

EPHRAIM AND JUDAH.

HOSEA-6 : 4: "O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee?"

To find out what God has done to these two houses of Israel is the purpose of this essay. We propose to let the God of Israel answer his own questions through sacred and profane history because by these has our Heavenly Father made known to his people the scheme of providence.

As we all know, the names Ephraim and Judah as employed in this passage stand for more than the individuals to whom they were first given. The name Judah is in the Bible frequently used to designate the tribe which sprang from that patriarch; and after the separation of the nation it included the tribe of Benjamin, 1 Kings 11 : 36. These two tribes made up what in the prophets is called the house of Judah. The name Ephraim came after a time to stand for the ten revolted tribes and is so intended in this passage. The whole house of ISRAEL is the language the prophets always use when they wish to speak of the union of both houses.

This distinction has not been as clearly pointed out as it should have been, hence many prophecies which were uttered concerning the house of Israel have been applied to the Jews, when it has been at all possible in the light of their history and when not possible they have been spiritualized to fit the Church. In such cases much straining of the word has been done and the passages have for the most part been misfits of the worst kind. No person can read the Bible with the distinctions I have named in mind, and fail to see that the promises made to these two houses of Israel are very distinct. The prophecies relating to the house of Judah have up to the present time been *literally* fulfilled, but what of those made to the house of Joseph? To trace the development of God's plan with the seed of Ephraim is the task before us. To do this correctly we must begin from the first.

First then, we must look at the Abrahamic covenant and be careful to get our starting point well settled. All depends upon this, as an error here would be fatal. According to the record God Almighty called Abraham from Ur of the Caldees where he lived in the service of dumb idols, and sent him out into a strange land. This call Abraham obeyed and