

The Faithfulness of God

Hosea 1:1-11

- If ever you wondered how much God truly loves Israel the book of Hosea answers that question emphatically. For in this story we see a vivid lesson into the relationship God has with the nation and how their rebellious actions not only affects them but how it strikes at the very heart of God, The Lover of their souls.
- Not much is known about Hosea or his family before now, what is known is that he will have one of the longest prophetic ministries of all the prophets, one that spans over forty years, ministering to multiple Kings in both the Southern and Northern Kingdom. Yet this is one of the strangest books of the Bible, not based upon what Hosea is called to say, but what he will be asked to do in demonstrating God's feelings toward Israel during this sinful and disobedient time of their history.

V1-11

- **V1** we read that The Word of The Lord came to Hosea, his name means "Salvation" and comes from the same Hebrew root word for the names Joshua and Jesus. Throughout this book Hosea will show that salvation is found only in turning to The Lord and away from sin, something that Israel is continuing to ignore.
- By listing the Kings we can see the times in which Hosea lives in, just like if this world lasts long enough someone will look at the history of 2025 and who was the president and read about the culture and be able to understand the times that we lived in despite not actually living in them themselves, just as we do when we look back at history and read about the times and be thankful we are where we are at today
- Hosea begins his ministry in the Northern Kingdom where Jeroboam II is ruling, now from a political, economic, and material standpoint Jeroboam II was a successful King, but spiritually he followed in the long line of evil by not causing Israel to depart from their idolatry and sinful behaviors > **2 Kings 14:23-29**- so he was a public success as the people praised him, but a private failure for The Lord rejected him.

- **V2-5** this is where it gets strange as God is going to tell him to go and marry a woman named Gomer nothing strange about that, but she is an unfaithful woman, a prostitute to be exact, and he is told to have children with her and through this union God is going to use their family as a model from which to prove certain points about Israel unfaithfulness to Him, and God's love and compassion toward them.
- If you study the Old Testament this is nothing new, as Prophets from time to time were asked to do some really bizarre things > like Isaiah was told to walk the streets dressed like a prisoner for three years, and Jeremiah likewise carried a yoke upon his shoulders for many months both pointing to the coming captivity to Babylon.
- Ezekiel was told to lie on his left side for three hundred and ninety days, and on his right side for forty days for a total of four hundred and thirty days, this was to represent the years of sin that both the Northern Kingdom and Southern Kingdom committed respectively. These things happened before we had the finished Word of God and The Holy Spirit living inside of us to rely on so be thankful for the time you live in today, so I don't want to see anyone lying on their left side this Sunday.
- Gomer were told represented the harlotry that Israel had played against God, and the children's names foretold what God was going to do with the nation. The first son is named "**Jezreel**" which means God will scatter, this is what The Lord was about to do in allowing the Northern Kingdom to be take by the Assyrians and the Southern Kingdom take by the Babylonians. Also was a reminder that the house of Jehu and its bloodline would end just as he had ended Ahab's bloodline to come into power.
- **V6-9** a second child is born this time a daughter who's name "**Lo-Ruhammah**" unpitied or no mercy, this shows that God Who had loved Israel and proved it in so many ways would now withdraw Himself and allow their enemies to have their way with them. It's a terrible thing to fall into the hands of man, as this shows that the safest place any of us can be is in the bosom and protection of God's love amen!
- Hosea mentions Judah telling them that He will save them but not through military means but miraculously fight on their behalf > **2 Kings 19:35**. The Assyrians left Judah alone but came and had their way with the Northern Kingdom because God had taken His protection off of them thus making them vulnerable to the enemy.

- A third child is had another son named “**Lo-Ammi**” his name means not my people, every call to this unfortunately named child reminded Hosea and everyone around them that the people of Israel had pushed The Lord God away from themselves. Here is another important point for us to take note of, if you don’t want The Lord as your God and Savior, He will not force Himself on you, He will give you what you want, and leave you to yourself, to fend on your own, that is absolutely scary!
- **V10-11** if God left it there this would truly be a sad story, but The Lord is “The God of reconciliation” and in these last two verses we are told of a future restoration for Israel. Though God has promised Judgment, the days of judgment don’t last forever, for after Judgement there will be days of blessing, fellowship and prosperity.
- Notice in each name for Hosea’s children God brings reconciliation > “**Jezreel**” means a sign of judgment, but God now promises restoration, turning the name from judgment to greatness. “**Lo-Ruhamah**”, no mercy, “**Lo-Ammi**”, not my people, mercy is now shown again, and Israel will be redeemed, for what was once a sign of judgment will become in the future and evidence of redemption wow! **2 Tim 2:13**.