

HOSEA – LESSON FIVE

INTRODUCTION:

1. While Amos and Hosea are sent to the same people, the northern kingdom of Israel, they come from God with different approaches.
 - a. Amos warns Israel of judgment because of their sins from the perspective of a Holy Righteous God.
 - b. Hosea warns Israel of judgment because of their sins from the perspective of a Loving Righteous God.
2. As Jeremiah would weep for Judah being besieged by Babylon (Lamentations), Hosea prophesies with a broken heart of the northern kingdom Israel being besieged and destroyed by Assyria and probably sadly experienced the northern ten tribes being dragged away from their capital city Samaria in the days of Hezekiah (cf. Isaiah 36:19, Hosea1:1, 11:5)

I. THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK: HOSEA

- A. "Hosea" – means "Salvation" or "Deliverance."
 1. Joshua's name was first "Hoshea" and changed to "Joshua," meaning "salvation is of Jehovah" (Num. 13:8,16).
- B. "son of Beerai – "my well" or "welling forth" (Hosea 1:1)
 1. Home probably in northern kingdom – "our king" (7:5)
- C. Some have thought he was of the priesthood in his respect for the importance of the priests in their role as teachers (Hosea 4:6-9).
- D. Hosea commanded to marry a woman "of whoredom" (Gomer) (Hosea 1:2)
 1. Probably marrying a woman (Gomer) influenced by idolatry – who becomes unfaithful to Hosea like Israel has been unfaithful to God.
 - a. bears a son – "Jezreel" – "God will scatter" – Overthrow of Jehu's dynasty – cause kingdom of Israel to end (v.4, 2 Kings 10:1-8, 9:1-10, 10:30)
 - b. bears daughter – "Lo-ruhamah" meaning I will "no more have mercy" (v.5)
 - c. bears son – "Lo-ammi" – "not My people"
- E. Hosea commanded to marry an adulterous woman (probably Gomer) – buying her back – manifesting God's love for Israel even though she had been unfaithful to Him (Hosea 3:1-5).

II. THE DATE OF THE BOOK: 750 B.C. (Hosea 1:1)

- A. Jeroboam II (782-753 B.C.) was still reigning in Israel.
- B. Hosea's work spanned the reigns of the last six kings of Israel (Zechariah 753-752 B.C. to Hoshea (732-722 B.C.)
- C. At the end of Jeroboam's reign, instability characterized the final days of the kings ruling the northern kingdom of Israel.
 1. Kings "given in anger and taken away in wrath" (Hosea 13:11).
 2. blood touched blood (Hosea 4:2).
 3. Kings cut off "like a chip" or like "twigs" on the water (Hosea 10:7).
 4. The last six kings reign during the last 25 years – four of the last six kings assassinated by their successors (2 Kings 15:8-10; 13-16; 23-25; 30).

III. FEATURES OF THE BOOK

- A. Book begins with two symbolic marriages manifesting God’s love for Israel and Israel’s lack of love for God – love hurts! – love perseveres! (chapters 1-3) .

- B. Addressing Israel’s sins:
 - 1. Falsehood (4:1-2)
 - 2. Licentiousness in harlotry and wine – understanding taken away (4:11)
 - 3. Murder (5:2)
 - 4. Robbery (7:1-2)
 - 5. Oppression (12:7)

- C. Israel lacks:
 - 1. Knowledge (4:6, 6:3, 8:12)
 - 2. trust in God (5:13, 7:11, 11:5)
 - 3. Spiritual leadership - Priesthood (4:4-6, 9:7, 8:8-9)

- D. Nominal homage to God – in reality, Israel is honoring baalim (4:11-13, 8:4, 9:10, 10:1-3, 13:1-2).
 - 1. Calf worship introduced by Jeroboam I
 - 2. Baal worship stressed by Ahab and Jezebel.

- E. Emphasis upon “covenant” between Jehovah and Israel (8:12, 9:10, 11:1-4, 12:9, 13:4)
 - 1. God is faithful in fulfilling His part...
 - 2. Intimacy seen in marriage and sonship
 - 3. Israel’s faithlessness and whoredom (6:7, 8:1, 2:5)
 - 4. Consequences of unfaithfulness - drive out of My house (9:15, 2:9).

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK:

- I. Israel’s adultery (Hosea 1-3)
 - A. Hosea and Gomer like Jehovah and Israel – Israel the adulteress and her Children (1:2-2:1)
 - B. Chastisement of Israel – conversion – restoration (2:2-23)
 - C. Prophet’s second symbolic marriage (3:1-5)

- II. Prophetic discourses – ungodliness and punishment (4:1-13:16)
 - A. Jehovah’s controversy with Israel (4:1-6:11).
 - B. Israel’s corrupt political condition and consequence (7:1-8:14).
 - C. Israel’s religious and moral apostasy – punishment, exile, and destruction (9:1-11:12).
 - D. Israel’s apostasy and God’s fidelity (12:1-13:16)

- III. Israel’s hope – call to repentance - conversion and pardon (14:1-9)

QUESTIONS:

1. When did Hosea prophecy?
2. What did God command Hosea to do in chapter 1, verse 2?
3. Why would God demand such from His prophet?
4. What was the significance to Israel of the “names” of Gomer’s three children?
5. Why was God avenging the blood of “Jezreel” on the “house of Jehu?”
6. Why is Jehu condemned for doing God’s bidding?
7. To whom does Paul and Peter, by divine inspiration, apply Hosea 1:10-11?
8. What lesson would Israel learn from her spiritual whoredom?
9. Identify the idol Israel was serving in the days of Hosea?
10. What is the significance of the price that Hosea paid in 3:2?
11. In chapters 1-3, give examples of how the love of a husband helps us understand the love of God:
12. What knowledge was lacking in Israel?
Whom does God blame for Israel’s ignorance?
What is the penalty for condoning vice?

13. What statement in chapter four manifests God not seeing Israel repenting from her idolatry apart from judgment?
14. In chapter five, give some reasons for Israel not turning to Jehovah?
15. What is the significance of God being as a “moth” to Ephraim (Israel) and “rotteness” to Judah in 5:12?
16. What is the problem in chapter six with Israel seeking the face of Jehovah or returning unto the Lord?
17. What was the result of the kings of Israel being glad with wickedness and lies?
18. Describe the foreign policy of the kings of Israel during the days of Hosea?
19. In their idolatry, Israel had _____ the _____, and they shall _____ the _____.
20. Even though Israel was building temples they had _____ their _____.
21. Ephraim (Israel) was to go where into captivity?
22. What will Israel know in the days of visitation?
23. How did the “days of Gibeah” relate to Israel in Hosea’s day?
24. What had God done previously that made Israel’s departure into idolatry especially painful?
25. In 10:5, why will the inhabitants of Samaria “fear because of the calves of Bethaven?”
26. What experience describes Israel’s desire to see death rather than those things that will bring death?

27. What is it always time to do?
28. In chapter 11, what attitude leads to “backsliding?”
29. In 11:9, how is God not like man?
30. In chapter 11, what two ways was Judah not like Israel?
31. With whom did Ephraim make a covenant?
32. In 12:2-5, why should Judah take heed and turn to God?
33. What should be seen in our lives if we have truly turned to God?
34. In chapter 12, what two pictures in Israel’s history does Hosea contrast with Israel’s ingratitude and idolatry?
35. When Ephraim sinned in Baal worship, he _____.
36. In chapter 13, what shows the complete abandonment of Ephraim (Israel) from God?
37. In chapter 13, how is God’s mercy revealed in the midst of judgment?
38. In chapter 14, what does God graciously offer a sinning Israel?
39. What knowledge and action are attributed to the truly wise man?