

Bible Snapshots



Hosea – Salvation of God **Author** – *Hosea*

Facts of Hosea

- The name Hosea means “salvation” and should be spelled Hoshea, but made into the English as Hosea, perhaps as an effort to distinguish him from the last king of Israel named Hoshea
- Hosea was the son of Beerī, of whom we know little and was called to be a prophet to his own people in Israel. He may have been a priest, given the intimate knowledge of religious affairs, but this is not certain. He had three children – Jezreel (God sows”), Lo-ruhamah (“No compassion”), and Lo-ammi (“not my people”). These names would change as God extends his mercy on Israel. Jezreel represented God’s
- Hosea lived and worked during the times of Jereboam II, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. It is apparent that he lived beyond the captivity of Israel.
- The book is written primarily to the northern kingdom, but also to the southern (1:1)
- Character of the book is prophetic and biographical
- The main subject is the apostasy and restoration of Israel
- The book has 14 chapters, 197 verses and 5, 175 words
- Hosea’s illustrations are taken from rural and domestic pursuits – snaring birds, sowing, reaping, threshing and baking bread, making is figurative in many ways, like most of the prophets.

Key chapter / verse – Chapters 3 (God’s undying love) / Hosea 1:2 or 13:9, 10

Key phrases / word

- Latter days 3:5
- Return – found 15 times

Outline of the book

- Superscription (1:1)
- The Unfaithful Wife and the Faithful Husband (1:2—3:5)
 - The Children as Signs (1:2—2:1)
 - The Unfaithful Wife (2:2–23)
 - The Lord’s judgment of Israel (2:2–13)
 - The Lord’s restoration of Israel (2:14–23)
 - The Faithful Husband (ch. 3)
- The Unfaithful Nation and the Faithful God (chs. 4–14)
 - Israel’s Unfaithfulness (4:1—6:3)
 - The general charge (4:1–3)
 - The cause declared and the results described (4:4–19)
 - A special message to the people and leaders (ch. 5)
 - The people’s sorrowful plea (6:1–3)
 - Israel’s Punishment (6:4—10:15)
 - The case stated (6:4—7:16)
 - The judgment pronounced (chs. 8–9)

- Summary and appeal (ch. 10)
- The Lord's Faithful Love (chs. 11-14)
 - The Lord's fatherly love (11:1-11)
 - Israel's punishment for unfaithfulness (11:12—13:16)
 - Israel's restoration after repentance (ch. 14)

Christ in Hosea / Names for God

- David – 3:5
- Lord God of Hosts – 12:5

Foreshadowing

Hosea 2:23 is the wonderful prophetic message from God to include the Gentiles [non-Jews] as His children as recorded also in Romans 9:25 and 1 Peter 2:10. Gentiles are not originally “God’s people,” but through His mercy and grace, He has provided Jesus Christ, and by faith in Him we are grafted into the tree of His people (Romans 11:11-18). This is an amazing truth about the Church, one that is called a “mystery” because before Christ, God’s people were considered to be the Jews alone. When Christ came, the Jews were temporarily blinded until the “full number of the Gentiles has come in” (Romans 11:25).

Prophecies

- Assyrian captivity – 13:16 with 2 Kings 17:20-23
- Christ called out of Egypt – 1:1 with Mt. 2:13-15
- Mercy to gentiles – 2:3 with John 1:12; Acts 15:14; 1 Peter 2:9, 10
- Sabbaths to cease – 2:11 with Matthew 28:1
- Israel without a king – 5:5 fulfilled in 586BC

Hosea in the New Testament

- People of God – 1:9, 10 with Romans 9:25, 26
- Desiring mercy – 6:6 with Mt. 9:13; 12:7
- Vain pleading - 10:8 with Luke 32:20
- Related verses:
 - Seeking the Lord – 5:6 with John 7:34
 - Israel and empty vine – 10:1 with Mt. 21:33-43
 - Reaping – 10:12, 13 with Gal. 6:7
 - Victory over death - 13:14 with 1 Cor. 15:54-56
 - Lips praising God – 14:2 with Heb. 13:15

Hosea's Big Ideas

- To call Israel and Judah to repentance by seeing the loyal love of God
- To reveal the faithfulness of the nation toward their covenant with God
- To indict the nation of its lack of knowledge, loyalty, love and faithfulness

Israel versus God – Chapter 11

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| • God loved them (1A) | They worshipped idols (2) |
| • Called them (1B) | Ignored God (3B) |
| • Taught them (3) | Refused His Lordship (5) |
| • Drew them (4a) | Followed their own counsel (6) |
| • Fed them (4b) | Backslid (7) |
| • Encouraged them (8) | Lied about God (12a) |
| • Assured them (9) | Lived in deceit (12B) |