

Husband:

Food,  
clothing,  
provision

Wife:

Fidelity,  
care,  
children

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~~Fidelity  
care,  
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## Hosea 2:3

...lest I strip her naked  
and make her as in the  
day she was born, and  
make her like a  
wilderness, and make her  
like a parched land,  
kill her with thirst.

## Hosea 2:3

עֲרֹמָהּ

—

HARSH?

כַּאֲרֵץ בָּרָא

בַּצְמָא:

**DON'T FEED**  
**THE**  
**MONSTER**



# Agricultural metaphors





## 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.

## Hosea 8:7

כִּי רוּחַ יִזְרְעוּ וְסוּפָתָה  
יִקְצְרוּ קִמָּה אֵין-לֹו  
צֶמַח בְּלִי יַעֲשֶׂה-קֶמַח  
אוּלִי יַעֲשֶׂה זָרִים  
יִבְלַעֵהוּ:





You gotta love  
a good garden







## 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  
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it would devour

*Ruach* can be a breeze/wind  
But also foolishness,  
something without substance

## Hosea 8:7

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אוֹלֵי יַעֲשֶׂה זֵרִים  
יִבְלַעְהוּ:





Isa. 41:29 *“Behold, they are all a delusion; their works are nothing; their metal images are empty wind.”*

*Ruach* can be a breeze/wind  
But also foolishness,  
something without substance



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אוּלִי יַעֲשֶׂה זָרִים  
יִבְלַעֲהוּ:

The tornado is not friendly to the crops!





## Hosea 8:7

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whirlwind. The standing  
grain has no heads; it  
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אוּלִי יַעֲשֶׂה זָרִים  
יִבְלַעֲהוּ:

## Hosea 10:12

Sow for yourselves  
righteousness; reap  
steadfast love; break up  
your fallow ground, for it  
is the time to seek the  
LORD, that he may come  
and rain righteousness  
upon you.

## Hosea 10:12

זָרְעוּ לָכֶם לְצִדְקָה קַצְרוּ  
לְפִי-חֶסֶד גִּירוּ לָכֶם גֵּיר  
וְעַתָּה לְדָרוֹשׁ אֶת-יְהוָה  
עַד-יָבֹא וַיָּרֶה צִדְקָה  
לָכֶם:



*Welcome to*

**ABILENE**



## Hosea 10:12

Sow for yourselves  
**righteousness**; reap  
steadfast love; break up  
your fallow ground, for it  
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לְפִי-חֶסֶד גִּירוּ לָכֶם גֵּיר

*Tzedakah* includes  
honesty, justice, loyalty  
to God and community




## Hosea 10:13-14

You have plowed iniquity;  
you have reaped injustice;  
you have eaten the fruit of  
lies. Because you have  
trusted in your own way and  
in the multitude of your  
warriors, therefore the tumult  
of war shall arise among  
your people, and all your  
fortresses shall be destroyed,

## Hosea 10:13-14

חַרְשָׁתֶּם-רָשָׁע עֲוֹלָתְהָ  
קִצְרֹתֶם אֲכַלְתֶּם  
פְּרִי-כַחַשׁ כִּי-בִטַּחְתָּ  
בְּדַרְכְּךָ בְּרַב גְּבוּרֶיךָ:  
וַיָּקֵאם שָׂאוֹן בְּעַמֶּיךָ  
וְכָל-מִבְצָרֶיךָ יוֹשֵׁד



What are you  
sowing in your  
garden?



# Agricultural metaphors





## Hosea 9:10

Like grapes in the wilderness, I found Israel. Like the first fruit on the fig tree in its first season, I saw your fathers. But they came to Baal-peor and consecrated themselves to the thing of shame, and became detestable like the thing they loved.

## Hosea 9:10

כַּעֲנַבִּים בַּמִּדְבָּר מָצָאתִי  
יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּבְכוּרָה בְּתֵאֵנָה  
בִּגְרָאֲשִׁיָּתָהּ רָאִיתִי  
אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם הֵמָּה בָּאוּ  
בְּעַל-פְּעֹר וַיִּקְדְּשׁוּ  
לַבִּזְנוּת וַיִּהְיוּ שְׁקוּצִים  
כְּאֹהֲבָם:



Don't be a dufflepud!



DUFFLEPUDDS

THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN THREADER



## Hosea 9:10

Like grapes in the wilderness, I found Israel. Like the first fruit on the fig tree in its first season, I saw your fathers. But they came to Baal-peor and consecrated themselves to the thing of shame, and became detestable like the thing they loved.

## Hosea 9:10

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כְּאֹהֲבָם:



Don't be a dufflepud!



DUFFLEPUDDS

THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN THREADER



# Agricultural metaphors





# Household metaphors





## Hosea 11:1-2

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols.

## Hosea 11:1-2

כִּי בַעַר יִשְׂרָאֵל  
וְאֶהְיֶהוּ וּמִמִּצְרַיִם  
קָרָאתִי לְבָנִי: קָרָאֻ  
לָהֶם בֶּן הָלֶכָּה מִפְּנֵיהֶם  
לְבַעַלִּים יִזְבְּחוּ  
וּלְפִסְלִים יִקְטִירוּ:



## Hosea 11:3

Yet it was I who taught  
Ephraim to walk; I took  
them up by their arms,  
but they did not know  
that I healed them.

## Hosea 11:3

וְאֲנִי תִרְגַּלְתִּי  
לְאַפְרַיִם קָחַם  
עַל-זְרוּעֹתָיו וְלֹא יָדְעוּ  
כִּי רָפָאתִים:





Yet they did not  
know that it was I  
who loved them



## Hosea 11:3

Yet it was I who taught  
Ephraim to walk; I took  
them up by their arms,  
but they did not know  
that I healed them.

## Hosea 11:3

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עַל-זְרוּעֹתָיו וְלֹא יָדְעוּ  
כִּי רָפָאתִים:







# Household metaphors





## Hosea 7:4

They are all adulterers;  
they are like a heated  
oven whose baker ceases  
to stir the fire, from the  
kneading of the dough  
until it is leavened.

## Hosea 7:4

כֻּלָּם מִנְאֲפִים כָּמוֹ  
תִּנּוֹר בִּיעָרָה יָא אֶפְהָ  
יִשְׁבּוֹת מֵעִיר מְלוּשׁ  
בָּצֵק עַד־חֲמֻצָתוֹ:



How intense is your love for God?  
For sin?

Hos. 7:6 *“For with hearts like an oven they approach their intrigue; all night their anger smolders; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire”*





## Hosea 7:8

Ephraim mixes himself  
with the peoples;  
Ephraim is a cake not  
turned.

## Hosea 7:8

אֶפְרַיִם בָּעַמִּים הוּא  
יִתְבּוֹלֵל אֶפְרַיִם הָיָה  
עֵגֶה בְּלִי הַפּוּקָה:



## Hosea 7:8

Ephraim **mixes** himself  
with the peoples;  
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## Hosea 7:8

אֶפְרַיִם בָּעַמִּים הוּא  
יִתְבּוֹלֵל אֶפְרַיִם הִנֵּה  
עֵגֶה בְּלִי הַפּוּקָה:

*Balal* can be mixed like  
ingredients (Ex. 29:2) or mixed  
up like confused (Gen. 11:7)



## Hosea 7:8

Ephraim **mixes** himself  
with the peoples;  
Ephraim is a **cake not  
turned**.

## Hosea 7:8

אֶפְרַיִם בָּעַמִּים הוּא  
יִתְבּוֹלֵל אֶפְרַיִם הִנֵּה  
עֵגָה בְּלִי הַפּוּקָה:

*They were “half-baked”*



# Household metaphors





## Hosea 5:13

When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah his wound, then Ephraim went to Assyria, and sent to the great king. But he is not able to cure you or heal your wound.

## Hosea 5:13

וַיֵּרָא אֶפְרַיִם אֶת־חֲלָיו  
וַיהוּדָה אֶת־מַזְרוֹ וַיֵּלֶךְ  
אֶפְרַיִם אֶל־אַשּׁוּר  
וַיִּשְׁלַח אֶל־מֶלֶךְ יָרָב  
וְהוּא לֹא יוֹכֵל לְרַפֵּא  
לָכֶם וְלֹא־יִגְהֶה מִכֶּם  
מִזֹּר:



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# Point For Home





A close-up photograph of several green pea pods hanging from a stem. The pods are vibrant green and curved, with some showing signs of being eaten. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a garden setting.

What are you  
sowing in your  
garden?



Be touched by  
his tender love

Hos.11:3 *“Yet it was I  
who taught Ephraim  
to walk; I took them  
up by their arms”*





How intense is your love for God?  
For sin?

Hos. 7:6 *“For with hearts like an oven they approach their intrigue; all night their anger smolders; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire”*





# The Minor Prophets

**OBADIAH**

**MICAH**

**JOEL**

**HOSEA**

**AMOS**

**NAHUM**

**ZEPHANIAH**

**JONAH**

**HABAKKUK**

**ZECHARIAH**

**HAGGAI**

**MALACHI**