

HOSEA

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INTRODUCTION

- A. "HOSEA"....means "salvation" or "deliverance"
 - B. DATE: 750 - 720 B.C. (?)
 - C. TIME OF PROSPERITY BUT ALSO OF IMPENDING DOOM.
 - D. The language of the book is plain and frank. To show the exceedingly sinfulness of sin.
 - E. Yet maybe more than any other O.T. book we learn that "God Is Love". Hosea is the John of the Old Testament.
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Historically and Religiously

- A. HISTORICALLY:
 - 1. Days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah Kings of Judah. And Jeroboam and Joash, Kings of Israel.
 - 2. Days of great prosperity.
 - 3. Then internal feuds brought weakness.
 - 4. Forgot God and began to look one way or another for help.
 - 5. Samaria fell, Israel carried away....Judah besieged.
 - B. RELIGIOUSLY:
 - 1. Socially and morally corrupt.
 - 2. "She went after lovers and forgot me, sayeth the Lord." (2:13).
 - 3. READ opening text. (4:1-3).
 - 4. The people were bent on backsliding.
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WHO IS GOMER?

- A. Opening statement of the book (1:2) "*Go take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms; for the land has committed great whoredom departing from the Lord.*"
 - 1. What did God mean?
 - 2. The answer must be based upon a careful study of entire book.
 - 3. At least three interpretations have been offered.
 - a. Literal history and Hosea was commanded to marry an actual adulteress and he obeyed the command.
 - b. Many consider it an allegory, claiming that no such marriage took place. Just a parable.
 - c. Majority of interpreters hold that Hosea actually married Gomer, a clean woman guilty of spiritual adultery. Later Idolatry brought forth its natural fruits.
- B. THE CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE:
 - 1. "Jezreel"; vengeance..."I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu." (1:4).
 - 2. "Lomhamah"; "No mercy"..."For I will have no mercy upon the house of Israel. (1:6).

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Who Is Gomer? Cont.

3. "Loammi" not my people...."for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God."
 4. But also note...God is willing to change the name.
 - a. "Ammi" = "My people"
 - b. "Ruhamah" That hath obtained mercy.
- C. THE WOMAN OF CHAPTER THREE:
1. No doubt this is Gomer.
 2. She is a drinking adulteress.
 3. God tells Hosea to "buy her back"
 4. "So I bought3:2-3....The comparable love of God is here shown for his backsliding wife....Israel.
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DRIFTING FROM GOD

- A. Again and again Hosea accuses God's redeemed people of forsaking Him. (2:2,5; 2:13; 4:12; 7:13; etc.)
1. The departure was no sudden decision on their part.
 2. Rather the result of a slow gradual inner decay.
 3. Until they were no longer God's people and he was no longer their God.
- B. CAUSE OF DRIFTING:
1. The first step in Israel's way down was a lack of knowledge. (4:1,2)
"Nor knowledge of God in the land"
 2. *"My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge; because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee; that thou shalt be no priest to me, seeing thou has forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children"*(4:6).
 3. "They have left off to take heed to the Lord." (4:10).
- C. PROCESS OF DRIFTING AWAY:
1. Material Greed (2:5)
 2. Rejection of truth. (4:6).
 3. Unworthy Leadership (6:9)
 4. Compromise with idolatrous neighbors (7:8)
 5. Pride and self sufficiency (5:5; 7:10).
 6. The Love of Sin. (9:10).
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Message For Us Today

A. GOD IS LOVE:

1. Chapter 2 beginning with verse 14, there are listed 10 things that God would do for Israel if she would return.

2. READ.

B. SIN CAUSES GOD TO WEEP.

1. Hosea 11:1-8.

2. V. 8; “my compassions are kindled together....

3. Remember Jesus...as he looked over Jerusalem and wept.

C. NEVER HAD SO MANY BEEN OFFERED SO MUCH FOR SO LITTLE.

1. READ 14:1-7.

2. **And they refused:** Destroyed by Assyria.

D. Mark 16:15-16; NEVER HAVE SO MANY, BEEN OFFERED SO MUCH, FOR SO LITTLE. (on our part). (Eph. 2).

1. John 3:16.

2. Matt. 11:28-30.

E. ROMANS 11:22: *“Behold then the goodness and severity of God: toward them that fell, severity; but toward thee God’s goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shall be cut off.”*
