

Hosea

750 BC (During the reign of Jereboam II, 793 – 753 BC)

Hosea is a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel for about 50 years, starting with the reign of Jereboam II. This is a time of political upheaval and rebellion, with kings and princes being assassinated, and Israel being forced to pay heavy taxes to Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria. As a result, Israel turns away from trusting God and instead puts her faith in human defenses and foreign alliances.

The theme of this book is the parallel between the marriage of Hosea to Gomer and Jehovah's love for Israel. Hosea calls Israel's behavior not just adultery, but whoredom, prostituting herself before the nations around her by her idol worship. Through his experiences with Gomer, Hosea speaks with first-hand knowledge about God's anguish and love for Israel, and His desire for her to return to Him.

Hosea lives to see the fall of Israel to the Assyrians in 722 BC.

OUTLINE

I. The adulterous wife (1 – 3)

- A. Gomer (1)
- B. Comparison to Israel (2)
- C. Hosea's second marriage (3)

II. The adulterous nation (4 – 13)

- A. God's argument with Israel (4 – 6)
- B. Israel's corrupt politics (7 – 8)
- C. Israel's corrupt morals and religion (9 – 11)
- D. Israel's adultery and God's faithfulness (12 – 13)

III. God's restoration (14)

NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES

1:10, 2:23.....Romans 9:25-27 6:6Matthew 9:13; 12:7
 10:8.....Luke 23:30; Revelation 6:16 11:1Matthew 2:15
 11:14.....1 Corinthians 15:55

QUESTIONS

- A.** Why does God want Hosea to marry Gomer? (chapter 1)
 What does Hosea learn from this marriage?

- B.** What does God want Hosea to learn from his experiences with the adulteress? (chapter 3)
- C.** What does God accuse Israel of in chapter 4? (Remember, "Ephraim" means "Israel.")
- D.** In what ways are Ephraim and Judah like a morning cloud? (6:4, 13:3)
- E.** How is Ephraim like a silly dove? (7:11)
- F.** What does God accuse Israel of in chapter 8? (list 4 or 5 charges)
- G.** What increased as Israel's riches increased? (chapter 10)

Who is God's Bride? Who is God's Child?

Read • Hosea 1-4 • Ephesians 5:22-33

- 1.** How would you feel if your daughter/wife/sister walked into a crowded shopping mall, stripped off all her clothes, and began selling herself to each man who walked by?
- 2.** We see from Hosea that God can have similar feelings. What can we do to provoke those feelings in God?
- 3.** How would you feel if you had to marry a prostitute (male or female) who had slept with hundreds of other people?
- 4.** We see from Hosea that God can have similar feelings. What can we do to provoke those feelings in God?
- 5.** Is there any way to erase those feelings from God?