



LOVE
BECKONS,
MERCY
PURSUES

The Book of Hosea

Draw me close to You
Never let me go

I lay it all down again
To hear You say
that I'm Your friend

You are my desire
Nothing else will do

'Cause nothing else
Can take Your place

To feel the warmth
Of Your embrace

Help me find the way
Bring me back to You

You're all I want

You're all I've ever needed

You're all I want

Help me know You are near

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Help me know You are near

You're all I want

You're all I've ever needed

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Help me know You are near

Help me know You are here

“Draw Me Close” words and music by Kelly Carpenter

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LOVE
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LOVE
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Northern Kingdom

Southern Kingdom



Turn and Talk

v. 1-2

v. 3-6

v. 7-9

v. 10-16

v. 17

Declining birthrate

No joy

Completely cast out

Loss of spiritual guidance

Exile from their land



Emptied of Joy

1. Rejoice not, O Israel!
Exult not like the peoples;
for you have played the whore, forsaking your God.
You have loved a prostitute's wages
on all threshing floors.

1. Threshing floor and wine vat shall not feed them,
and the new wine shall fail them.

Emptied From Their Land

3. They shall not remain in the land of the LORD,
but Ephraim shall return to Egypt,
and they shall eat unclean food in Assyria.

4. They shall not pour drink offerings of wine to the LORD,
and their sacrifices shall not please him.
It shall be like mourners' bread to them;
all who eat of it shall be defiled;
for their bread shall be for their hunger only;
it shall not come to the house of the LORD.

3. They shall not remain in the land of the LORD,
but Ephraim shall return to Egypt,
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and their sacrifices shall not please him.
It shall be like mourners' bread to them;
all who eat of it shall be defiled;
for their bread shall be for their hunger only;
it shall not come to the house of the LORD.

5. What will you do on the day of the appointed festival,
and on the day of the feast of the LORD?

6. For behold, they are going away from destruction;
but Egypt shall gather them;

Memphis shall bury them.

Nettles shall possess their precious things of silver;
thorns shall be in their tents.



Emptied to Wandering

17. My God will reject them
because they have not listened to him;
they shall be wanderers among the nations.

Timeline

722 BC



Northern Kingdom
taken captive by Assyria

586 BC



Southern Kingdom
falls to Babylon

516 BC



Return to Jerusalem
Temple completed

Emptied of Spiritual Insight

7. The days of punishment have come;
the days of recompense have come;
Israel shall know it.

**The prophet is a fool;
the man of the spirit is mad,
because of your great iniquity
and great hatred.**

**8. The prophet is the watchman of Ephraim with my God;
yet a fowler's snare is on all his ways,
and hatred in the house of his God.**

**9. They have deeply corrupted themselves
as in the days of Gibeah:
he will remember their iniquity;
he will punish their sins.**

Emptied of Prosperous
Birth Rate

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.

**11. Ephraim's glory shall fly away like a bird—
no birth, no pregnancy, no conception!**

**12. Even if they bring up children,
I will bereave them till none is left.
Woe to them
when I depart from them!**

**13. Ephraim, as I have seen, was like a young palm planted
in a meadow;
but Ephraim must lead his children out to slaughter. (ESV)**

“...But Ephraim will bring out
their children to the slayer.” (NIV)



14. Give them, O LORD—

what will you give?

**Give them a miscarrying womb
and dry breasts.**

15. Every evil of theirs is in Gilgal;

there I began to hate them.

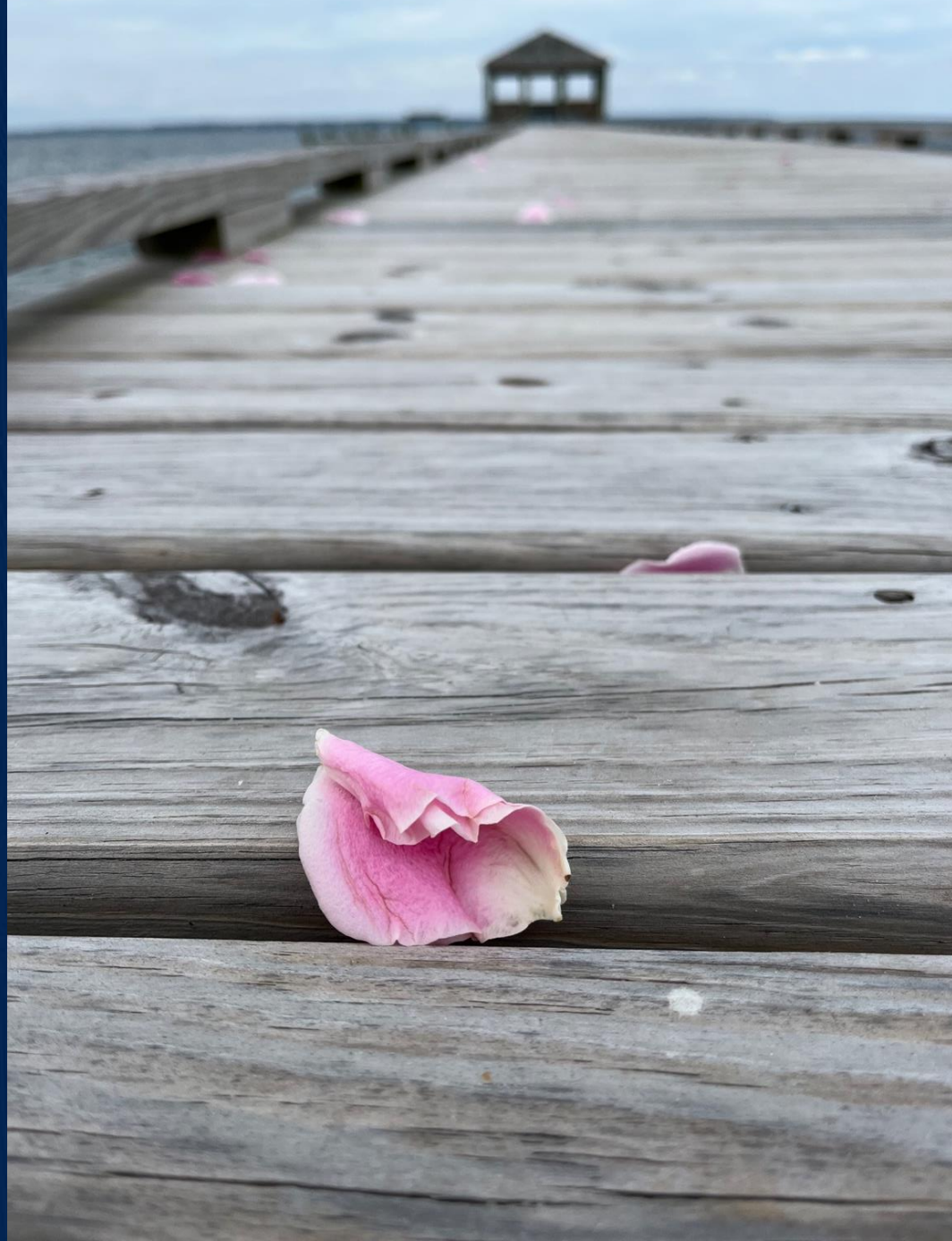
Because of the wickedness of their deeds

I will drive them out of my house.

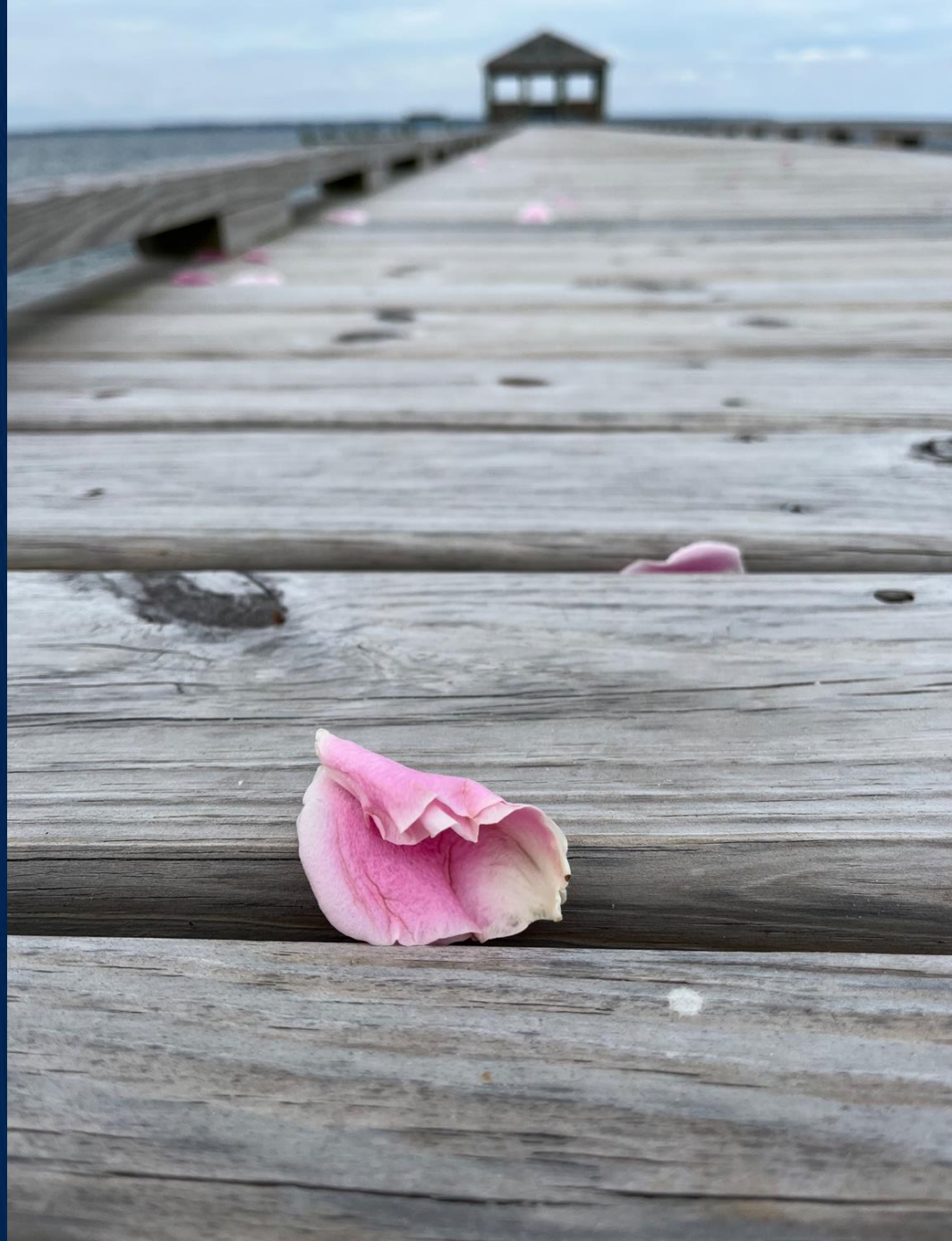
I will love them no more;

all their princes are rebels.

**16. Ephraim is stricken;
their root is dried up;
they shall bear no fruit.
Even though they give birth,
I will put their beloved children to death.**



“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, I have broken Your commandments and fallen short of Your standards. Right now I turn from that sin and ask You into my life. Be my Lord, Savior, friend and God. I put my faith in Jesus Christ, in Him alone, to save me from my sins. Thank You for loving me and calling me. In Jesus Name I pray. Amen.”







BLESSINGS

Laura Story

The image features a light pink background with a subtle, repeating pattern of fine, concentric lines. Several thick, vibrant lines in various colors (yellow, teal, orange, blue, purple, and green) are drawn across the frame, creating a dynamic, abstract border. The text "Group Time" is centered in a dark purple, cursive font.

Group Time

'Cause what if Your blessings
come through raindrops?

What if Your healing
comes through tears?

And what if a thousand
sleepless nights are what it takes
to know You're near?

And what if trials of this life
are Your mercies in disguise?

We pray for blessings

We pray for peace

Comfort for family
Protection while we sleep

We pray for healing
For prosperity

We pray for Your mighty hand
to ease our suffering

And all the while
You hear each spoken need

Yet Love is way too much
to give us lesser things

'Cause what if Your blessings
come through raindrops

What if Your healing
comes through tears

And what if a thousand
sleepless nights are what it takes
to know You're near

And what if trials of this life
are Your mercies in disguise

We pray for wisdom
Your voice to hear

We cry in anger when
we cannot feel You near

We doubt Your goodness

We doubt Your love

As if every promise from
Your Word is not enough

And all the while You hear
each desperate plea

And long that we'd have
faith to believe

'Cause what if Your blessings
come through raindrops

What if Your healing
comes through tears

And what if a thousand
sleepless nights are what it takes
to know You're near

And what if trials of this life
are Your mercies in disguise

When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win

We know that pain
reminds this heart

That this is not
this is not our home

It's not our home

'Cause what if Your blessings
come through raindrops?

What if Your healing
comes through tears?

And what if a thousand
sleepless nights are what it takes
to know You're near?

What if my greatest
disappointments, or the
aching of this life

Is a revealing of a greater thirst
this world can't satisfy?

And what if trials of this life
The rain, the storms,
the hardest nights

Are Your mercies in disguise

“Blessings” words and music by Laura Story
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