



Minor Prophets Lesson 3: Hosea

1. Introduction to Hosea

Hosea wrote his autobiography as an older man.

Hosea was a prophet to Northern Israel shortly before it went into Assyrian captivity.

His ministry included a period of fifty years, during the reigns of several kings of Israel and Judah, including Jeroboam II of Israel and Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah.

It was during the reigns of the Judean kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.

He emphasizes God's love for his people, even though they have gone astray. Yet he does not spare them or the priest, and he told both they were headed for judgment.

Hosea 4:6

Hosea began preaching in the days of Jeroboam, which was a time of prosperity.

The long reign of Jeroboam II (786–746 BCE) had brought a period of wealth and military success, but after his death, Israel plunged into chaos.

Internal feuds broke out, and rival politicians began to jockey for power. Jeroboam was strong at keeping Israel's enemies in check. But now Israel was weak and the new rulers sought foreign military aid through the payment of tribute. Because of this, Israel's energies and resources were exhausted, and her independence was gone.

There were rapid successions of kings, often installed or killed through assassinations and coups — a sign of national instability.

The people of Israel worshiped Baal and other Canaanite deities, mixing pagan fertility rituals with the worship of Yahweh.

The priests themselves were corrupt and complicit, turning religion into an empty ritual.

Hosea 4:2

Family life degenerated and the foundation of society was breaking up.

The Assyrians conquered Israel and took the king of Israel, Hoshea, captive.

Hosea 10:3**2 Kings 17:3, 4****2. The Book of Hosea can be divided into three parts.**

- The first three chapters of the book are about the prophet's personal life.
- Chapters 4-12 outline the gross iniquity of Israel at that time.
- The last two chapters are tearful entreaties of blessing to follow repentance. God was wounded by their sin, but then He poured in healing oil after repentance.

3. Hosea and his wife

Hosea fell in love with a woman by the name of Gomer. _____

Hosea 1:2

This would appear to be a strange command, indeed, for God to give if Gomer were already a harlot. However, the verse relates to the spiritual harlotry of Israel as a whole.

Israel had departed from the Lord. So, it should be taken in the figurative sense.

Hosea entered into a marriage with apparently no suspicion of trouble in his own home. He named his first child Jazreel as a warning of approaching judgment.

It was in the Valley of Jezreel, that God judged Ahab and Jezebel.

Jazreel is also spoken of as the site in the end times of Armageddon

By the time of his second child, a girl, Hosea realized his wife had been unfaithful to him, and the child was called Loruhamah, which means "not to be pitied". When the third child was born his name was Loammi which means "not my people".

After the birth of the third child, _____

We do not know much about her after this except when we do hear of her again, she is auctioned on the slave market. Through an amazing demonstration of love, Hosea bought her back.

Hosea 3:1, 2

Though Gomer forsook her marriage vows for other lovers, _____

The prophet's love for her and his grief over her waywardness is one of the Bible's most powerful illustrations of God's dealings with Israel, but also with all mankind.

Hosea 11:8

During the time she was away, the prophet ached for her. At times, he was angered by her, but he did not give up. Finally, he went and purchased her release from the slave market.

His marriage was an illustration of a nation that was unfaithful to God. The sin that desolated Hosea's own house was now destroying God's people. It cut him into the heart.

His marriage was a living parable — Hosea's relationship with Gomer represented God's covenant with Israel: just as Hosea remained faithful to an unfaithful wife, God remained faithful to unfaithful Israel.

Central theme: God's steadfast love and mercy — Hosea emphasized God's deep, enduring love for His people despite their spiritual adultery. The book portrays divine love as both just and forgiving.

4. The times of Hosea

The moral condition of Israel deteriorated. They adopted the systems of their Canaanite neighbors.

They lost their faith in God and were looking for foreign alliances. Assyria would eventually crush Israel. Hosea was watching his nation commit suicide.

In chapter 6, Hosea prophesies about the restoration of Israel.

At the closing of the book, he gives a glimpse of national resurrection and physical resurrection.

Hosea 13:14

Paul quotes this in First Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 15:55 – King James Version

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

In some parts of Hosea, there are warnings that one's backsliding may reach a point where God gives up

Hosea 4:17**Hosea 8:7**

But then there are other places where the prophet was recording his real sins, but calling them for repentance

Hosea 10:12**5. What can we learn from the life of Hosea?**

- _____

Hosea's marriage mirrors God's relationship with Israel: love that persists even after betrayal. God does not walk away at the first failure.

- Unfaithfulness has real consequences.

Israel's idolatry is not treated lightly. Hosea shows that sin fractures relationships, communities, and spiritual clarity – even when forgiveness remains possible.

Hosea reveals a God who grieves and has compassion. Divine love is not abstract; it's emotionally invested.

- _____

Hosea 6:6

God desires that we love Him, not just take part in empty religious rituals.

True repentance changes our direction.

- Religious activity can mask spiritual emptiness.

Israel kept sacrifices and festivals but abandoned genuine devotion. Hosea warns that spirituality without relationship is hollow.

-

Hosea condemns ignorance of God – not lack of information, but lack of relationship. I

6. Conclusion

Hosea 14:1

Even as he predicted disaster, Hosea emphasized God's mercy and love:

Hosea 14:4

The Book of Hosea is an incredible illustration of God's divine love pursuing an unfaithful people.

Romans 5:8

Hosea's life itself becomes a message. How we love, forgive, and remain faithful can point others to the nature of God.