

Old Testament Survey : H O S E A

Author: Hosea (Name means "Jehovah is salvation" His place of birth is unknown. Probably from Israel as he demonstrates great familiarity with that land and calls the king of Israel "our" king in 7:5.)

Date: 760-715 (Verse 1 says that the word of the LORD came to Hosea during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, & Hezekiah in Judah, and Jeroboam II in Israel. Contemporary prophets were Amos and Jonah in Israel, and Micah and Isaiah in Judah).

Biblical Context: 2 Kings 14:23-18:12

Theme: Loyal Love: God's loyal love toward an unfaithful people (Written to Israel)
Hosea's message contains much condemnation of the people's multiplied sins - lying, murder, insincerity, ingratitude, idolatry, covetousness, etc., but it also gives hope for the future with messages of consolation. The love of God toward His people is portrayed by the typological example of Hosea and Gomer.

Outline:

- I. Adulterous wife (Gomer) & faithful husband (Hosea) 1-3
- II. Adulterous Israel & faithful LORD. 4-14

Key Chapters & Verses

- 4:6 Israel rejected as a priest; they forgot the law
- 6:6 Loyalty vs. sacrifice; knowledge of God vs. burnt offerings.
- 11-14 Restoration of Israel to God
- 11:1 Out of Egypt God called His Son whom He loved. (cf. Matt. 2:15)

Setting:

Hosea prophecies over a long time period. Under Jeroboam II, Israel had expanded and was materially prosperous (to which most of the prophecies were directed), but they were morally decadent. Four of Israel's last six kings were assassinated by their successor. Judah was also in decline. Uzziah had tried to usurp the priestly function and had been struck with leprosy (2 Chr. 26:16f), Jotham condoned idolatrous practices opening the way for Baal worship (2 Chr. 27:1f), Hezekiah's revival slowed the rate of decline so that Judgment temporarily withheld.

Detailed Outline of Hosea

- I. The Adulterous Wife and Faithful Husband. **1-3**
 - A. Introduction. 1:1
 - B. The Prophetic Marriage of Hosea to Gomer. 1:2-2:1
 - 1. Hosea's Marriage to Gomer. 1:2
 - 2. The Children of Hosea & Gomer. 1:3-9

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| 3. The Application of Future Restoration. | 1:10-2:1 |
| C. The Application of the Adultery of Gomer. | 2:2-23 |
| 1. Israel's Sin of Spiritual Adultery..... | 2:2-5 |
| 2. Judgment of God..... | 2:6-13 |
| 3. Restoration of Israel. | 2:14-23 |
| D. The Restoration of Gomer to Hosea. | 3:1-5 |
| II. The Adulterous Israel and the Faithful Lord..... | 4-14 |
| A. The Spiritual Adultery of Israel..... | 4:1-6:3 |
| 1. The Sins of Israel. | 4:1-19 |
| a. Rejection of the knowledge of God..... | 4:1-11 |
| b. Idolatry of Israel. | 4:12-19 |
| 2. Judgment on Israel. | 5:1-14 |
| 3. Eventual Restoration of Israel. | 5:15-6:3 |
| B. The Refusal of Israel to Repent of her Adultery. | 6:4-8:14 |
| 1. Willful Transgression of the Covenant..... | 6:4-11 |
| 2. Willful Refusal to Return to the Lord..... | 7:1-16 |
| 3. Willful Idolatry..... | 8:1-14 |

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| C. The Judgment of Israel by God. | 9:1-10:15 |
| 1. Judgment of Dispersion. | 9:1-9 |
| 2. Judgment of Bareness..... | 9:10-17 |
| 3. Judgment of Destruction..... | 10:1-15 |
| D. The Restoration of Israel to the Lord. | 11:1-14:9 |
| 1. God's Love for Israel. | 11:1-2 |
| 2. Israel's Continuing Sin..... | 12:1-13:16 |
| 3. God's Promise to Restore Israel..... | 14:1-9 |