



Despite being a fairly brief book, the prophecy of Hosea is quoted several times by various people in the New Testament. You might re-read these passages and their New Testament counterparts for a deeper study and understanding of this book.

- Hosea 1:10 Rom. 9:26; 2 Cor. 6:18
- Hosea 2:23..... Rom. 9:25; 1 Pet. 2:10
- Hosea 6:6..... Mt. 9:13; 12:7
- Hosea 10:8..... Lk. 23:30; Rev. 6:16
- Hosea 11:1..... Mt. 2:14-15
- Hosea 13:14..... 1 Cor. 15:55
- Hosea 14:2..... Heb. 13:15

Questions

1. Who were the kings of Judah during the life of Hosea? _____

2. What were the names of Hosea’s three children, and what do those names mean? _____

3. How did Hosea’s marriage to Gomer illustrate the relationship between God and Israel? _____

4. Why were God’s people destroyed? (4:6) _____
5. Why do you think God says He desires mercy, not sacrifice, and knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings? (6:6) _____

6. When people sow the wind, what can they expect to reap? _____

7. Which gospel writer quotes Hosea 11:1? How is this passage applied to Jesus? _____

Spiritual Adultery

The theme of Hosea is Israel’s unfaithfulness to the Lord. Despite God’s love and provision, Israel sought pleasure and satisfaction from the idols and lifestyles of the world around them. The Lord looked at this as spiritual adultery. When Christians allow the pleasures of the world to take precedence in their life, they too commit spiritual adultery. They forsake the love and provision of God for the pleasure of another—the world. Most Christians would never dream of committing physical adultery, but do we commit spiritual adultery by loving the world instead of the Lord?

“That You May Grow Thereby...”

A weekly Bible reading plan



Hosea 1-14

A Tragic, One-Sided Love Story

Overview

The book of Hosea is the first of the twelve minor prophets (minor referring to length, not importance). Some have called Hosea the “death-bed prophet of Israel,” because he was the last prophet who prophesied to the northern kingdom of Israel before the nation was defeated and carried off into captivity by Assyria. Hosea strikes many modern readers as strange because it begins with Hosea taking a wife of harlotry, but Hosea’s personal experience with an unfaithful wife served as a fitting example of God and Israel. God loved Israel, but Israel had acted like an unfaithful and adulterous wife. Israel’s fascination with the world and pagan gods lured her away from God’s love, and she committed spiritual adultery through her acts of idolatry and wickedness. Hosea’s message is a mixture of dreadful warnings of judgment and promises of redemption for those who will repent. This Old Testament prophet reminds Christians that God will not tolerate rebellion or spiritual adultery, but is also a reminder that God stands ready and willing to forgive those that will return to Him in repentance.

Suggested Reading Schedule

- Monday: Hosea 1-3
- Tuesday: Hosea 4-5
- Wednesday: Hosea 6-8
- Thursday: Hosea 9-11
- Friday: Hosea 12-14

Hosea in History

Hosea lived in and prophesied to the northern kingdom of Israel. His work began towards the end of Jeroboam II’s reign, and continued on for roughly 40 years. Israel enjoyed a time of peace and prosperity during the 41-year reign of Jeroboam, but after his death the nation fell quickly. After Jeroboam died, Israel had six kings in 25 years, four of whom were assassinated. Ultimately, Israel was destroyed and captivated by the Assyrian empire around 722 B.C.

Hosea was a contemporary of a few different prophets. Jonah lived shortly before Hosea, and had a message for the city of Nineveh. Amos was a prophet to Israel just before Hosea, and Isaiah and Micah lived and worked in Jerusalem and Judah around the same time as Hosea was prophesying in Israel.

Outline of Hosea

I. Hosea & Gomer (1-3)

- Hosea’s marriage & children (1)*
- Application of Gomer to Israel (2)*
- Gomer restored (3)*

II. Adulterous Israel & Faithful God (4-14)

- Israel’s adultery (4:1—6:3)*
- Israel’s refusal to repent (6:4—8:14)*
- God’s judgment of Israel (9:1—10:15)*
- Restoration of Israel (11:1—14:9)*



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