

Lesson 8: Hope of Redemption (1 Kings 18:17-40; Hosea 1-3)



Sermon Review: K is for Kings (Northern Kingdom)

Read 1 Kings 16:29–34 (Introduction to King Ahab)

1. Since Ahab was an important and powerful king, how does his reign help us understand the spiritual climate of the northern kingdom?
2. The sin of idol worship was deeply embedded in the culture of the northern kingdom and spawned generations of debasement as well as God’s judgment. What besetting sins has your society struggled with?

Read 1 Kings 18:17–19

3. How can we see Jezebel’s zeal for Baal worship and its impact on Ahab in this text?

Read 1 Kings 18:20–40

4. How does Elijah mock the prophets of Baal and Baal himself? How did the prophets respond to this mocking? Mocking others for their beliefs is not respectful or in line with the gospel, so why is this situation different?
5. Before the Lord sends fire to consume the very wet offering, what are the four things that Elijah earnestly requests of the Lord? Why does this matter to us?

Hope of Redemption (Hosea 1–3)

Read Hosea 1:1- 2:1

Note: Hosea is prophesying primarily to the northern kingdom of Israel in her latter evil days as blood and violence multiplied and it eventually fell to Assyria and was destroyed in 722 B.C. Hosea is the last prophet sent to Israel before exile and destruction.

6. Various translations describe Israel as engaging in whoredom, adultery, or prostitution—very strong words indeed. How does the Lord summarize their guilt in verse 2? Why is adultery such a powerful metaphor to describe unfaithfulness to God?
7. Hosea’s wife Gomer bore three children that God poignantly named to alert Israel of his forthcoming judgment. What do you think is the significance of their names?

Child’s Name:	Significance:
Jezreel (v. 4)	
No Mercy (v. 6)	
Not My People (v. 9)	
Hope (1:10-2:1)	

Read Hosea 1:10–11, 2:1

8. Verses 1:10 brings a sharp reversal, as blessing in some way follows Israel punishment for her sin. Where do we see the promises made to Abraham (Gen. 12: 1-3) in these verses?

Read Hosea 2:2–23

9. In verse 18, the Lord says that he will make a covenant between his now-redeemed bride and the beasts, birds, and creeping things of the earth. How is this re-creation language? What does this say about the Lord's heart for his people?
10. How do verses 19 and 20 and the entire poem confirm once again the Lord's character as revealed to Moses on Mt. Sinai in Exodus 34:6–7? Who is the one doing the betrothing? What are the Lord's promises in this betrothal?
11. God sent the prophet Hosea to Israel to call his people back to the Lord. God can use believers to bring correction in our lives. Have you ever received a word of rebuke or correction from a fellow believer? What was your response?

Read Revelation 19:6–8

12. On the last pages of the New Testament we see the redeemed people of God described as the bride of the Lamb. How is this the fulfillment of Hosea 2:16–23?

Read Hosea 3

13. How are Hosea's actions in retrieving and redeeming his unfaithful wife Gomer a model of God's love for sinners?
14. The Lord does not suggest but rather commands Hosea to love this woman. How do you define the word "love" in this passage? Discuss the ways in which our current culture's definition of love differs from the divine definition of love we find in the Lord's commands and Jesus Christ.

Read Romans 9:22–26 and 1 Peter 2:1–9

15. Both Paul and Peter refer to Hosea in their letters. How do they connect the overarching story in Hosea 1–3 with the salvation of the Gentiles along with the Jews in Christ?