

# HOSEA – GOD’S UNFAILING LOVE - Israel’s Sin, but God’s Heartbeat and Love for His Wife, Israel! – CHAPTERS 1-3

## OBSERVATION

## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

### **Chapter 1 – A sign of trouble revealed in his children**

*Hos 1:1 The word of the LORD that came to Hosea the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.*

*Hos 1:2 When the LORD began to speak by Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea: "Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry And children of harlotry, For the land has committed great harlotry By departing from the LORD."*

*Hos 1:3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.*

*Hos 1:4 Then the LORD said to him: "Call his name Jezreel, For in a little while I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu, And bring an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.*

*Hos 1:5 It shall come to pass in that day That I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel."*

*Hos 1:6 And she conceived again and bore a daughter. Then God said to him: "Call her name Lo-Ruhamah, For I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel, But I will utterly take them away.*

*Hos 1:7 Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, Will save them by the LORD their God, And will not save them by bow, Nor by sword or battle, By horses or horsemen."*

*Hos 1:8 Now when she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son.*

*Hos 1:9 Then God said: "Call his name Lo-Ammi, For you are not My people, And I will not be your God.*

*Hos 1:10 "Yet the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There it shall be said to them, 'You are sons of the living God.'*

*Hos 1:11 Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel Shall be gathered together, And appoint for themselves one head; And they shall come up out of the land, For great will be the day of Jezreel!"*

**v. 1-2 Hosea** begins his prophecy by dating it. He prophesied during the final six northern kings and four of the southern kings. God tells him to marry a prostitute who was herself the child of a prostitute. We see the LORD **setting up the illustration of the relationship His people had with Him**. God chose Israel and brought her into a most blessed relationship with Himself, likened to the marriage bond and while in this state, she committed harlotry! Spiritual harlotry, but nevertheless the outcome of spiritual defection from God is utterly abhorrent. **Cf. 2 Cor.11:1-3; Jas 4:1-10; 1 Jn.2:15-17; Rev. 2:1-7; "Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel"** – Know as Jeroboam II, he was the great grandson of Jehu, king Israel (840-814 BC)

**vs. 3-5** Not only the marriage but also the children (“*children of harlotry*”) are going to present a real spiritual lesson for the nation Israel. *Jezreel* is the name of the son; it means “**God will scatter.**” God says, “**I will avenge the blood of Jezreel.**” Jezreel is the name of a city and also of a famous plain, the plain of Armageddon, or the Valley of Esdraelon. It has a long, bloody history and will have a similar future as the place where the last war will end. God is saying here that **He is going to scatter the northern kingdom. 2Kings 15:29**

**vs. 6** It does not say she bore him a daughter, so it is thought this is not Hosea’s daughter. Lo-Ruhamah “**Never knew her father’s mercy or love**”. Not sure who her father was.

**vs. 7-8** At the time of King Hezekiah and Isaiah, the Lord promised that not one arrow would come into Jerusalem from King Sennacherib; The Lord destroyed the Assyrian army—in one night an angel of the Lord killed 185,000 troops. **Is. 37:33-37**

**v. 9** “Lo-Ammi” – **not mine!** If you are not My people, I will not be your God. **Rev. 3:20 Jesus** knocks, but doesn’t force Himself on anyone!

**v. 10-11 “Yet” – God is so good and so merciful!** Even in spite of their rejecting the Lord, **yet, there’s a prophecy of God’s promise to His wife, Israel.** Notice these four things of God’s promise: **1, Increased in population; 2, A turning to God; 3. Reunification; 4. One Head among them-Messiah. God is not through with Israel!! We’ve seen the prophecy fulfilled in 1948, the nation was restored physically, although not yet spiritually!**

### **TIMELINE – ABRAHAM TO JESUS CHRIST**

2000 BC.....	1500 BC.....	1000 BC.....	500 BC.....	1 AD
Abraham	Moses	David	Daniel	Jesus

### **MINOR PROPHETS – 845BC? Obadiah-445 BC Nehemiah**

#### **HOSEA – GOD’S MESSENGER:**

- **God abhors the sins of His people!**
- **Judgment is certain!**
- **God’s loyal love stands firm!**

#### **HOSEA (SALVATION) IS DIVIDED INTO TWO**

**MAJOR SECTIONS:** A prophet to the ten northern tribes from 750 BC to about 714 BC, which makes him one of the longest ministering prophets.

**SECTION 1:** Chapters 1-3 deal with the **tragedy in**

**Hosea’s home life; Hosea’s personal ordeal;**

**Chapters 4-14 speak of the tragedy in Hosea’s**

**homeland. Chapters 4-7 – A polluted people (especially the ten Northern tribes) Chapters 8-10 – A punished people. Chapter 11 – A prized people; Chapter 12 – A pardoned people**

Hosea seems like a strange book in the Bible because of what God asked Hosea to do. **He was to go and marry a prostitute and bring her into his house and love her, even though she would be unfaithful to him.** Yet the Lord commanded Hosea, His prophet, to marry Gomer and bring into his home and to love her.

- It gives a **powerful illustration (Hosea 12:10 symbols, parables)** to the people of Israel of their relationship with their husband, the LORD and their tendency to keep playing the harlot. **Isa 54:5-6 For your Maker is your husband, .... [6] For the LORD has called you Like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, Like a youthful wife when you were refused," Says your God.**
- It provides Hosea a **unique and rare opportunity to feel the pain that God was feeling and the fellowship of suffering.** Of feeling what God felt and relate to him what He felt. Cf. *Gen. 22* There is a bonding, a binding that comes when one goes through suffering.

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### Chapter 2 – A sin that troubled revealed in his wife-an application of Chapter 1

*Hos 2:1 Say to your brethren, 'My people,' And to your sisters, 'Mercy is shown.'*

*Hos 2:2 “Bring charges against your mother, bring charges; For she is not My wife, nor am I her Husband! Let her put away her harlotries from her sight, And her adulteries from between her breasts;*

*Hos 2:3 Lest I strip her naked And expose her, as in the day she was born, And make her like a wilderness, And set her like a dry land, And slay her with thirst.*

*Hos 2:4 “I will not have mercy on her children, For they are the children of harlotry.*

*Hos 2:5 For their mother has played the harlot; She who conceived them has behaved shamefully. For she said, 'I will go after my lovers, Who give me my bread and my water, My wool and my linen, My oil and my drink.'*

*Hos 2:6 “Therefore, behold, I will hedge up your way with thorns, And wall her in, So that she cannot find her paths.*

*Hos 2:7 She will chase her lovers, But not overtake them; Yes, she will seek them, but not find them. Then she will say, 'I will go and return to my first husband, For then it was better for me than now.'*

*Hos 2:8 For she did not know That I gave her grain, new wine, and oil, And multiplied her silver and gold— Which they prepared for Baal.*

*Hos 2:9 “Therefore I will return and take away My grain in its time And My new wine in its season, And will take back My wool and My linen, Given to cover her nakedness.*

*Hos 2:10 Now I will uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, And no one shall deliver her from My hand.*

*Hos 2:11 I will also cause all her mirth to cease, Her feast days, Her New Moons, Her Sabbaths— All her appointed feasts.*

*Hos 2:12 “And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, Of which she has said, 'These are my wages that my lovers have given me.' So I will make them a forest, And the beasts of the field shall eat them.*

*Hos 2:13 I will punish her For the days of the Baals to which she burned incense. She decked herself with her earrings and jewelry, And went after her lovers; But Me she forgot," says the LORD.*

*Hos 2:14 “Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Will bring her into the wilderness, And speak comfort to her.*

v. 1 Change their name, Jezreel! You are a legitimate son. To “My people and Mercy is shown!

v. 2 “Bring charges” (plead!) with your mother! The plea for repentance – repeated twice for emphasis.

vs. 3-4 Jezreel is told to warn his mother of the brutal consequences of her sin. “Lest I strip her naked” – public humiliation of an unfaithful wife.

v. 5 “has played the harlot...has behaved shamefully” – Here is a clear disclaimer of fatherhood. “*Lo-Ammi*” – not my people! So God is not going to **have any mercy or pity upon the nation of Israel**. They have crossed over the line. They’ve gone too far, as God will say to them in a little bit, “Ephraim is given over to her idols, leave her alone. **No more mercy. Don’t even bother praying for her. There’s no more mercy for her, they’ve gone too far.”**

vs. 6-7 An interesting concept. God is putting a hedge around Israel. Just as there is a hedge around every believer. Protecting us from Satan! **Only what God allows to touch us to strengthen our faith; to improve us.** There is also a **hedge (sook; Job 1:10; 3:23)** around the people of God **who are considering leaving the Lord.** “*so that she cannot find her paths .she will chase...but not overtake*” I better go back to good ole Hosea! **Material things will never satisfy! Cf. John 4:13-14**

v. 8 It is God that was watching over you, and it is God who has provided for you! And yet, you’ve attributed it to all of these other things to Baal. The very things Israel hoped to obtain by sacrificing to Baal, God had already given her.

v. 9-13 So God is going to deal with Israel. None of their allies they so eager trusted and the idols she so sacrificially worshiped would prove powerless to save her. “Let them be forsaken, let the land become overrun.” Until, they return back to God.

v. 14 I will allure her and bring her into the wilderness  
**NOT “I will come down on the prostituting people, these stiff-necked, rebellious rebels!!! No I will allure her!”**

### A Hedge of Protection! – v. 6-7

As is shown in Job 1:10 and 3:23 God declares the He would put a hedge of protection. With Job it was so that the enemy would not be able to harm him more than what the Lord allowed. Here it can be likened to the protective hedge that the Lord puts around believers, protecting us from that which would harm us from without, the hedge also protects us from within. That it, it protects from trying to leave the Lord to go after another lover, to reach out to some other pleasure. We can use a hedge of prayer for those who are wandering away down the path of vulnerability, and watch God use it to frustrate their attempts to enjoy carnality.

### Baal (plural – Baalim)-vs. 8, 13, 16, 17 (130+ times in Bible)

Baal was a fertility god who was believed to enable the earth to produce crops and people to produce children. Different regions worshiped Baal in different ways, and Baal proved to be a highly adaptable god. Various locales emphasized one or another of his attributes and developed special “denominations” of Baalism. Baal of Peor ([Numbers 25:3](#)) and Baal-Berith ([Judges 8:33](#)) are two examples of such localized deities. According to Canaanite mythology, Baal was the son of El, the chief god, and Asherah, the goddess of the sea. Baal was considered the most powerful of all gods, eclipsing El, who was seen as rather weak and ineffective. In various battles Baal defeated Yamm, the god of the sea, and Mot, the god of death and the underworld. Baal’s sisters/consorts were Ashtoreth, a fertility goddess associated with the stars, and Anath, a goddess of love and war. The Canaanites worshiped Baal as the sun god and as the storm god—he is usually depicted holding a lightning bolt—who defeated enemies and produced crops. They also worshiped him as a fertility god who provided children. Baal worship was rooted in sensuality and involved ritualistic prostitution in the temples. At times, appeasing Baal required human sacrifice, usually the firstborn of the one making the sacrifice ([Jeremiah 19:5](#)). The priests of Baal appealed to their god in rites of wild abandon which included loud, ecstatic cries and self-inflicted injury ([1 Kings 18:28](#)).

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Hos 2:15 I will give her her vineyards from there, And the Valley of Achor as a door of hope; She shall sing there, As in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.  
Hos 2:16 “And it shall be, in that day,” Says the LORD, “*That you will call Me 'My Husband (ishi),' And no longer call Me 'My Master (Baali),'*”  
Hos 2:17 For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals, And they shall be remembered by their name no more.  
Hos 2:18 In that day I will make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, With the birds of the air, And *with* the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, To make them lie down safely.  
Hos 2:19 “I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me In righteousness and justice, In lovingkindness and mercy;  
Hos 2:20 I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, And you shall know the LORD.  
Hos 2:21 “It shall come to pass in that day *That I will answer,*” says the LORD; “I will answer the heavens, And they shall answer the earth.  
Hos 2:22 The earth shall answer With grain, With new wine, And with oil; They shall answer Jezreel.  
Hos 2:23 Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on *her who had* not obtained mercy; Then I will say to *those who were* not My people, ‘You are My people!’ And they shall say, ‘*You are my God!*’ ”

### Chapter 3 – A saving from trouble revealed in the husband, Hosea himself

Hos 3:1 Then the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman *who is* loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love *the* raisin cakes of the pagans.”  
Hos 3:2 So I bought her for myself for fifteen *shekels* of silver, and one and one-half homers of barley.  
Hos 3:3 And I said to her, “You shall stay with me many days; you shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man—so, too, *will I be* toward you.”  
Hos 3:4 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim.  
Hos 3:5 Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days.

## INTERPRETATION

v. 15 "And the valley of Achor as a door of hope." In effect, God is saying, "I'll judge your sin, and after I have judged your sin, there will be a glorious, wonderful hope for you in the future."  
v. 16 “*you will call Me My Husband (ishi)*” - Both by words, affections, and obedience, shall own me as My Husband, and delight to call Me so. No longer, Baali - That is, my Master!  
v. 17 For - I will abolish the memory of the Baals. - This great idol for all others. And they - These false gods. By their name - Their names shall be remembered by their name no more.  
vs. 18-20 **God’s stubborn love won’t let go!** They may turn. They may go after other gods. They may fail, but God’s love persists and pursues. **Even as God has that stubborn love you!**  
v. 21-23 **Beautiful! God’s restoration, drawing them back, again claiming them as His people.** Now this has **not yet taken place, the spiritual return** of Israel to God. The nation of Israel today, is a secular nation. There are a lot of religious people, but they are a minority. But there’s only about ten percent of the people of Israel today, are really spiritually minded. The nation is a secular nation, and the spiritual work of God has not yet taken place. **It will take place.** There is a seven year period, in which God is going to bring to Israel a, this return of the Spirit. Where, spiritually, they will really turn to God, and begin to seek God nationally. That is yet future.

### Chapter 3 – A lesson in marriage a saving from trouble revealed in the husband!

v. 1 In effect He says to Hosea, "Now you know how I feel. I want you to go and take Gomer again. She's been unfaithful to you, but you are to love her and take her back. That is what I am going to do with My people. Israel has been unfaithful to Me, and I am going to punish her, but someday I will bring her back to Myself."

vs. 2-3 **He** found her in the town square. He bought her for ½ the cost of a slave; ½ the cost of a cow! Her life style is beginning to show. Immorality takes a toll! Sin always takes a toll. Prov. 6:32 Destroys one’s own soul. Physically and of your soul!

vs. 4-5 **Scattered actually, throughout the world.** But after the two thousand years, God has raised them up. It was just about the two thousand biblical calendar years, of three hundred and sixty day years, that God raised up the nation of Israel again. “And they shall live in His sight.” The nation now exists once more. **Marvelous, marvelous fulfillment of prophecy!**  
**This is unparalleled in the history of mankind. There is no other ethnic group of people, who have maintained their ethnic character without having a national homeland**

## APPLICATION

### Repentance – Restoration of Manasseh - an example of God’s unfailing love!

2 Chron. 33:9-13 So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. [10] And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen. [11] Therefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon. [12] Now when he was in affliction, he implored the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, [13] and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God. However the nation Israel never recovered from the consequences of Manasseh’s sin. God is so merciful, but sin has consequences!

### God shows Mercy to Ahab– 1 Kings 21:29

In the very place, Elijah said, where this dastardly deed was done, “The dogs will lick the blood of Jezebel”, and Ahab was to be cut off. Well, the interesting thing, a more wicked man, a more wicked king did not live, he was, he was tops in the realm of wickedness, in the northern kingdom. Manasseh tops the southern kingdom. But after Elijah gave him this prophecy, he really cleaned up his act. Started really living carefully, you know, watching things. **So, God is so merciful, so totally merciful,** He told Elijah, “**Go tell Ahab, because he’s changed his whole attitude, and has shown this repentance, that the judgment will not come during his lifetime. It will come later**”. And judgment did come!!!

### LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*  
*Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*  
*Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*