

Hosea points out that the people's leadership was established without God's authority. Idols of silver and gold are being worshipped kindling God's wrath since they are lifeless forms and are destined for the flames. The Israelites sow the wind and will reap the whirlwind because they disregard God's ordinances and altars built to expiate sins are now occasions for sin; even their sacrifices do not please the Lord!

The psalmist describes man-made idols that have mouths, eyes, ears, noses, hands, and feet but are unable to speak, see, hear, smell, touch, or walk and their makers and all who trust in them will become like them, however those of the House of Israel and Aaron and all who fear the Lord and trust in him, will have him as their help and shield. The small as well as the great will receive the Lord's blessing.

Today many of the idols are worldly famous people who cannot see, hear, or understand God's teaching and again those that adulate and trust in them will become spiritually dulled just as they are. Their temporary power, prestige, celebrity will also be dissipated in the flames leaving the emptiness of barren ashes.



A mute possessed by a demon was brought to Jesus which means that person's speech faculty was short-circuited by a demon who had power and control over it. Jesus expelled it and broke that connection causing the demon to leave and enabling the man to now speak. There were two audiences to this happening, the crowds who were amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel!" and the critical Pharisees who said, "He casts out demons through the prince of demons."

Jesus continued his tour of towns and villages where he proclaimed the good news of God's reign while curing every sickness and disease. The crowds moved him with pity as they were as sheep without a shepherd. To his disciples he pointed out that the harvest is good but laborers are scarce and they should pray to the "harvest master" to send out more laborers to gather the harvest.

