

COMMENTARY

HOSEA

Hosea 1

God spoke to Hosea and called upon him to duplicate the relationship of God and His people. Hosea was to marry a wife who would be unfaithful (even as Israel was unfaithful to God). Hosea had children. Each one was of special significance.

The firstborn, a boy, was named Jezreel as a testimony against the massacre at Jezreel. Israel (the Northern Kingdom) would cease to be a nation.

The second child, a girl, was named Lo-Ruhamah (Hebrew word meaning: not loved). This was God's testimony that He would no longer love or forgive Israel (the Northern Kingdom) but would continue to deliver Judah (the Southern Kingdom) from their enemies.

The third child, a son, was named Lo-Ammi (Hebrew word for: not my people). This was God's testimony that for a time He would turn His back on Israel.

God offers hope, however. He states that the day will come when the two kingdoms (Israel and Judah) would be reunited under one leader and would dwell in the land that God would prepare.

Hosea 2

God speaks to Hosea and pictures for him, the future of Israel and the reason for it. Israel had been unfaithful and had pursued other gods (pictured as an unfaithful wife pursuing other men). God would punish Israel and cast her away. Israel would find no other gods who would then provide for her. Eventually, God would take Israel back and provide for her once again. Israel would then truly appreciate and love God and would remain faithful to Him.

Hosea 3

Gomer, Hosea's wife, had been unfaithful and become a prostitute. Hosea was to go, buy and bring her back to live with and be faithful to him (even as God would bring Israel back to Himself and Israel would then be faithful).

Hosea 4

Hosea proclaims to Israel, God's charge against them. They have become a disobedient and unfaithful nation. Not only have the people given in to these temptations, but the priests also. God will punish the land, the priests and the people for the greatness of their sin and for turning to other gods.

Hosea 5

God will hold the priests and rulers accountable for leading the people astray from Him. Their attitude is one of unfaithfulness and they could not find God now, even if they wanted to. Israel is about to be destroyed because of their unfaithfulness and Judah is following in their footsteps.

Israel (also called Ephraim) turned to Assyria in hopes of being spared from certain destruction. God assures them that Assyria will be of no help, but that they certainly would be punished. Eventually, Israel would turn back to God.

Hosea 6

God views the day when Israel would repent and turn back to the Lord, that He might bless them once again. He states that their repentance lasts for short periods of time. He reminds them of how vehemently He has spoken against them, through His prophets.

God wants true faithfulness and devotion from His people, not just outward obedience. He continues to see the wickedness of their hearts.

Hosea 7

God continues to point out their sinfulness and how their leaders accept such unfaithfulness to God. God goes on to show how Israel is weakening because of their sinfulness and are on the verge of death, yet they don't even realize it. They go from one nation to another for help, but they never turn back to God.

God promises to gather them together and to destroy them, for that is what they are deserving of. He had blessed and provided for them, and they have responded by disobeying and turning to others (gods and nations) for help.

Hosea 8

God promises destruction for they have broken their agreement with God (established in the Wilderness with Moses-- a covenant of obedience and faithfulness to God). Israel said that they were turning back to God, but those were only words. They continue serving their golden calves (made when they separated from Judah) and doing as they wish. They have turned to other nations for help.

Israel will begin to fall. There will be no bountiful days ahead in her immediate future, for this is God's judgement upon her.

Hosea 9

Israel continued, despite the warnings, entangled in idol worship. Because of this, they rejected God's prophets and failed to heed their warning.

God would cause their land and the people to become desolate and unproductive. This would be their punishment for failing to live up to their great potential and turning instead to that which is worthless.

Hosea 10

The more productive and rich the Israelites became, the farther they went from God. They took pride in the gods that they had made. God promised to destroy their nation, remove their king, and make the land desolate. The gods that they had made would be taken to Assyria as tribute.

God had originally called upon them to be a holy and righteous people. They had instead become a wicked, evil, and independent people who turned to other gods.

Hosea 11

God remembers how He lovingly cared for and led His people. The more that He did for them, the more they turned to idols. When they were oppressed and called to God, He delivered them time and again.

God still loves His people and promises to restore them and bring them back to Himself; despite their present wickedness.

Hosea 12

God compares the present deceitfulness and struggling with God that the nation of Israel is going through with their forefather Jacob. Jacob had been a deceiver and had struggled with God; finally Jacob had come to know and love God.

Israel took great pride in their wealth. God assures them that they will be driven from their land (even as Jacob had to flee for his life) and that they would dwell for a period of time in a strange land because of their wickedness.

Israel had refused to listen to the prophets that God had sent them. God reminds them that it was a prophet who led them out of slavery and to the Promised Land.

Hosea 13

God recollects how Israel has become enslaved to idolatry. They had started with God providing and leading them; and then they went to other gods. Because of this, God will destroy them. Those that they trusted in (their king, rulers, fortresses, etc) will be of no help.

Yet, God promises to ransom and redeem His people in the future (accomplished by Christ's death on the cross).

Hosea 14

Israel is called upon to repent and to turn back to God. When they truly turn back, God will bless and restore them once again. Those who are wise, will accept this call and learn to live righteously.

HOSEA 1

1. During who's reign, did Hosea prophesy? (vs. 1)
2. What was Hosea to do? (vs. 2)
3. Why was Hosea to name his first boy Jezreel? (vs. 4)
4. What was the meaning behind Hosea's daughters name? (vs. 6)
5. How would Judah be saved? (vs. 7)
6. What was the 3rd child called Lo-Ammi? (vs. 9)
7. What would eventually happen to Judah and Israel? (vs. 11)

STUDY GUIDE

HOSEA 2

1. What was the "mother" to do? (vs. 2)
2. Why was the "mother" going to go after others? (vs. 5)
3. Why would the "mother" be punished? (vs. 13)
4. How would the Lord betroth them and what would they do? (vs. 19-20)
5. What would God do "in that day"? (vs. 23)

STUDY GUIDE

HOSEA 3

1. How was Hosea to love his wife? (vs. 1)
2. What had Israel turned to? (vs. 1)
3. What would Israel be many days without? (vs. 4)
4. What would happen afterward? (vs. 5)

STUDY GUIDE

HOSEA 4

1. What was lacking in the land? (vs. 1)
2. What was there in the land? (vs. 2)
3. Why were God's people destroyed? (vs. 6)
4. What was God going to do to the priests and the people? (vs. 9)

STUDY GUIDE

HOSEA 5

1. What was in Israel's heart? (vs. 4)
2. Why would they not find the Lord? (vs. 6)
3. What would happen to Israel (Ephraim) in the "day of reckoning"? (vs. 9)
4. Who did Israel (Ephraim) turn to for help? (vs. 13)
5. What would the Lord do to His people? (vs. 14)
6. What must God's people then do? (vs. 15)

STUDY GUIDE

HOSEA 6

1. What would Israel try and do? (vs. 1,3)
2. What did they hope God's response would be? (vs. 1-3)
3. What did God say their love was like? (vs. 4)
4. What does God desire? (vs. 6)

HOSEA 7

1. What engulfed Israel? (vs. 2)
2. How do they delight their rulers? (vs. 3)
3. What do they do to their rulers? (vs. 7)
4. What did foreigners do to Israel? (vs. 9)
5. What did the Lord long to do for them? (vs. 13)

STUDY GUIDE

HOSEA 8

1. Why was destruction near for Israel? (vs. 1)
2. What had Israel done? (vs. 4)
3. What had Israel become? (vs. 8)
4. What was the Lord not pleased with? (vs. 13)
5. What would the Lord destroy and consume? (vs. 14)

STUDY GUIDE

HOSEA 9

1. Why was Israel not to be jubilant? (vs. 1)
2. What would happen to Israel (Ephraim)? (vs. 3)
3. What was the prophet considered? (vs. 7)
4. How was the prophet treated? (vs. 8)
5. What would fly away? (vs. 11)

STUDY GUIDE

HOSEA 10

1. Why would they have no king? (vs. 3)
2. What would happen to the calf-idol? (vs. 5,6)
3. What were they to sow and reap? (vs. 12)
4. What did they plant and reap? (vs. 13)
5. What would therefore happen to their fortresses? (vs. 14)

STUDY GUIDE

HOSEA 11

1. Who did God call out of Egypt? (vs. 1)
2. What happened the more God called? (vs. 2)
3. What did God do for Israel? (vs. 4)
4. What was Israel determined to do? (vs. 7)
5. What would God eventually do for them? (vs. 11)

STUDY GUIDE

HOSEA 12

1. What did Ephraim do? (vs. 1)
2. With whom did Jacob struggle? (vs. 3,4)
3. What must Israel do? (vs. 6)
4. Who did God use to bring Israel up from Egypt? (vs. 13)

STUDY GUIDE

HOSEA 13

1. Who would Israel eventually acknowledge? (vs. 4)
2. What happened when Israel became satisfied? (vs. 6)
3. Why was God going to destroy Israel? (vs. 9)
4. What would God do? (vs. 14)
5. What is said about death and the grave? (vs. 14)
6. Why must Samaria (capital of Israel) bear their guilt? (vs. 16)

STUDY GUIDE

HOSEA 14

1. What is Israel called to do? (vs. 1,2)
2. What would God do for them? (vs. 4)
3. What do the righteous walk in? (vs. 9)