

***When Jesus Christ Comes Again***  
***International Bible Lesson***  
**Hosea 1:1-11**  
**Sunday, January 17, 2016**  
**L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.**

*“The people of Judah and the people of Israel will come together; they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel” (Hosea 1:11).*

Hosea predicted the total destruction of the Kingdom of Israel because of the idolatry of the religious and political leaders and people, which included spiritual and physical adultery (symbolized by Hosea’s marriage to Gomer) and the murder of children by their parents as part of their pagan worship. Since the Israelites refused to repent of their idolatry and increasing levels of violence, God fulfilled Hosea’s prophecy in 722 BC by using the Assyrians to conquer the Kingdom of Israel and disperse the Israelites among the lands they had conquered. Thus, these dispersed Israelites came to be called, “the ten lost tribes of Israel.” Even though these Israelites had rejected God, God finally said of them, “You are not my people,” God promised through Hosea that He would someday call their descendants “children of the living God” (Hosea 1:10). God began to fulfill His promise when many Israelites and Judeans came to believe in Jesus the Messiah. When the State of Israel was established in 1948, many Jews and some who claimed to be descendants of the “ten lost tribes of Israel” came together to form the new nation. Since then, the Israelis have elected many national leaders, but when Jesus the Messiah returns “they will appoint one leader.” As predicted, the first “day of Jezreel” began with the punishment of idolatrous King Ahab and his evil Queen Jezebel. The “great day of Jezreel” will begin with the promised Second Coming of Jesus the Messiah, when He will end the world’s descent into depravity and increasing violence. — L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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## **Thinking Further**

1. How did the LORD want Hosea to express His word to the people of Israel and their leaders?

2. How did Gomer's behavior illustrate the sins of the Israelites?

3. What did God say He would do when He justly judged Israel for their sins and unrepentance?

4. What names did God tell Hosea to give to the children Gomer conceived and bore and what did these names mean?

5. What hope did God give to the Israelites?