

2-3-26

What is the Book of Hosea all About

Opening Prayer:

**Father God,
We come before You with humble hearts, asking that Your Holy Spirit would open our eyes and ears to Your Word. As we study the book of Hosea, help us to see not only Israel's story, but our own hearts...and most of all, Your faithful love revealed fully in Jesus Christ. Teach us, correct us, and draw us closer to You. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Introduction: Why Hosea Matters Today

The book of **Hosea** is one of the most emotionally powerful books in the Bible. It is not just prophecy...it is a love story, a

courtroom drama, and a call to repentance all at once.

Hosea teaches us one simple but life-changing truth:

God's love is faithful...even when His people are not.

For a new Christian, Hosea explains the seriousness of sin and the depth of God's grace.

For a mature believer, Hosea confronts complacency, spiritual compromise, and forgotten love for God.

Historical Background: What Was Happening in Hosea's Time?

Hosea prophesied to the **Northern Kingdom of Israel** around **755-722 BC**, just before Israel was conquered by Assyria.

Spiritually

- Israel worshiped **Baal**, a fertility god.
- They mixed idol worship with worship of the LORD.
- Religion became ritual without relationship.

Hosea 4:1 (NIV) Hear the word of the LORD, you Israelites, because the LORD has a charge to bring against you who live in the land: "There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land.

Politically

- Kings rose and fell through assassinations.
- Israel trusted alliances instead of God.

Morally

- . Sexual immorality was common.
- . Family and covenant faithfulness were broken.

Israel looked religious....but their hearts were far from God.

Hosea's Marriage: A Living Sermon

God tells Hosea to do something shocking:

Hosea 1:2 (NIV) ² When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, "Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the LORD."

Wow!?! That is kind of weird...

So Hosea marries **Gomer**, who repeatedly leaves him for other men. Hosea remains faithful, pursuing her, redeeming her, and restoring her.

So let us look at the “Typology” ...

{**Biblical typology**: is the way God uses real people, events, or objects in the Old Testament as **pictures, patterns, or foreshadows** that point forward to a greater fulfillment in the New Testament...most often **Jesus Christ**.} In simple terms:

A “type” is the shadow; Christ is the substance.

Colossians 2:17 NIV ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

So What This Represents...

- **Hosea** → God
- **Gomer** → Israel (and humanity)
- **Unfaithfulness** → Sin and idolatry
- **Redemption** → God's grace

This is not endorsement of sin...it is a picture of **redeeming love**.

The Names of the Children: God's Message

1. Jezreel - Judgment Is Coming

Hosea 1:4 (NIV) ⁴ Then the LORD said to Hosea, "Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel.

God warns that sin has consequences.

2. Lo-Ruhamah – “Not Loved”

👉 loh roo-HAH-mah

Hosea 1:6 (NIV) ⁶ Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the LORD said to Hosea, “Call her Lo-Ruhamah (which means “not loved”), for I will no longer show love to Israel, that I should at all forgive them.

Ouch!...

This speaks of **discipline**, not abandonment.

3. Lo-Ammi – “Not My People”

👉 Ioh AHM-eye

Hosea 1:9 (NIV) ⁹ Then the LORD said, “Call him Lo-Ammi (which means “not my people”), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.

This is covenant language....broken fellowship.

But judgment is never God’s final word.

Grace Breaks Through Judgment:

Hosea 1:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ “Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘children of the living God.’

God promises renewal or restoration.

God's Heart Revealed:

One of the most powerful verses in Hosea:

Hosea 11:8 (NIV) ⁸ "How can I give you up, Ephraim?"

How can I hand you over, Israel?

How can I treat you like Admah?

How can I make you like Zeboyim?

My heart is changed within me;

all my compassion is aroused.

This is not an angry tyrant....this is a grieving Father.

Where Is Christ in the Book of Hosea?

Hosea points directly to **Jesus Christ** in several ways.

1. Redeeming Love

Hosea buys Gomer back from slavery.

Hosea 3:2 (NIV) ² So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley.

A **shekel** was not a coin like today ... it was a **weight of silver**.

- **1 shekel ≈ 0.4 ounces (11 grams) of silver**
- **15 shekels ≈ 6 ounces of silver**



In today's terms:

- That's **roughly \$150–\$200 USD** (depending on silver prices)
- In Bible times, **30 shekels** was the price of a slave (Exodus 21:32)

👉 So 15 shekels = half the price of a slave

A **homer** was a **large dry measure** used for grain.

- **1 homer \approx 6–6.5 bushels**
- **That's about 220 liters**
- **Enough grain to feed a person for several months**

A **letheke** is simply:

- **$\frac{1}{2}$ of a homer**

So:

- **1 homer + 1 letheke = $1\frac{1}{2}$ homers**
- **That equals about 9–10 bushels of barley**



In today's terms:

- **Roughly 330 liters of grain**
- **A large amount of basic food, not luxury goods**

“So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver...”

👉 **So 15 shekels = half the price of a slave**

Look at Mark 10:45

Jesus redeems us from sin:

Mark 10:45 (NIV) ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

2. Faithful Bridegroom

Hosea remains faithful to an unfaithful bride.

Jesus is the faithful Bridegroom of the Church (Ephesians 5).

3. Sacrificial Love Over Religion

Hosea 6:6 (NIV) ⁶ For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,
and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

Jesus quotes this verse (Matthew 9:13), showing He is the fulfillment of God's heart.

Matthew 9:13 NIV¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'

4. Resurrection Hope

Hosea 6:2 (NIV) ² After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will restore us,
that we may live in his presence.

This foreshadows resurrection life fulfilled in Christ.

Key Lessons for Believers Today

1. Sin Is Spiritual Adultery

When we love anything more than God, we drift.

2. God Disciplines Those He Loves

Discipline is meant to restore, not destroy.

3. God's Love Is Relentless

God pursues us even when we run.

4. Repentance Leads to Restoration

Hosea 14:1 (NIV) Return, Israel, to the LORD your God.

Your sins have been your downfall!

Final Call: God's Invitation

Hosea 14:4 (NIV) "I will heal their waywardness

and love them freely,

for my anger has turned away from them.

That invitation still stands today.

Invitation to Be Born Again:

If you are listening today and you realize
you've been running from God...
If you've been religious but not relational...
If you've never truly surrendered your life to
Jesus Christ...

Jesus paid the price to redeem you.

Romans 5:8 (NIV) ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

How to Be Born Again.....

1. Admit you are a sinner.
2. Believe Jesus died and rose again for you.
3. Confess Jesus as Lord.
4. Turn from sin and follow Him.

Romans 10:9 (NIV) ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Closing Prayer: (Prayer of Salvation)

**Lord Jesus,
I confess that I am a sinner. I have gone my own way, but today I turn to You. I believe You died on the cross for my sins and rose again. I ask You to forgive me, cleanse me, and make me new. I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Help me to follow You all the days of my life. Thank You for loving me faithfully. In Jesus' name, Amen.**