

Hosea

“Salvation”

“He Saves”

“He Helps”

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Some material adapted from Tod Kennedy:

<http://www.spokanebiblechurch.com/study/Bible%20Walk%20Through/Hosea-briefing.htm>

Theme

- Spiritual Prostitution, Judgment and Restoration
- Four pairs—prophet and prostitute, God and Israel, sin and judgment, forgiveness and restoration
- The Northern Kingdom, Israel persists in spiritual adultery with pagan gods

Theme

- God tells Hosea to marry Gomer, a prostitute—the marriage becomes symbolic of God’s relationship with Israel
- Hosea stays faithful to Gomer to the point of buying her back after her adultery
 - As Hosea loves Gomer, God loves Israel in spite of her deliberate sin
- God warns Israel, judges Israel, yet will forgive her and restore her to fellowship with himself

Hosea, the Man

- Likely from the Northern Kingdom since the prophecy primarily concerns Israel
- He directs his messages to Ephraim, the largest of the northern Israeli tribes
 - Ephraim is mentioned 36 times
- He shares the name with Hoshea, the last king of the Northern Kingdom
 - In English the king's name has the middle "h" to distinguish the two people

Hosea, the Man

- The son of Beerli (1:1)
- He had: a son, **Jezreel**, “*God sows*” (1:3-4)
- A daughter, **Lo-Ruhamah**, “*no mercy*” or “*no compassion*” (1:6)
- A son, **Lo-Ammi**, “*not my people*” (1:8-9)
- **2:23** → Rom. 9:25; **1:9-10** → Rom. 9:26
- He was a contemporary of the prophets Isaiah, Amos and Micah

History

- Hosea served ~760-715 BC, about 45 years
- Hosea served during the reigns of 11 kings of Israel and Judah but only mentions: four kings of Judah—**Uzziah** (792-739 BC), **Jotham** (739-731 BC), **Ahaz** (731-715 BC) and **Hezekiah** (715-686 BC)—and one king of Israel, **Jeroboam II** (793-753 BC) (1:1)

History

- These were the prominent kings—but why mention more Judean kings when his ministry was to the northern tribes?
 - Perhaps because the Judean kings were the rightful kings in David's line
- Of the five kings mentioned, Uzziah and Hezekiah are the prominent kings during this time of history

Uzziah

- The first king that Hosea lists (1:1; see 2 Chronicles 26), ruled ~792-739 BC
- He began his rule at age 16
- He followed the Lord during much of his reign but later became prideful
- God punished him with leprosy for attempting to do what God commanded only for the priests— to burn incense in the temple

Hezekiah

- Hezekiah (reigned 715-686 BC; 2 Kings 18-20; 2 Chronicles 29-32)
- Was king when the angel of the Lord killed 185,000 Assyrians (2 Kngs. 19:35)
- The Lord gave him 15 more years to live (2 Kings 20)
- He foolishly showed off the temple wealth to Berodach-Baladan, the king of Babylon (2 Kngs. 20:12-18)

Jereboam II

- Reigned ~793 to 753 BC; the only northern king (of Israel) Hosea mentions
- Jeroboam had ended the wars his father began, taking back territory lost earlier
- “And he did evil in the sight of the Lord; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin” (2 Kngs. 14:24)

Other Six Kings of Israel

The other six kings not mentioned:

- Zechariah (753 BC)
- Shallum (752 BC)
- Menahem (752-742 BC)
- Pekah (752-732 BC)—rival reign with Menahem & assassination of Pekahiah
- Pekahiah (742-740 BC), Menahem's son
- Hoshea (732-723 BC)

Assyria During Hosea's Time

- Jonah preached to Nineveh during the beginning of the 8th century BC
- Nineveh was failing at that time but probably due to their repentance, Assyria regained strength around 745 BC under the rule of Tiglath-Pileser III
- Tiglath-Pileser III (Assyrian king ~745-727 BC) also called Pul (2 Kngs. 15:19, 29) conquered Babylon, invaded Israel and deported some of the people

Assyria During Hosea's Time

- Shalmaneser V (727-723 BC) attacked Samaria, the capital of Israel
- King Hoshea of Israel rebelled against Shalmaneser; Shalmaneser besieged Samaria, the capital; Shalmaneser died before the war ended but Sargon II took the city
- Sargon II (722-706 BC) completed the destruction of Israel and exiled the northern kingdom in 722 BC

Key Words

- **Harlot, harlotry** (21 times in 16 verses)
 - 1:1; 2:2, 4, 5; 3:3; 4:10-15, 18; 5:3-4; 6:10; 9:1
- **Return, returned** (12 times)
 - 3:5; 5:4, 15; 6:1; 7:10; 8:13; 9:3; 11:5; 12:6; 14:1-2
- **Sin, sins, sinned, sinning** (11 times)
 - 4:7-8; 8:11, 13; 9:9; 10:8-9; 12:8; 13:2, 12

Overview Outline

Chs. 1-3: The prophet, Hosea, and the prostitute wife, Gomer

Chs. 4-13: Israel—unfaithful to the Lord like Gomer to Hosea

Ch. 14: The Lord calls Israel to return

Chapter Outline

- Ch. 1: The prophet and the prostitute
- Ch. 2: Unfaithful Israel—judged, forgiven, restored
- Ch. 3: Hosea redeems his wife
- Ch. 4: Indictment—Israel is a prostitute and idolater
- Ch. 5: Verdict—God condemns Israel

Chapter Outline

- Ch. 6: Loyalty and knowledge, not sacrifice and burnt offerings
- Ch. 7: The Lord would heal but Israel continues to sin
- Ch. 8: Israel sows the wind and reaps the whirlwind
- Ch. 9: Punishment for God's people

Chapter Outline

Ch. 10: Consequences of sin

Ch. 11: God's love; Israel's rebellion

Ch. 12: Ephraim and Judah sin, though
the Lord has been their God

Ch. 13: Israel sins more and more

Ch. 14: Return to the Lord your God;
he will heal and love you

Verses to Remember

- 1:10 → 1 Pet. 2:10; 2:15; 4:1, 6
- 6:4, 6 → Mt. 9:13; 12:7
- 7:8, 11; 8:7; 9:11
- 10:8 → Lk. 23:30; Rev. 6:16; 10:12
- 11:1 → Mt. 2:15; 11:4
- 12:13
- 13:4, 6, 9, 11, 14 → 1 Cor. 15:55
- 14:1, 2 → Heb. 13:15; 14:4, 9

Trivia

What did God see in the house of Israel?

6:10

What does God see in our houses,
personally?

What does God see in “the house of God,
which is the church of the living God”?

Memory Verse Review (Isaiah—Daniel)

- Is. 55:6—“Seek the LORD...”
- Jer. 10:23—“O LORD, I know...”
- Lam. 3:40-41—“Let us search out...”
- Ezek. 18:20a—“The soul...”
- Dan. 4:25c—“. . . the Most High...”

Memory Verse for Hosea

4:6a

“My people are destroyed for lack of
knowledge”