

Jeroboam and the Prophets

Part One: Hosea

Jeroboam II Reigns

- Longest reigning king of Israel: 41 years
- God gave him peace and prosperity
 - Restored borders to nearly those of Solomon
 - Gained control of the capital of Syria
- He was a wicked king
- God also sent many prophets

The Prophecy of Hosea

- Israel is an adulterous spouse
- God is the offended, yet loving husband
- Hosea learns how God feels by experiencing the betrayal of an unfaithful wife

Hosea 1:2–3 (ESV)

2 When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD.” **3** So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

Themes in Hosea

- God's infinite holiness calls for punishment of sin
- God's infinite love calls for mercy toward sinners
- God calls sinners to repent in order to receive mercy, rather than punishment

Hosea's Children

- Jezreel – God scatters/sows

Hosea 1:3–5 (ESV)

3 So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.
4 And the LORD said to him, “Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. **5** And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”

Hosea's Children

- Jezreel – God scatters/sows
- Lo-Ruhama – No Mercy/Not Loved

Hosea 1:6–7 (ESV)

6 She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the LORD said to him, “Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all. **7** But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen.”

Hosea's Children

- Jezreel – God scatters/sows
- Lo-Ruhama – No Mercy/Not Loved
- Lo-Ammi – Not Mine

Hosea 1:8–9 (ESV)

8 When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son. **9** And the LORD said, “Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God.”

Hosea 1:10–11 (ESV)

10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, “You are not my people,” it shall be said to them, “Children of the living God.” **11** And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

Hosea 2:1–4 (ESV)

1 Say to your brothers, “You are my people,” and to your sisters, “You have received mercy.” **2** “Plead with your mother, plead— for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband— that she put away her whoring from her face, and her adultery from between her breasts; **3** lest I strip her naked and make her as in the day she was born, and make her like a wilderness, and make her like a parched land, and kill her with thirst. **4** Upon her children also I will have no mercy, because they are children of whoredom.

Hosea 2:19–23 (ESV)

19 And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. **20** I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD. **21** “And in that day I will answer, declares the LORD, I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth, **22** and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil, and they shall answer Jezreel, **23** and I will sow her for myself in the land. And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’; and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’ ”

Hosea 4:1–3 (ESV)

1 Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; **2** there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. **3** Therefore the land mourns, and all who dwell in it languish, and also the beasts of the field and the birds of the heavens, and even the fish of the sea are taken away.

Hosea 5:14–15 (ESV)

14 For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, and like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, even I, will tear and go away; I will carry off, and no one shall rescue. **15** I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me.

Hosea 6:1–3 (ESV)

1 “Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. **2** After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. **3** Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”

Hosea 6:4–6 (ESV)

4 What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? **Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away.** **5** Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. **6** For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Hosea 8:5–7 (ESV)

5 I have spurned your calf, O Samaria. My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of innocence? **6** For it is from Israel; a craftsman made it; it is not God. The calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces. **7** For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. The standing grain has no heads; it shall yield no flour; if it were to yield, strangers would devour it.

Hosea 10:5–6 (ESV)

5 The inhabitants of Samaria tremble for the calf of Beth-aven. Its people mourn for it, and so do its idolatrous priests— those who rejoiced over it and over its glory— for it has departed from them. **6** The thing itself shall be carried to Assyria as tribute to the great king. Ephraim shall be put to shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his idol.

Hosea 11:8–9 (ESV)

8 How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. **9** I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

Hosea 13:1–8 (ESV)

1 When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling; he was exalted in Israel, but he incurred guilt through Baal and died. **2** And now they sin more and more, and make for themselves metal images, idols skillfully made of their silver, all of them the work of craftsmen. It is said of them, “Those who offer human sacrifice kiss calves!” **3** Therefore they shall be like the morning mist or like the dew that goes early away, like the chaff that swirls from the threshing floor or like smoke from a window.

Hosea 13:1–8 (ESV)

4 But I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and besides me there is no savior. **5** It was I who knew you in the wilderness, in the land of drought; **6** but when they had grazed, they became full, they were filled, and their heart was lifted up; therefore they forgot me. **7** So I am to them like a lion; like a leopard I will lurk beside the way. **8** I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs; I will tear open their breast, and there I will devour them like a lion, as a wild beast would rip them open.

Hosea 13:14 (ESV)

14 Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death? O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion is hidden from my eyes.

Hosea 13:15–16 (ESV)

15 Though he may flourish among his brothers, the east wind, the wind of the LORD, shall come, rising from the wilderness, and his fountain shall dry up; his spring shall be parched; it shall strip his treasury of every precious thing. **16** Samaria shall bear her guilt, because she has rebelled against her God; they shall fall by the sword; their little ones shall be dashed in pieces, and their pregnant women ripped open.

Hosea 14:1–3 (ESV)

1 Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. **2** Take with you words and return to the LORD; say to him, “Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips. **3** Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, ‘Our God,’ to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy.”

Hosea 14:4–7 (ESV)

4 I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. **5** I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon; **6** his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon. **7** They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

Applications from Hosea

- Do I understand the infinite holiness of God?
- Do I understand the infinite love of God?
- Am I a faithful spouse to God, or unfaithful?
- Am I doing anything that shows more love for other things than for God?
- Do I fully embrace being His, or do I put myself in the position of “No Mercy” and “Not Mine”?

Hosea 14:9 (ESV)

9 Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

Hosea 6:1–3 (ESV)

1 “Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. **2** After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. **3** Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”

1 Peter 2:9–10 (ESV)

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Corinthians 15:54–57 (ESV)

54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” **55** “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” **56** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.