

¹When Ephraim spake trembling, he exalted himself in Israel; but when he offended in Baal, he died.²And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves.³Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew that passeth away, as the chaff that is driven with the whirlwind out of the floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney.⁴Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no saviour beside me.⁵I did know thee in the wilderness, in the land of great drought.⁶According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten me.⁷Therefore I will be unto them as a lion: as a leopard by the way will I observe them :⁸I will meet them as a bear that is bereaved of her whelps , and will rend the caul of their heart, and there will I devour them like a lion: the wild beast shall tear them.⁹O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.¹⁰I will be thy king: where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities? and thy judges of whom thou saidst, Give me a king and princes?¹¹I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath.¹²The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is hid.¹³The sorrows of a travailing woman shall come upon him: he is an unwise son; for he should not stay long in the place of the breaking forth of children.¹⁴I will ransom them from the

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power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.¹⁵ Though he be fruitful among his brethren, an east wind shall come, the wind of the LORD shall come up from the wilderness, and his spring shall become dry, and his fountain shall be dried up: he shall spoil the treasure of all pleasant vessels.¹⁶ Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up.

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