

Minor Prophets: Hosea

Background

Exodus 48:13-16; 49:8-10; 49:22-26; I Chronicles 5:1-2

Joshua and Samuel were both from Ephraim

Kings of Israel: 931-723 BC

King of Israel	Bible verses	start and end	Years reigned from Bible
Jeroboam I	1 Ki 12:25-14:20	931-910 BC	22
Nadab	1 Ki 15:25-31	910-909 BC	2
<i>Baasha</i>	1 Ki 15:32-16:7	909-886 BC	24
Elah	1 Ki 16:8-14	886-885 BC	2
<i>Zimri</i>	1 Ki 16:15-20	885 BC	7 days
<i>Tibni</i>	1 Ki 16:21-22	885-880 BC	no data
Omri	1 Ki 16:23-28	885-874 BC	12
Ahab	1 Ki 16:28-34; 1 Ki 20:1-22:40	874-853 BC	22
Ahaziah	1 Ki 22:40-53; 2 Ki 1:2-18	853-852 BC	2
Joram	2 Ki 3	852-841 BC	12
Jehu	2 Ki 9:11-10:36	841-814 BC	28
Jehoahaz	2 Ki 13:1-9	814-798 BC	17
Jehoash (Joash)	2 Ki 13:10-25; 14:15-16	798-782 BC	16
Jeroboam II	2 Ki 14:23-29	793-753 BC	41
Zechariah	2 Ki 15:8-12	753-752 BC	6 mos.
Shallum	2 Ki 15:13-15	752 BC	1 mos.
Pekah	2 Ki 15:27-31	752-732 BC	20
Menahem	2 Ki 15:16-22	752-742 BC	10
Pekahiah	2 Ki 15:23-26	742-740 BC	2
Hoshea	2 Ki 17:1-6	732-723 BC	9

Hosea's Specific Setting

- Northern Kingdom's final days
- Jeroboam II reigned at the start of Hosea's prophesy with great wealth and political influence
- Hosea prophesies the downfall of Jeroboam's dynasty
- Six kings reigned in only 25 years (2 Kings 15:8-17:41)
- Four of them were murdered by their successors: Zechariah, Shallum, Pekahiah, Peka
- One was captured in battle: Hoshea
- Only one was succeeded by his son: Menahem
- Assyria was expanding westward and Menahem accepted them as overlord
- Pekah killed Pekahiah, Menahem's son resulting in Assyria dismembering Israel
- Hoshea, Pekah's successor rebelled from Assyria, was caught in battle and Samaria was overtaken.

Who is Hosea?

- His name means “Salvation.”
- Son of Beerī.
- He began to prophesy at the end of Amos’ ministry and warned of judgment from Assyria.
- He was the only writing prophet from the Northern Kingdom.
- Based on his prophesy he must have prophesied for about 40 years.
- Because he refers to Judah, he may have written from there after the fall of the Northern Kingdom.
- It is not known whether he wrote the book or if another recorded his words.

Literary Characteristics

- Chapters 1-3 are written in prose and center on Hosea’s marriage to Gomer
- Chapters 1-3 are more narrative and the oracles are in clusters throughout the narrative
- The narrative is arranged in a chiasmic structure around the marriage theme
- Chapters 4-14 is more typical poetic collection of prophecies concerning Israel’s infidelity.
- The themes of marriage, violation of covenant and the need for repentance, judgment, and God’s grace are found throughout the book

Structure

- Hosea is a well structured book. It is divided between chapters 1-3 and 4-14. The first division centers on his marriage with Gomer, while
- An opening superscription (1:1) and a closing subscription (14:9) enclose the entire prophecy.
- Thematic and verbal associations are observable in both sections. Thus chapters 1-3 are structured chiasmatically with a rebuke of Israel’s infidelity forming the center of the chiasmus (2:14-23 [HB 2:16-25]).
- Chapters 4-14 fall into three distinct subdivisions, each climaxed or concluding with the prophet’s advice to his people followed by statements regarding the Lord’s continuing burden for his people (6:1-7:16; 10:12-11:11; 11:12-14:8 [HB 12:1-14:9]).
- The first two subdivisions are introduced by imperatives: “Hear the word of the LORD” (4:1); “Sound the alarm” (8:1),
- The third subdivision is initiated by a statement of God’s charge against Israel (11:12 [HB 12:1]).8

New Testament Usage

- Matthew 2:15 quotes Hosea 1:1 “out of Egypt I have called my son.”
- Matthew 9:13 quotes Hosea 6:6 “I desire compassion and not sacrifice.”
- Matthew 12:7 quotes Hosea 6:6 “I desire compassion and not sacrifice.”
- Luke 23:30 quotes Hosea 10:8 “they will say to the mountains ‘fall on us,’ and to the hills ‘cover us.’”
- Revelation 6:16 quotes Hosea 10:8 “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of the Lamb.”
- Romans 9:25 quotes Hosea 2:23 “I will call those who were not my people, ‘My people,’ and her who was not beloved, ‘beloved.’”

- I Corinthians 15:55 quotes Hosea 13:14 “O death, where is your victory? O death where is your sting?”
- 1 Peter 2:10 quotes Hosea 1:10 “for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

Major Theme of Hosea

God loves Israel. 11:8-9 It is an “efficacious love.” God’s love is active and patient and will transform Israel into a holy people.

- Frequently these metaphors point to God changing the nature of his people.
 - The marriage seems to be broken between God and His people (2:2). He betroths her to himself again after alluring her back to Himself (2:19).
 - Jezreel, a place of bloodshed in Israel’s history, is a place where the northern kingdom will cease (1:4). Later is a place where the people of God are united under one head (1:11)
 - Loruhamah means “no mercy” Israel will utterly be taken away (1:6). Loammi means “not my people.” Later he says that those will now become Ruhamah and Ammi: “will receive mercy” and “my people.”
 - God will break Israel’s “bow” in the valley of Jezreel (1:5). Later the “bow” is broken due to God making them lie down in peace (2:18).
 - “the valley of Achor” becomes a door of hope. This is the valley where Achan had taken plunder from the battle at Ai. The punishment was that Achan and everything associated with him was stoned, burned and buried in a heap of rocks (Josh. 7:24-26).
 - The Lord will be like a lion to Ephraim and Judah, tearing and going away with no one to rescue (6:14). Later God says that he will “roar like a lion” and His people will come trembling to him in response, to be placed in their houses (11:10-11).
 - Israel is described as a senseless dove going to Egypt and Assyria for help (7:11). Later they come as a dove flying home in response to the Lord’s calling them (11:11).
 - Ephraim is compared to a plant that is caused to dry up and bear no fruit (9:16). Later Ephraim is compared to a fir tree, green and full of fruit (14:8).

Holiness Discussion:

What is Holy is set apart and unique. That which is holy is dangerous to that which is not holy.

Men who entered God’s temple irreverently would die. You needed to be pure morally and ritually to go into the temple. God’s law laid out how to be pure in order to relate to God. Israel has completely abandoned the temple and turned to false God’s.

Isaiah has a vision of God’s temple and he is terrified because he knows he is unclean. But... something radical happens a messenger of God touches his lips with a coal from the altar and its purity transfers to Isaiah making him clean. His guilt is taken away and his sin is atoned for. So... something holy didn’t destroy him, but rather transformed him.

Ezekiel has a vision that connects. He sees water trickling out from the temple of God, which flows out growing into a river as it reaches the Dead Sea. The result is that everything becomes alive. Rather than

things becoming pure before entering the temple, the temple is coming out to make them pure and holy.

Jesus comes on the scene and says he fulfills all of this. He comes in contact with all kinds of people that have impurities. The woman with internal bleeding, men with leprosy, dead people all would have made anyone who touched them impure, but not Jesus. When contact was made He made them pure and heals their bodies.

In Ephesians Paul states that Jesus followers are the temple of God. Jesus calls them to go out to bring life and healing to those around them. He even says that they have springs of living water flowing out of them.

Paul also states in Ephesians that Christ is a faithful husband who purifies His bride, the church, by the washing of the water of the word. He presents the church to Himself without spot wrinkle or blemish so that she is holy.

In Revelation John sees that in the end God's temple will dwell on earth and a river will flow out of it. All of creation will be pure and there will be no death.

Conclusion:

God's love for His people is efficacious. It is able to change them. Ultimately God wants to heal and save His people. Those who are right with Him by humility and repentance will heed the words of the prophet.



HOSEA

AUTHORS CONCLUDING NOTE:
"WHO IS *LOVE* & *DESCENDING* TO UNDERSTAND ALL THIS? THE DAYS OF THE LORD ARE RIGHT. THE AGGRIEVED WALK IN THEM, BUT THE REBELLIOUS SURVIVE IN THEM!"

HOSEA'S POETRY REVEALS DEEP TRUTHS ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER & HUMAN NATURE.

GOD'S ULTIMATE PURPOSE IS TO

Heal & Save

1-3 INTRODUCE HOSEA'S MAIN THEMES:
ISRAEL HAS REBELLED & GOD WILL BRING SEVERE CONSEQUENCES...
BUT GOD'S LOVE & MERCY ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN ISRAEL'S SIN.

1-3 HOSEA'S MARRIAGE TO GOMER

THE MARRIAGE

THE ADULTERY

THE RESTORATION

COVENANT AT MT. SINAI

PROPHETIC SYMBOL OF GOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL

OPTION 1: END THE COVENANT

OPTION 2: RENEW THE COVENANT

REASON: GOD'S LOVE, COMPASSION & FAITHFULNESS" 20-23

EMPHATIC DEFEAT & EXILE

JUSTICE RESTORATION & HOPE

MESSENGER KING

GOD'S BLESSING

4-11 ACCUSATIONS & WARNINGS FOR ISRAEL

1-10 CAUSES & EFFECTS OF ISRAEL'S UNFAITHFULNESS

THERE IS NO KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IN THE LAND!

"KNOWLEDGE" = HEBREW: *YADA'*

HEBREW: *YADA'*

INCLUDES: *Relationship*

TRUSTING IN POLITICAL ALLIANCES WITH OTHER NATIONS

ASSYRIA

EGYPT

ISRAEL - REBELLIOUS SON

GOD - LOVING FATHER

"I THOUGHT ISRAEL TO JOKING, LIEG THEY WITH LOVE"

HOSEA IS EMOTIONALLY TORN:

"HOW CAN I GIVE YOU UP, EPHRAIM? MY HEART CHINKS AGAIN TO: ALL MY COMPASSION IS AWAKENED."

12-14 MORE ACCUSATIONS & WARNINGS

12-13 HOSEA'S HISTORY LESSON

JACOB'S LYING TREACHERY

SC2 GEN 31:5 27-28

ISRAEL'S WILDERNESS REBELLION

SC2 NUMBERS 12-20

ISRAEL'S CHOICE OF KING SAUL

SC2 1 SAMUEL 12:4-15

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

REPENT! IT IS NOT TOO LATE

GOD'S PROMISE: IT WILL HEAL THEIR UNFAITHFULNESS & LOVE THEM FREELY" 14

IMAGE OF GOD BLESSING NATIONS THROUGH ABRAHAM'S FAMILY

author's note *

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