

RISKING ALL FOR LOVE**Reaping What You Sow****Hosea 8:1–14**

“They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind.” Hosea 8:7a

Day 1: Read Hosea 8:1–14.

1. The verses in this chapter can be grouped into three ideas according to their message. Write short titles for the following three groups of verses:
 - a. Verses 1a, 7:
 - b. Verses 1b–3, 4b–6, 11–13:
 - c. Verses 4a, 8–10, 14:

Day 2: Hosea 8:1–3.

2. As the chapter opens, a trumpet is sounding. What does this signify? (See Ezek. 33:1–5.)
3. In verse 1 the word “eagle” gives us a picture of a large, swooping bird of prey (the original Hebrew word can mean “vulture” too). What tone do the images of the trumpet and the eagle convey?
4. Verse 1b states the reason for the sounding trumpet and swooping bird of prey and the reason for God’s impending judgment (vs.14b). What is it?
5. What outcry does Israel make in verse 2? What makes Israel’s claim of knowing God ring hollow to him? (vs. 3) Does Israel know God or not? (Read Jn. 8:39–44.)
6. Read 1 John 2:3–6. Think about yourself: how do you know that you know God?

Day 3: Read Hosea 8:4–6.

7. In what two areas does God bring charges against Israel?
8. When did a golden calf make its first appearance among God’s people? (Ex. 32:1–8)

9. Notice the words of Aaron, Israel's high priest, in Exodus 32:5. Do you think he thought of himself as an idolator? With a similar attitude towards their own calf-idols, do you think the Israelites of Hosea's day thought of themselves as idolators?

10. Think again of what you devote your time and energy to. Ask God to show you the things—the good things that you know are gifts from God—that you have made into idols.

Day 4: Read Hosea 8:7–10.

11. What two word pictures appear in verse 7? Explain them in the context of the foreign policy of Hosea's day. (Recall Hos. 7:11ff.)

12. The main context in verses 7–10 is Israel's foreign policy, but what is the heart issue that God is addressing?

13. How does the proverb “you reap what you sow” apply to us? (Gal. 6:7–9)

Day 5: Read Hosea 8:11–14.

14. Look closely at verses 11–13. Fill in the blanks to summarize three ironies that are features of Israel's corrupt religious life.
 - a. Altars for sin offerings have become _____
 - b. Israel regards God's law as _____
 - c. The effect of Israel's sacrifices is _____

15. What phrase in verse 14 summarizes God's assessment of his people?

16. Consider God's words to us in Revelation 3:17–22. As you worship, think about the state of your own heart. Ask God to show you ways you need to repent and write a prayer of repentance.