

The Book of Hosea

**God's love
no matter
what**

Background

- Hosea—**“a prophet with a broken heart.”**
- Married to **Gomer**—an immoral woman.
- Three sons who had prophetic names.
- The name Hosea is defined as **“salvation,” “help,” “deliverance.”**
- Tender-hearted with a deep concern for the nation.
- Date of writing: **750—725 B.C.**

Background

- The people in Israel were growing more corrupt.
- God called their worship “**spiritual whoredom.**”
- **Israel** had behaved toward Jehovah as Gomer had toward Hosea!
- Because of his own deep hurt, Hosea came to understand how God felt about Israel’s conduct.
- The political rulers were exceedingly corrupt—the king profited from the wickedness!
- No one called on God. **(7:3-7)**

Background

- **The religious leaders led the people astray—they did not teach God's law.**
- **The priests profited from their sacrifices.**
- **They did not discourage sin among the people.**
- **The nation's moral character was very low.**
- **Of the six kings during the past 25 years, four were murdered!**

Background

- Exchanged worship of the true God for Baal worship.
- Guilty of idolatry, lying, drunkenness, lust, robbery, murder, gross sexual immorality, and treason.
- No spiritual revivals in Israel.
- The Canaanite **Influence** caused them to sin.
- **Assyria** was becoming a powerful nation in the east.
- They were known for their extreme cruelty.

Israel's Sins

- Offering in high places. **(8:13)**
- They were trafficking at the shrines with women who were devoted to harlotry. **(4:14)**
- Open idolatry. **(8:5; 10:5; 13:2)**
- Turning to pagan nations instead of returning to God. **(5:13; 7:8-11)**
- Forming alliances and adopting pagan cultures. **(12:1-7)**
- Trust in material armament. **(10:3)**

Keys to the Book of Hosea

- **Key word**
 - “Return” (*15 times*)
- **Key phrase**
 - “I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love.” (11:4)
- **Key Chapter**
 - Chapter 4
- **Key verses**
 - 4:1

“There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land.”

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 - 4:6

“because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”

The Book 's Message

- Written in three words—SIN, JUDGMENT, and LOVE.
- To cause them to realize the nature and enormity of their sin.
- The necessity of divine judgment.
- Triumph of loyalty and love.
- Hosea's final word to the nation—RETURN TO THE LORD!

The Book 's Message

- **Hosea and Gomer—Jehovah and Israel**
- Gomer left Hosea for other lovers—Israel left Jehovah for false gods.
- Bring Gomer back—prove her faithfulness.
- **First three chapters.**
- Names of Hosea and Gomer's children:
 - Jezreel—**"God scatters"**
 - Lo-ruhamah—**"without mercy"**
 - Lo-ammi—**"not my people"**

The Book 's Message

- **Israel's sins (chapters 4-13)**
- **God's summed up His charges against them:**
 - **“Hear the word of the LORD, you children of Israel, for the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land. By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed upon bloodshed.” (4:1,2)**

The Book 's Message

- **The people take an oath and break it.**
- **One murder follows another.**
- **They stole till God needed to punish them.**
- **Sacred relations in the home were being destroyed by immorality.**
- **The priests had forgotten God's laws and were no longer instructing the people.**
- **Lack of knowledge was at the root of the problem.**

Lessons in Figurative Language

- **The Valley of Achor**
- **Joshua purged the sin of Achan; they must now receive God's correction. (2:15)**

“I will give her her vineyards from there, and the Valley of Achor as a door of hope; she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, as in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.”

Lessons in Figurative Language

- **Mixed among the people**
- **No longer a separate and holy nation**
- **Half-hearted; not fully committed (7:8)**

“Ephraim has mixed himself among the peoples; Ephraim is a cake unturned.”

Lessons in Figurative Language

- **Strangers devoured Israel's strength**
- **Weakened by evil associations (7:9,10)**

“Aliens have devoured his strength, but he does not know it; yes, gray hairs are here and there on him, yet he does not know it. And the pride of Israel testifies to his face, but they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek Him for all this.”

Lessons in Figurative Language

- **Israel is swallowed up**
- **A vessel with no pleasure**
- **National and spiritual identity is lost (8:8,9)**

“Israel is swallowed up; now they are among the Gentiles like a vessel in which is no pleasure. For they have gone up to Assyria, like a wild donkey alone by itself; Ephraim has hired lovers.”

Lessons in Figurative Language

- **They became an abomination like the thing they loved**
- **Followed evil hearts to sin (9:10)**

“I found Israel Like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the first fruits on the fig tree in its first season. But they went to Baal Peor, and separated themselves to that shame; they became an abomination like the thing they loved.”

Lessons in Figurative Language

- **True prophets are the voice of God, through them, God preserved His people!**
– (12:13)

“By a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet he was preserved.”

Lessons in Figurative Language

- **“Who is wise?”**
- **Crown jewel of the book**
 - (14:9)

“Who is wise? Let him understand these things. Who is prudent? Let him know them. For the ways of the LORD are right; the righteous walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.”

Lessons for Us Today

- **God is love, and He desires to save His people. He'll do all He can to accomplish this aim.**
- **The book of Hosea is a warning to Listen to God.**
- **A loving God must punish His children.**
- **No matter what we do, God will always take us back.**
- **Wickedness brings its own judgment.**
 - Our nation needs to take heed!
 - **Proverbs 14:34**