

HOSEA – INTRODUCTION

I. THE TITLE OF THE BOOK

- A. “Hosea”- “Hoshea” means “Salvation” or “Deliverance.”
 - 1. Son of “Beerī” – “My well” or “Welling-forth.”
 - 2. Hosea may have come from the northern kingdom – “our king” – (7:5).
- B. Plea of restoration after suffering the consequences of sin.
 - 1. Israel and Judah (1:10-2:1; 3:4-5; 14:1-9)
 - 2. Gentiles (Rom. 9:25-26, I Pet. 2:10).

II. IMPORTANT EVENT OF THE BOOK

- A. Hosea’s marriage is a key point in the Book emphasizing **the love of God**.
 - 1. Hosea is directed by God to marry a woman influenced by idolatry who becomes unchaste manifesting the fruits of idolatry.
 - 2. **Hosea’s** broken heart over **Gomer’s** unfaithfulness – a parallel with God’s hurt in reaction to Israel’s spiritual unfaithfulness.
 - (a). As an unfaithful wife – whoredom (2:5).
 - (b). As children rejecting their loving father (11:1-5).
- B. Actual marriage gives Hosea’s “message a pathos and a realism that it would not otherwise have. It puts back of his words a bleeding heart, and this gives to them a new power...Through it he came to know the heart of God as he had not known it before, and thus was admitted to a new intimacy and richness of fellowship with the Divine.” (Albert C. Knudson, *The Beacon Lights of Prophecy*, 1918, page 100 – 101).

III. THE DATE AND TIMES:

- A. 750 B.C. – Jereboam II; Later than Amos (755 B.C. – Uzziah, Amos 1:1); (Uzziah – Hezekiah, Hosea 1:1).
- B. Following death of Jereboam II, (740 B.C.), four of the last six kings of Israel assassinated by their successors.
 - 1. Zechariah, Shallum, Pekahiah and Pekah (2 Kings 15:8-10; 13-16; 23-25; 30)
- C. Rebellion against God – dependence upon man.
 - 1. Rebellion against legitimate authority (7:1-7; 8:4, 13:10-11).
 - 2. Dependence upon human defenses (8:14; 10:13;14:3).
 - 3. Dependence upon foreign alliances (5:13; 7:8, 11-13; 8:9; 12:13; 14:3).
- D. Faithlessness expressed among the children of Israel.
 - 1. Priests failing their responsibility – people ignorant of God (4:6-9; 14; 8:12).
 - 2. Idolatrous worship – calf worship and baal worship (4:11-13; 8:4; 13:1-2).
- E. Moral decay (4:2; 6:8-9;; 10:4).
 - 1. Lying, covenant breakers, killing, stealing, committing adultery, lewdness, etc.
- F. Hosea, from God’s heart of love declares message of doom for unfaithful Israel (1:4).

OUTLINE:

- I. ISRAEL’S ADULTERY – PUNISHMENT- RESTORATION (Chapters 1-3).**
 - A. God commands Hosea to marry idolatrous Gomer – Jehovah and Israel (1:1-2:1).
 - B. Chastisement of idolatrous Israel with promise of conversion and restoration (2:2-23).
 - C. Hosea takes wife back (3:1-5).

- II. ISRAEL’S MORAL AND RELIGIOUS CORRUPTION (4:1-7:7).**
 - A. Moral corruption in daily living (4:1-5).
 - B. Failure of priests – lack of knowledge of God (4:6-10).
 - C. Idolatrous practices – Judah warned (4:11-19).
 - D. Guilt of priests, people and princes (5:1-7).
 - E. Judgment must follow (5:8-15).
 - F. God’s call of return – Israel’s insincerity and continued wickedness (6:1-7:7).

- III. ISRAEL’S POLITICAL WEAKNESS (7:8-9:9).**
 - A. Appeal to foreign nations will end in destruction (7:9-16).
 - B. Idolatry issues in God’s judgment – nations will not save (8:1-9:9).

- IV. ISRAEL’S PAST SERVES AS BACKDROP FOR EMINENT JUDGMENT (9:10-13:16).**
 - A. God’s choosing Israel met with Israel’s unfaithfulness – “I will drive them out of my house (9:10-17).
 - B. Israel’s judgment for idolatry – carried away to Assyria (10:1-8).
 - C. Jehovah’s persistence in face of rebellion (10:9-15).
 - D. Jehovah’s love for prodigal Israel – Israel’s ingratitude (11:1-12).
 - E. God’s people has manifested Canaanitish ways (12:1-14).
 - F. Idolatry is Israel’s downfall – Jehovah is Israel’s benefactor (13:1-16).

- V. ISRAEL’S HOPE – CALL TO REPENTANCE (14:1-9).**