

# Hosea 10:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ephraim is as an heifer that is taught, and loveth to tread out the corn; but I passed over upon her fair neck: I will make Ephraim to ride; Judah shall plow, and Jacob shall break his clods.

## Analysis

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Trained heifer turned to plowing: 'And Ephraim is as an heifer that is taught, and loveth to tread out the corn; but I passed over upon her fair neck: I will make Ephraim to ride; Judah shall plow, and Jacob shall break his clods.' Ephraim like עגלת מלמדת (eglah melumda, trained heifer) loving to thresh (דוש, dush—pleasant work, eating while working, Deuteronomy 25:4). But God will yoke fair neck for harder work: Ephraim to pull plow, Judah to plow, Jacob to break clods. This demonstrates that refusing disciplined service leads to forced labor. Willing obedience is easier than compulsory service. Christ's yoke is easy compared to sin's bondage (Matthew 11:28-30).

## Historical Context

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Threshing (trampling grain) was relatively pleasant work for oxen—moving freely, eating grain (Deuteronomy 25:4). Plowing required harder labor: pulling heavy plow through resistant soil. The metaphor describes Israel's preference for covenant benefits (pleasant threshing) without covenant obligations (hard plowing). God's response: yoking them for harder discipline through exile and oppression. Judah mentioned alongside Ephraim suggests both kingdoms eventually experience this harder yoking. Historically, Assyrian and Babylonian servitude proved far harder than covenant service to YHWH would have been. This

demonstrates that resisting God's light discipline results in experiencing heavier discipline.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does preferring 'threshing' (pleasant activity with benefits) over 'plowing' (hard necessary work) describe spiritual immaturity?
2. What does Christ's 'easy yoke' teach about how willing service to God is lighter than resistant slavery to sin?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאַתָּה	לְדֹבֶר	וְאַתָּה	בְּתִי	מִלְמְדָה	עַגְלָה	הִנֵּה	אַפְכָּה	וְאַתָּה
And Ephraim	is as an heifer	that is taught	and loveth	to tread out				H589
H669	H5697	H3925	H157	H1758				
עַבְרִתִּי	עַל	טַבְעֵה	צַאַבְתִּי	אַרְכָּבִים	אַפְכָּה			
the corn but I passed over	H5921	upon her fair	neck	to ride	And Ephraim			
H5674		H2898	H6677	H7392	H669			
וְשַׁעַרְבָּבָה:	לְזִבְחָה	וְשַׁעַרְבָּבָה:	וְשַׁעַרְבָּבָה:	וְשַׁעַרְבָּבָה:	וְשַׁעַרְבָּבָה:	וְשַׁעַרְבָּבָה:	וְשַׁעַרְבָּבָה:	וְשַׁעַרְבָּבָה:
shall plow	Judah	shall break his clods	H0	and Jacob				
H2790	H3063	H7702		H3290				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hosea 4:16** (Parallel theme): For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer: now the LORD will feed them as a lamb in a large place.

**Jeremiah 50:11** (Parallel theme): Because ye were glad, because ye rejoiced, O ye destroyers of mine heritage, because ye are grown fat as the heifer at grass, and bellow as bulls;

**Deuteronomy 25:4** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn.

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