

# INTRODUCTION TO Hosea

## READ ALONG

☐ 06/22-24 Hosea 1-14

## WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

- 25. LAMENTATIONS
- 26. EZEKIEL
- 27. DANIEL
- 28. **HOSEA**
- 29. JOEL
- 30. AMOS
- 31. OBADIAH

## KEY THEME

Hosea is primarily about WORSHIP! God’s people have turned from Him to worship other gods (i.e., Baal), which is spiritual adultery. God calls them back with reminders of the coming judgment and His mercy and faithfulness to His own covenant promises.

## IMAGERY IN HOSEA

Israel’s unfaithfulness is pictured in a number of ways: a promiscuous wife, an indifferent mother, an illegitimate child, an ungrateful son, a stubborn heifer, a silly dove, a luxuriant wine, and wild grapes.

## THEOLOGICAL MESSAGE

- God judges sin
  - » Israel worshiped idols (4:1-13; 5:11; 8:6; 13:2). This idol worship included both literal and spiritual adultery. To worship other gods is to be unfaithful to our covenant with God.
  - » The priests (4:6; 5:1; 6:9; 10:5), prophets (4:5), and kings (5:1, 10; 7:3-7; 9:15) led the people astray and are guilty.
- God is a covenant-making, covenant-keeping God
  - » Hosea frequently refers to the Pentateuch (Genesis–Deuteronomy) & particularly the Mosaic covenant given at Sinai
  - » The blessings and curses of obedience/disobedience to the Mosaic covenant are realized by those Hosea is writing to and God is reminding them of these covenant consequences.
  - » Marriage is a major symbol of divine-human covenant—love, faithfulness, adultery, and restoration. This connection is used throughout Scripture (e.g., Ephesians 5:22-33).
  - » God, in His patience, calls Israel to repent (see 14:1-3)
  - » God will not break his covenant (see 2:14-23—God’s faithfulness carried out beyond Israel/Judah to Gentiles; cf. Rom 9:25; 1 Pet 2:10; also see Hosea 11:8-9 & 14:1-9)

## BOOK BASICS



**DATE**  
750-687 BC



**TYPE**  
Prophecy



**AUTHOR**  
Hosea

Hosea was written during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (kings of Judah) and Jeroboam (king of Israel). These kings reigned during the last half of the 8th Century BC and first few years of the 7th Century BC (i.e., 750-687 BC). These were some of the most treacherous years of Israel’s history.

One of the most memorable events in this book is when God tells Hosea to marry a woman who would commit adultery, and then tells him to return to her after she has deserted him. This autobiographical story is recounted in chapters 1 & 3 but it sets the tone of the entire book. Hosea’s determined love for his wife, along with the odd names of his children, are visible pictures of his prophetic message. Hosea’s name means “salvation.” God’s people are continually unfaithful to their covenant with God and while He informs them that their current situation is His judgment upon their sin, God also reminds them of His faithful love and grace toward them (even though they are undeserving).

## BASIC STRUCTURE

14 CHAPTERS

**1**

**Hosea’s Marriage & God’s Relationship with Israel**

**a:** Hosea, Gomer, & Their Children (1:2-2:1)  
**b:** The Lord’s Marriage to Israel (2:2-23)  
**c:** Hosea’s Marriage Restored (3:1-5)

HOSEA 1:1-3:5

**2**

**The Prophetic Accusations, Warnings, and Promises**

**a:** Accusation of Unfaithfulness (4:1-19)  
**b:** Adultery & Judgment (5:1-14)  
**c:** Call to Repentance for Unfaithfulness: Ignored (6:1-7:16)  
**d:** Hypocrisy & Judgment (8:1-10:15)

**e:** God’s Love for Israel Brings Hope (11:1-11)  
**f:** Further Indictment Against Israel (11:12-12:14)  
**g:** God’s Anger & Israel’s Rejection (13:1-16)  
**h:** Repentance & Blessing (14:1-9)

HOSEA 4:1-14:9