



JULY 2026 | DAY 5

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 44
Ezekiel 45
Ezekiel 46
Ezekiel 47
Ezekiel 48
Psalms 150

When God provides hope, it tends to spread. In yesterday's reading, Ezekiel reported a message of restoration for Israel's temple. Today, we see that hopeful herald expanding to Israel and all creation.

Ezekiel first envisions a priestly transformation: new servants of Yahweh dedicated to serve in the new temple. From there, his vision spreads to the rest of Israel until the nation's land, leaders, people, economic systems, and liturgical rhythms all reflect God's holiness and justice. And it's not just Israel. At the temple door, Ezekiel sees a tiny dribble of water leak out of the threshold. Soon this trickle widens to a stream, then to a teeming river that spreads life wherever it flows. This echoes the stream that flowed from Eden to spread nourishing water throughout the world (Gen. 2:10-13).

Jerusalem's fresh waters cleanse and purify the briny depths of the Dead Sea, until its once-barren waters teem with fish. Plants sprout from the river's fertile banks. The salty, empty wilderness transforms into lush orchards, thick with life-giving trees that bring healing and abundance for all who eat their fruit.

They represent new trees of life, as you'll see in the video. All creation becomes a new Eden, watered by the river of life flowing from Yahweh's temple.

That's how the book of Ezekiel ends: with Yahweh's plan to restore all humanity and creation through his life-giving presence. When God dwells among his people, even the most desolate places can bloom into gardens of life.



JULY 2026 | DAY 6

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Hosea 1
Hosea 2
Hosea 3
Hosea 4
Hosea 5
Psalms 1

What do broken marriages and broken nations have in common?

According to the book of Hosea, quite a lot.

Hosea is the first of 12 short prophetic books (sometimes called the Minor Prophets) originally designed to be read as a single scroll called “The Twelve.”

The book begins with a heartbreaking story: Hosea’s wife ditches him to run off with another guy. Yahweh tells Hosea that his wife’s adultery mirrors Israel’s spiritual infidelity. Though Yahweh has given himself like a devoted husband to the Israelites, they have betrayed the relationship by running off with other gods.

To worsen matters, Israel’s adulterous idolatry mirrors spiritual prostitution. The people take the good grain and grapes given by Yahweh only to give that goodness to another god. Their sacrifices to Canaanite gods aim to seduce for payment: rain for their barley fields, safe pastures for their flocks, grapes on their vines.

But this affair leads only to ruin. Israel’s striptease for idols will leave the nation bare and shivering, exposed to the raw consequences of abandoning Yahweh’s protection.

The imagery in Hosea 2 is graphic and disturbing, and that’s the point. Israel’s dismaying behavior has blinded them. Yahweh wants to shock the Israelites into seeing the weight of their actions. (Remember Isaiah’s three years of public nudity? He was communicating a similar message.)



JULY 2026 | DAY 6 - CONTINUED

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SCRIPTURE

Hosea 1
Hosea 2
Hosea 3
Hosea 4
Hosea 5
Psalms 1

Israel's infidelity isn't the end of the story. Yahweh tells Hosea to seek out his unfaithful wife and take her back. Yahweh is going to do the same thing for Israel. Watch the video to learn more about Yahweh's radical and relentless love in the book of Hosea.



JULY 2026 | DAY 7

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Hosea 6
Hosea 7
Hosea 8
Hosea 9
Hosea 10
Psalms 2

By this point in the biblical story, we've seen plenty of low points in Israel's history. Few compare to the book of Judges' catastrophic conclusion, when the nation tore itself apart with violence and sexual assault, everyone "doing what was right in his own eyes" (Judg. 21:25). In today's reading, Hosea says Israel's moral corruption has spiraled back down to "the days of Gibeah" (Hos. 9:9), a gut-wrenching hyperlink to Judges 19. The people are back to doing what's right in their own eyes, making them as dead as the idols they worship. From bandit priests with golden calves, to clueless kings with charlatan courts, to scheming farmers with bloodstained fields: It's violence and chaos all the way down.

Yahweh wants the Israelites to sow righteousness and eat the fruit of unfailing love. Instead, they plant wickedness, reap evil, and gorge themselves on the rotten fruit of their deceptive schemes. Like the first humans in Eden, the Israelites spurn God's gift of true life. They eat from the wrong tree, as it were, through idol worship, exploitation of the poor, and political alliances with other nations.

As a result, all the garden blessings they were supposed to enjoy in the promised land come undone. Instead of being fruitful and multiplying, they will experience the heartbreak of barrenness. Fertile fields will be overrun by thorns, leaving no grain for their threshing floors. Peace and security will give way to exile. Notice how exhaustive loss of life becomes when people reject God's will in favor of their own, and notice how full life becomes when people allow God's will to direct their choices.



JULY 2026 | DAY 8

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Hosea 11
Hosea 12
Hosea 13
Hosea 14
Psalms 3

In today's reading, Hosea gives a history lesson with [hyperlinks](#). He throws a harsh spotlight on Israel's long pattern of treachery. Like their father, Jacob, who schemed to take God's blessing on his own terms, the Israelites won't trust Yahweh to bless them freely. They keep scheming and lying like both Jacob and their ancestors in the wilderness did.

How does Yahweh feel about the nation repeatedly cheating on him with foreign idols? Hurt? Angry? Betrayed? Of course. His deep love for Israel means their treachery brings deep grief. Beyond that, God's heart aches with compassion for his wounded and wandering people. Yahweh loves Israel, no matter how many times she walks away. The people may break their promise. Yahweh will not.

That's where the book of Hosea ends. Not with Israel's brokenness or fleeting repentance, but with God's promise to make them whole. Yahweh says that one day he will "heal their waywardness and love them freely" (Hos. 14:4).

This restoration will transform Israel into a lush tree with deep roots and broad branches, offering shade and fruit to the nations—the blessings of Eden spreading to the whole world. That's been Yahweh's mission all along. Nothing can stop it. Even Israel's adulterous heart is no match for Yahweh's healing love.



JULY 2026 | DAY 9

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Joel 1
Joel 2
Joel 3
Psalms 4

A dark cloud rises, swirling up from the horizon until the sky blackens with locusts. Billions of them. The seething swarm floods the land, leaving chewed, dry wastelands in its wake. Proud groves of olive and fig stripped to withered stumps. Lush pastures become cracked and barren ground. Golden fields of grain transform to ragged patches of stalks. There's not a scrap of green in sight, not even a blade of grass.

So goes the memorable introduction to the book of Joel. The prophet uses the visceral image of a locust invasion to describe the coming "Day of the Lord," when Yahweh will show up in a powerful way to confront human evil. Joel warns that God is sending disastrous judgment on Israel's disastrous sin. Another bristling wave crests the horizon, surging toward Jerusalem in a ravenous swarm: not locusts this time, but enemy soldiers. Judgment is imminent—but not inevitable. Joel reminds the people that Yahweh's mercy has always been more powerful than Israel's sin. If they repent, Yahweh will pour out rain that turns ravaged deserts back into gardens. Even better, Yahweh promises to pour out his life-giving Spirit. Watch the video to learn about the great and terrible Day of the Lord in the book of Joel.



JULY 2026 | DAY 10

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Amos 1
Amos 2
Amos 3
Amos 4
Amos 5
Psalms 5

Of all the nations, God blesses Israel with his presence, instruction, and partnership on a mission to bless every nation on Earth. He provides for them and promises to protect them always. However, to continue experiencing and expanding God's good blessing, Israel must continue their partnership with Yahweh. When the Israelites found themselves in Egyptian slave shackles, God moved Heaven and Earth to break Egypt's power. Now, the Israelites turn around and crush their own poor underfoot.

Under the rule of Jeroboam II, Israelite injustice reaches a breaking point. Rich families rack up gold by abusing and taking advantage of the poor. And for what? To blow it on glamorous cocktail parties. They wine and dine in swanky mansions while the workers they've cheated starve and shiver through the night. The well-dressed oppressors walk religiously to the altar the next morning, flaunting their sacrifices like all is well. Yahweh intended for Israel to bless the world. When they choose to do harm instead, Yahweh addresses that head-on. In this case, he sends the shepherd prophet, Amos.

Amos delivers a severe warning. Public displays of righteousness cannot hide the darkness happening behind them. You can make sure everyone sees your sacrifices and rule-following. You may even gain status. But the show is a pretense. The facade won't last.

Yahweh is not interested in hollow religion or rituals used to cover up wrongdoing. Watch the video to learn about Yahweh's scathing critique of injustice in the book of Amos.



JULY 2026 | DAY 11

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Amos 6

Amos 7

Amos 8

Amos 9

Psalms 6

By the time Amos is prophesying, Israel's leaders have built a small empire by cheating and taking advantage of their community's vulnerable people. The religious elite lounge easily and guzzle wine by the bowl. They splurge on elaborate skincare routines, all of it funded with fraud. The leaders steal land from powerless widows and neglect hurting and hungry people to hoard money and food for themselves.

Injustice has become the average, expected norm. But Amos says God will act, a time or era often referred to in Scripture as the Day of the Lord. Yahweh is about to shut this garish party down.

Amos experiences a series of visions from Yahweh that help him see what's coming. A swarm of locusts wipes out every green thing in sight. A monstrous fire licks the rivers dry and devours the land. A plumb line hangs straight and true, revealing how crooked Israel's sense of right and wrong has become.

Finally, a basket of overripe fruit appears to signal Israel's imminent end—a clever play on the similar-sounding Hebrew words qayits and qets, which in English are translated “ripe fruit” and “end.” Yikes.

With a message like that, it's not surprising that a local priest asks Amos to go prophesy somewhere else.

But right at the end of the book, Amos offers a hint of hope. Yahweh will one day send a king from the line of David to restore his people.



JULY 2026 | DAY 11 - CONTINUED

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Amos 6
Amos 7
Amos 8
Amos 9
Psalms 6

In today's video, we learn how this king fulfills the vision God gave Amos. Jesus brings the kind of kingdom Amos longed to see: a kingdom where the poor and powerless are first in line and where justice and right relationships rule the day. Watch the video to learn more about the surprising, upside-down rule of King Jesus.