

~BETH-AVEN 2 (44)

(Beth-a'ven) [House of Hurtfulness, Something Hurtful]

- In lamenting the idolatrous conditions to which Israel had turned in his time, the prophet Hosea mentions **Beth-aven** together with Gibeah and Ramah, other prominent cities of Benjamin.
- Although you are committing fornication, O Israel, let not Judah become guilty, and do not you people come to Gilgal, neither go up to **Beth-aven** nor swear As Yehowah is alive! (**Hosea 4:15**)
- Blow a horn in Gibeah, a trumpet in Ramah! Shout a war cry at **Beth-aven**, after you, O Benjamin! (**Hosea 5:8**)
- For the calf idol of **Beth-aven** the residents of Samaria will get frightened, for over it its people will certainly mourn, as well as its foreign-god priests who used to be joyful over it, on account of its glory, because it will have gone into exile away from it. (**Hosea 10:5**)
- And the high places of **Beth-aven**, the sin of Israel, will actually be annihilated. Thorns and thistles themselves will come up upon their altars. And people will in fact say to the mountains; Cover us! And to the hills; Fall over us! (**Hosea 10:8**)
- It appears that the prophet applies the name in a derogatory sense to the city of Bethel, which at one time had been a house of God but had now become a house of what is hurtful because of the calf worship instituted there.
- Consequently the king took counsel and made two golden calves and said to the people; It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here is your God, O Israel, that brought you up out of the land of Egypt. (**1 Kings 12:28**)
- Then he placed the one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. (**1 Kings 12:29**)
- And this thing came to be a cause for sin, and the people began to go before the one as far as Dan. (**1 Kings 12:30**)