

Hosea

What Have We Learned?

What I Have Learned

- What we are called to do by the Lord can be unexpected and even repulsive to our sensibilities.
- The marriage of Hosea is a metaphor; not an allegory.
- Hosea's marriage provides a tangible illustration of God's relationship with the northern kingdom of Israel.

1-3 HOSEA'S MARRIAGE TO GOMER



PROPHETIC SYMBOL OF GOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL



Hosea 1-3

- Hosea is called to marry a prostitute.
- They marry, have children, and she leaves.
- But Hosea purchases her and restores her place in his heart.
- But sin has consequences both physical and spiritual.
- The cumulative effect of two hundred years of sin.

- Israel separated itself from the Lord and set up golden calves at Bethel and Dan, explicitly worshipping Baal instead of Yahweh.
- "...the land has committed great whoredom," Israel is like Gomer.
- The Lord is speaking to the men of Israel. The nation if you will.
- What is the difference between a heathen nation and a civilized one?
- Israel had become a heathen nation and was about to lose God's protection.

Future Hope

- The children of Israel will be as the sand of the sea;
- A repentant Israel is promised ultimate redemption;
- And its men would be known as the sons of the living God.
- Under the rule of a descendant of King David

4-11 ACCUSATIONS & WARNINGS FOR ISRAEL

4-10 CAUSES & EFFECTS OF ISRAEL'S UNFAITHFULNESS

THERE IS NO KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IN THE LAND!

"KNOWLEDGE"

HEBREW: YADA

MORE THAN Intellectual
INCLUDES Relationship

GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO KNOW HIM & EXPERIENCE HIS LOVE.



HYPOCRISY OF ISRAEL'S WORSHIP



II HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

GOD-LOVING FATHER



"I TAUGHT ISRAEL TO WALK... I LED THEM WITH LOVE."

3:1

ISRAEL-REBELLIOUS SON



GOD IS EMOTIONALLY TORN:



"HOW CAN I GIVE YOU UP, EPHRAIM? MY HEART CHURNS WITHIN ME; ALL MY COMPASSION IS AROUSED." 3:3

Hosea 4-11

- There is no knowledge of God in the land.
- The Bible Project is a bit warm & fuzzy here.
- It's not a matter of Intellectual knowledge versus Relational Knowledge.
- Israel had abandoned God and become heathen.
- It wasn't just hypocrisy. It was apostasy.
- And God was about to give them up.

Judgement

- Hosea reveals Israel's lewdness, for the days of Baalim were sinful days, during which Israel forgot the Lord and made idolatry and lewd practices foremost in Israelite religious life.
- "Bring charges against your mother, bring charges;
For she is not My wife, nor am I her Husband!
Let her put away her harlotries from her sight..."

- The Lord is the source of Israel's blessings, and He will woo her back by speaking to her heart without distraction.
- Note: this speaks of betrothal, a second marriage between God and Israel -after she is restored- one that lasts for ever.
- The betrothal will be in faithfulness {*hesed*} for God will be faithful to his covenant, and his beloved will learn to respond. [Wycliff]
- This will happen in the end of days.

“And this is the sum of the law, that God designs to rule by His own authority the people he has adopted. But the law has two parts: a promise of salvation and eternal life; and a rule for a godly and holy living. To these are added a third part, that men not responding to their call are to be restored to the fear of God by threatening and reproofs.”

– Calvin’s Commentary on Hosea

The Indictment

- “There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land.”
- The kings did not pursue the true God of Israel and led their kingdom in actual opposition to God’s covenant.
- They appointed illegitimate priests and set up idols of gold, erected altars for sexual “rites”, and sacrificed their children to appease false gods.
- National sin leads to national consequences!

12-14 MORE ACCUSATIONS & WARNINGS

12-13 HOSEA'S HISTORY LESSON



Hosea 12-14

- Sin has consequences. And it takes will and moral courage to refrain from sin when times are good.
- Israel trusted in foreign alliances instead of God.
- It sowed the wind and reaped the whirlwind.
- Jacob's history (Israel's old nature and struggle).
- God cared for His people and took them to the promised land and then they forgot Him.
- Idols and human sacrifice were offered to other gods.

Hosea 13:15-16 NKJV

¹⁵ Though he is fruitful among his brethren, An east wind shall come;
The wind of the Lord shall come up from the wilderness.

Then his spring shall become dry, And his fountain shall be dried up.

He shall plunder the treasury of every desirable prize.

¹⁶ Samaria is held guilty, For she has rebelled against her God.

They shall fall by the sword, Their infants shall be dashed in pieces,

And their women with child ripped open.

Israel's Conversion and Renewal

The Ending Verses

8 "Ephraim shall say, 'What have I to do anymore with idols?'
I have heard and observed him. I am like a green cypress tree;
Your fruit is found in Me."

9 Who is wise? Let him understand these things.
Who is prudent? Let him know them.
For the ways of the Lord are right;
The righteous walk in them,
But transgressors stumble in them.

- Hosea 14:8-9 NKJV

So much more is taught during our sessions as we wrestle with meaningful life issues to inform our Biblical worldview!

9 Who is wise? Let him understand these things.
Who is prudent? Let him know them.

Defining Prudence

- Classical origins in Greek and Roman philosophy.
- Prudence is not about contemplating the unchanging truths associated with abstract wisdom but deals instead with human things that are variable.
- Its realm is contingency, uncertainty, and changing circumstances.
- It is the rational activity that relates universals to particulars by recognizing what is universally true yet is always concerned with what to do in particular circumstances, of which there is no universal knowledge.

“Prudence is thinking that governs action and is focused on what is good and bad for human beings, seeking the good in each situation. As such, prudence is central to moral virtue; it is the activity that makes virtue in the abstract a virtue in fact. For instance, one may understand the good of courage in theory as opposed to rashness and cowardice, but the virtue of courage does not exist until prudence determines the courageous act in particular circumstances. Virtue in general sets the sights right, while prudence determines the actual target and wills the action.”

– Matthew Spalding, paraphrasing Aristotle in The Making of the American Mind, p. 134-

Come Let Us Return to the Lord.

- Only God can heal a wounded nation.
- Only Christ can bring new life to our wounded nation.
- Not foreign alliances or the melding of our military with that of another nation openly (internally) opposed to Christianity.
- For every mosque or synagogue built in America, lets get a new Christian church built in Saudi Arabia, or even in Israel.

We have been given a great gift, the scripture of Hosea. Now it is in our hearts. We know the consequences of rebellion and turning away from God. But if we repent there are blessings.

Lord, we wait in your presence. We confess with our lips that You have lived and walked among us.

Jesus is alive in heaven and in our hearts.

The scripture of Hosea is not just for a people who lived long ago.

Give us the moral courage to stand for your truths and for the application of those truths to our everyday lives so that we exercise common prudence when we are called to do so.