

Chapter 8

8:1

“Set the ¹trumpet to your mouth! He shall come like an eagle used of any swift nation (Habakkuk 1:8 uses it in reference to the Babylonians) **against the house of the LORD, Because they have transgressed My covenant** reminding us of the charge of 6:7 and its marital implications. **And rebelled against My law.** Here comes Assyria. “Just go ahead, watchman (to use Ezekiel language, 33:1-4), and let everybody know he’s coming.

8:2-10

2 ^bIsrael will cry to Me, ‘My God, we know You!’ 3 Israel has rejected the good; when we take a look at the culture of Israel and look ahead to 8:11, it becomes painfully obvious that they think “another gift will fix this.” And eventually, a nation has to understand with all this talk about “love languages” in today’s Christianity, fervent devotion and simple obedience are God’s “love language” (John 14:15).

As it relates to the Gospel of Mark, we could reference Mark 7:8-16 where the Israelite leaders of that day were said to have been those who exalted their traditions over the laws of God, all the while thinking they were honoring the Lord; believing they “knew God.”

The enemy will pursue him. 4 “They set up kings, but not by Me; They made princes, but I did not acknowledge them. From their silver and gold They made idols for themselves— That they might be cut off. 5 Your ²calf is rejected, O Samaria! Maybe this is a reference to Exodus 32 and metaphorically places them in the past at this same point of decision? A more recent occurrence took place a couple of hundred years earlier with Dan and Bethel, both in **Samaria** (1 Kings 12:28-29).

My anger is aroused against them—How long until they attain to innocence? 6 For from Israel is even this: A workman made it, and it is not God; But the calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces. Again, this is short hand for Israel...as is “Ephraim” (7:1-2). **7 “They sow the wind, And reap the whirlwind.** Far worse than the “law of the harvest” in Galatians 6:7-9. **The stalk has no bud; It shall never produce meal. If it should produce, ^hAliens would swallow it up. 8 Israel is swallowed up; Now they are among the Gentiles Like a vessel in which is no pleasure. 9 For they have gone up to Assyria,** Another charge like many before it in this book (5:13), before compared to a flighty bird (7:11), they are compared now to a dumb jackass. **Like a wild donkey alone by itself; Ephraim has hired lovers. 10 Yes, though they have hired among the nations, Now I will gather them; And they shall sorrow a little, Because of the ⁵burden of the king of princes.**

8:11-13

11“Because Ephraim has made many altars for sin, They have become for him altars for sinning. 12 I have written for him the great things of My law, But they were considered a strange thing. Imagine holding God’s instruction at an arm’s length out of suspicion. **13 For the**

¹ ram’s horn, Heb. *shophar*

^bHos. 5:15; 7:14

² Golden calf image

^h Hos. 7:9

⁵ Or *oracle or proclamation*

sacrifices of My offerings they sacrifice flesh and eat it, ⁹But the LORD does not accept them. Now He will remember as promised in 7:2 and in contrast to the Israel's forgetfulness (2:13; 4:6; 8:14). their iniquity and punish their sins. They shall return to Egypt.

⁹Hos. 6:6