

1. The Book of Hosea divides easily into 4 parts.
2. The first of the 4 sections is autobiographical - the real story of what God required of a real man.
3. God told Hosea to marry an immoral and untrustworthy woman.
 - a. God expects us to obey.
 - b. God was using this as an example of the kind of “bride” Israel had been to Him.
 - c. Hosea was an object lesson. (We saw this in the life of Abraham and we will see it in the life of Jeremiah).
4. Sometimes we look foolish to the world because of what God is doing in and through our lives...”it may be very painful, but being made a fool for the sake of Christ is never a losing proposition.”
5. The names of Hosea’s children:
 - a. Jezreel: Named to let them know that Jehu’s house is ready for judgment (Jehu had slaughtered the members of Jezreel’s family when he overthrew that dynasty.)
 - b. Lo-ruhamah: means “not loved” - the Northern Kingdom had forfeited knowing the favor of God
 - c. Lo-Ammi: means “not my people”
6. This story of Hosea and Gomer paints for us a wonderful picture of the divine miracle of redemption.
 - a. Three ways to become a slave in the ancient world:
 1. Born a slave
 2. Prisoner of war
 3. To pay off debts - Gomer had to sell herself into slavery to pay the debts she incurred in the quest for her adulterous relationships.
 - b. Hosea had to buy her back at the slave market...he “redeemed” her.
 - c. Jesus has “redeemed” us - we were slaves on all 3 counts - but he paid the ransom and bought us back.
7. Draw a triangle.

The left hand point of the triangle: Jesus
At the top of the triangle - God
The right hand side of the triangle - your name

Draw an arrow from Jesus toward God and write the word “propitiation” on it.
Christ turned away God’s wrath against sin on the cross.

Draw another arrow from God toward your name and write the word “justification” on it.
Christ made it possible for God to declare us “not guilty” through His death on the cross.

Draw another arrow from Jesus to your name and write the word “redemption” on it.
Christ paid the debt of my sin and bought me back for God on the cross.
8. After Hosea bought Gomer, he did not invite her back home - he commanded her to come back home. Repentance is not an invitation - it is a command!

1. It was God's understanding that Israel's sin had been that of physical AND spiritual adultery and even prostitution.

2. The things for which God judged Israel are very relevant today.

3. The root cause: God's people are being destroyed from a lack of knowledge" - the knowledge of God.

4. Israel had a full and certain knowledge of the Lord.
Israel rejected that knowledge.
They exchanged that knowledge for idolatry, prostitution and violence.
It is the same pattern we saw in Romans 1.

5. Hosea's harshest words are for the priests, because that is where the "famine" began - they rejected the Law.

6. We can address this same problem in our society today by going to its root and restoring the missing foundation - the knowledge of the Lord.

7. This second portion of Hosea's book ends on a note of great hope: "...He will restore us..." If we acknowledge Him, He will heal us!

8. Why God sent this message to Israel through Hosea:
 - a. He was giving Israel time to repent, even at that late hour.
 - b. He was sending a message to Judah to watch what was happening to Israel and repent.

9. The captivities of both Israel and Judah were predicted.

"We did not have a peasant passage to read today, but I believe that it has profound significance for us who also live in a society that has lost the knowledge of he Lord."

1. This third section contains the pronouncement of God's righteous judgment against Israel. It is full of imagery.

2. "Ephraim is a cake not turned" - half-baked
"Ephraim is like a dove" - easily deceived and snared
"Ephraim is like a wild donkey" - wandering alone and selling herself for protection
"Ephraim is a trained heifer" - loves to thresh and needs to be yoked

3. Chapter 10 - Israel is likened to a spreading vine; the vine and the vineyard are often recurring images in Scripture.

4. The punishment was spelled out specifically - Israel would go into captivity in Assyria.

5. The cancer at the heart of all the sin and idolatry were the calf idols that Jeroboam had set up right at the beginning of the Northern Kingdom so that his people would not go down to Jerusalem.

6. Hosea 6:6: "For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings." Repeated often - I Samuel 15, Jeremiah 7, Micah 6, Isaiah 1

7. Hosea 10:12: "Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love and break up your unplowed ground for it is time to seek the Lord until He comes and showers righteousness on you."

8. It is repentance that breaks up the unplowed ground in our lives and it is obedience to the Word that sows the seed of harvest in our lives.

9. We do not know about the battle to which Hosea referred at the end of chapter 10.

10. If we do not repent and obey, God will judge - that is the theme running through 6-10.

11. God chose Assyria, a godless nation, to carry out His judgment on His people.

1. The words of Hosea and the other prophets did foretell the future and what they saw did happen.

2. In this last section, a heavy emphasis is placed upon the love of Jehovah for His people in spite of their sin.

3. Hosea 11:1 - "...out of Egypt I called my son." Matthew 2:14, 15 - "...and so it was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'" Hosea was looking back to Egypt; Matthew was seeing Israel as a "type" of the Lord Jesus Christ, and made this application.

4. Hosea 13:14 - "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?" These same words are found in 1 Corinthians 15:55, used by Paul.

5. Knowing the Word, as both Paul and Matthew above did, allows us to view the world and our own lives through the lens of God's revelation in the Bible.

6. Hosea 14:4 - "I will heal their waywardness and love them freely..." The Book of Hosea, like that of Amos, ends on a note of hope.

7. Quote from G. Campbell Morgan:
Sin: "...The most heinous and damnable sin of which man is capable is that of infidelity to love."
Judgment: "...it is the outworking of sin itself..."
Love: "...The cost of the restoration of the unfaithful lover be that of the bearing of the judgment by the faithful lover..."

8. These prophetic books are important because:
 - a. They are startlingly contemporary.
 - b. They furnish us with a clear picture of our covenant-keeping God.
 - c. They provide for us a platform from which to read and understand the New Testament with much greater clarity.

9. Being a prophet - a spokesperson for God - is a terribly demanding task, and can exact from us a very high toll.

1. Things were not going well in Judah spiritually, in spite of the fact that God had blessed them during Uzziah's reign because of the righteous things that had been done.

2. Now Ahaz is king, and the Bible says he did nothing good. Ahab was the most evil king in Israel, and Ahaz was the most evil king in Judah.

3. Ahaz was so evil he "sacrificed his sons in the fire" and practiced all sort of idolatry.

4. Because of this, Judah begins to lose its political power and prominence. God allows other kingdoms to punish them for their sin (the king of Damascus and the king of Israel, along with the Edomites and the Philistines).

5. Instead of turning to God, Ahaz turns to Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria and seeks an alliance with him. He refuses to ask God for a sign, despite Isaiah's warnings and the offer of a sign. Instead he goes to Damascus, copies the altar, removes the altar of God from the Temple - he goes from bad to worse.

6. Finally, Ahaz closes the Temple and the people worship idols in the streets of Jerusalem.

7. "The Lord humbled Judah because of Ahaz...for he had promoted wickedness in Judah and had been most unfaithful to the Lord." "When we rebel against God...we bring His disfavor upon us...and His displeasure upon all whom we represent."

8. The prophecy of Isaiah 7: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a Son..." This seems to be "double prophecy" - the sign to be partially fulfilled at the time, and fulfilled also at a later date. Jesus was the later date; Maher-shalal-hash-baz, Isaiah's son, the contemporary sign.

9. The sign of the virgin birth of Christ was given in the context of Ahaz's refusal to ask for a sign and trust God.