

# Hosea

## Introduction

### 1. Why Study Hosea

- a. Prepare for our upcoming study of Romans 9-11 concerning Israel's fall/return
- b. Guard against misapplication of prophecy to the mystery church (Hos 1:10, Rom 16:26)
- c. Strengthen our faith in inspiration by fulfilled prophecy – 2 Pet 1:19, 2 Tim 3:15
- d. Profit studying prophetic scripture as a dispensational Bible believer – 2 Tim 3:16

### 2. Context

- a. 14 ch, 197 verses, 5,174 words. First of the Twelve ('minor' / latter / shorter) prophets.
  - i. Contemporary w/Amos, Isaiah (7:8), Micah, Amos, last kings of Israel. 8<sup>th</sup> c. BC
- b. Author – Hosea, meaning "salvation" (see also 'hosa-nna' = "save now")
  - i. Same as Joshua Nu 13:16, Jesus Mt 1:21, Heb 4:8, Israel's last king 2Ki 18:9
  - ii. A prophet was the counsel of God against/for man: God spoke through them.
  - iii. Prophets were an example of "suffering affliction, and of patience" - Jam 5:10
  - iv. "divers manners" and "suffered" describes Hosea, too - Heb 1:1, 11:37
- c. Audience – Israel (northern tribes) 1:1, 4:1, last days before Israel's exile.
  - i. Ephraim (Samaria, Shiloh): tribe associated with the North as Judah to the South
  - ii. Covenantal context – time of the 4<sup>th</sup> curse of the covenant. Lev 26:2-12, 23-28

### 3. Content

- a. Themes – Ephraim (double fruit, fruitful) 37x – Gen 41:52, 48:17-20 (Joseph, Joshua)
  - i. Fruit, vine, olive tree (land) shows up many times – Hos 9:16, 10:1, 14:6
  - ii. Whoredom (adultery/idolatry) 15x, "not my people" "no mercy" (like Ezekiel)
  - iii. Like Jeremiah, he prophesied the fall (and return - 15x) of Israel to exile.
  - iv. Judgment and mercy (9x) more than any minor prophet.
  - v. The failure of Israel's prophets, priests, and kings (in every section)
  - vi. The prophet of love (18x) more than any prophet except John and Paul (Eph)
  - vii. Marriage, but it's broken. Love, but it's unrequited. Hope, but first judgment.
  - viii. LORD (Jehovah) name of God used almost exclusively (personal name)
  - ix. Return of the Lord to Israel is a common theme in all minor prophets. 2<sup>nd</sup> advent.

### 4. Connections

- a. Quoted not a few times by NT books and Paul.
  - i. Matt 2:15 quotes a fulfillment of Hos 11:1
  - ii. Matt 9:13, 12:7 quotes Hosea 6:6
  - iii. Luke 23:30, Rev 6:16 quotes the fulfillment of Hos 10:8
  - iv. 1 Cor 15:55 Paul borrows from Hosea 13:14
  - v. *\*most significant* - Rom 9:25-26 and 2 Pet 2:10 quotes Hosea 1:9-10, 2:23
  - vi. Other popular passages: Hosea 6:1-3, Hosea 14:1-5
- b. Relationship to Romans 9-11 – God's marriage, separation, reunion with Israel.
  - i. Romans 8 – God's inseparable love; Hosea – God's love toward Israel.
  - ii. Romans 9 – Paul's heart for his kinsmen to be saved, as the LORD in Hosea.
  - iii. Romans 9:25 – God saves a remnant. So, in Hosea there is a remnant.
  - iv. Romans 10 – Israel given the word of God, but end up fallen, without faith.
  - v. Romans 11 – Israel returns to covenant salvation, as described in Hosea.

**5. Brief Outline**

- a. 1-3 – Hosea’s Marriage and Israel: the union, separation/failure, and return (3x, 1-3)
- b. 4-7 – The LORD’s Controversy:
  - i. No knowledge (4)
  - ii. No repentance (5)
  - iii. No truth (6-7)
- c. 8-10 – The LORD’s Judgment:
  - i. No peace (8)
  - ii. No place (9)
  - iii. No king (10)
- d. 11-14 – The Heart of the LORD
  - i. 11 – The LORD’s repentance (11:8)
  - ii. 12 – The LORD’s dwelling place (12:9)
  - iii. 13 – The LORD as king and saviour (13:4,10)
  - iv. 14 – The LORD’s love and mercy toward Israel (14:2-4)