

# Hosea

*Lesson Six*

*God's Covenant Lawsuit Against Israel*



# Hosea Thematic Statement

- ✿ *The homework assignment from Part Four to identify the thematic statement for Hosea really had its answer in Ron's introductory presentation in Part One...*
- ✿ *Hosea 4:1 "Hear the word of the Lord, You children of Israel, For the Lord brings a charge <sup>[a]</sup> against the inhabitants of the land: 'There is no truth or mercy Or knowledge of God in the land.' "*
- ✿ *The Scripture of Hosea is a covenant lawsuit against the northern kingdom of Israel.*
- ✿ *What is the basic commandment Israel failed to uphold?*
  - ✿ *"I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of <sup>[a]</sup>bondage. 'You shall have no other gods <sup>[b]</sup>before Me.' "*



# Additional Background

- ✦ *The apostasy of the northern kingdom of Israel was with it from its origin when “Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not fully follow the Lord, as did his father David.” Jeroboam, son of Nebat, was chosen by the Lord and given ten tribes as punishment for Solomon’s abandoning Yahweh. Jeroboam fled to Egypt until Solomon’s death. In the succession ceremony, Solomon’s son Rehoboam angered the people and they left with Jeroboam. So Israel was in rebellion.*
- ✦ *I Kings 12:28-31 “Therefore the king asked advice, **made two calves of gold**, and said to the people, “**It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!**” And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi.”*
- ✦ *The above happened around 930BC. The sin of Jehu referred to in Hosea chapter one is primarily excessive bloodshed, but there is also this from II Kings 10:29 “**However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, that is, from the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan.**”*



# Time Frame

- ✿ *Jehu was king from 841-814BC, 90 years after Jeroboam I. Hosea's prophetic career was from 750BC to 722BC.*
- ✿ *So the northern kingdom had been worshipping false gods for 180 years!*
- ✿ *The prophetic career of Amos was from 760BC to 722BC. So Amos and Hosea were contemporaries. Amos was a lowly fig gatherer from Judea who seems exceptionally well educated at his scripture is among the best compositions in the Old Testament. He journeyed to Israel to deliver his condemnation mainly at Bethel.*



Enough Background



# Hosea's Core Theme?

1. Relational: God uses “painful” judgment to restore a deeper relationship with His people, who will then “know the Lord” better?
2. Sovereignty: The Living Sovereign God rebukes the northern kingdom for persistent, generational apostasy; but makes His judgment known via the prophets Amos and Hosea; and, in His timing, withdraws His mercies from the unrepentant kingdom of Israel. In 722BC it is captured by Sargon II of Assyria and assimilated.



*I form the light and create darkness,  
I make peace and create calamity;  
I, the Lord, do all these things.*

*—Isaiah 45:7 New King James Version*



# Hosea Chapter Three



*3:1 Then the Lord said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the Lord for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans.*

*2 So I bought her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver, and one and one-half homers of barley. 3 And I said to her, “You shall stay with me many days; you shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man—so, too, will I be toward you.”*

*4 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim. 5 Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days.*

*– Hosea 3:1-5 NKJV*



# Israel's Infidelity

- ✿ *Chapter 3 is the strongest affirmation of Gomer's and Israel's restorations.*
- ✿ *"Hosea's action was to be similar to that of the LORD Himself, who loved the Israelites even though they had become spiritually unfaithful to Him. They had turned from following Him in order to worship other gods, and they loved the raisin cakes that were evidently part of their worship (cf. Jer. 7:18; 44:19)." — Dr. Constable's Notes*
- ✿ *"Fifteen shekels of silver was half the price of a dead slave in Israel (Exod. 21:32), and barley was cattle food. An homer and a half cost about 15 shekels of silver. So Hosea evidently paid the price of a dead slave for his wife. She was obviously not regarded as worth much."*



*“Chapter 3 is one of the classic O.T. passages describing Israel's past, present, and future. Her idolatrous past is illustrated by Gomer's unfaithfulness to Hosea (vv. 1-2), despite which Hosea is commanded to love her and buy her back 'according to the love of the LORD toward ... Israel,' a love which led Him to pay the purchase price of the blood of the cross to redeem Israel, the basis of her restoration. The present condition of Israel is illustrated and plainly prophesied in vv. 3-4. Her future is declared in v. 5, showing her repentance toward God who, in His faithfulness, will restore her.”*

*— The New Scofield Reference Bible , p. 921. —from Dr Constable's Notes on Hosea 2025*



Comments?



# Overstated?

- ✿ *Has Israel of today have any relationship to the Israel of Hosea?*
- ✿ *“...a love which led Him to pay the purchase price of the blood of the cross to redeem Israel, the basis of her restoration.” Is this statement too narrow?*



That's All for Today

