

Hosea 14
Where Do We Go From Here?
January 21, 2024
Sermon 14

Good morning church!

Celebrate the book of Hosea

We have much to celebrate today in regards to where we come from through the book of Hosea and where we are going from here.

We've opened with responsive readings in the past – November - Theological truths

In the past we have opened up our sermon's with a responsive reading that were based on various theological truths in the Christian faith.

It was November that we last took the time to address these responsive readings.

Different approach on RR – Once a month

This year we are going to take a different approach to these. I am going to take the first part of a message once a month and spend a little time prior to the sermon on 1, 2 or 3 of these questions.

RR process of the past

You may recall that when we would approach these questions from a responsive reading stand point that I would read the question and you guys collectively and in unison would respond with the answer provided to you on the screen.

Bad cadence – Charlie Brown's teacher

I assumed that you always got the questions right because the words were on the screen but often our cadence was off and from here it sounded like Charlie Browns teacher was answering the questions.

Questions come from New City Catechism book – Q&A of biblical principles – Tool – Family worship – Understanding and communicating the Bible

The question-and-answer responses we use come from a book called The New City Catechism. It is a great teaching tool for family worship, for deeper understanding of the scripture and to help you sharpen your knowledge of God making you more confident to share the Gospel with others and to answer questions about what you believe.

Download on phone

You can download The New City Catechism app on your phone or order a copy of the book online.

Pros to teaching on this is it applies to all Biblical matters

The great thing about teaching on these questions and answers is that they are theological truths that fit in with whatever content we are covering that day in the sermon.

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So, the first question in the book is:

What is our only hope in life and death?

We are not our own – belong both body and soul – in life and death – Jesus Christ

Our only hope in life and in death is that we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

Rental car joke – “don’t worry it’s a rental”

Often we tend to joke around if something breaks off or is damaged in a rental car we may be in possession of. Our response is, “don’t worry, it’s a rental.”

Careless when not our own

In other words, when something is not our own, we tend to be more careless with it.

Example with borrowing celebrity/athlete’s care – Protect with life

Now think of your favorite celebrity or athlete and they let you borrow something of theirs, let’s say their car, you would surely not treat it like a rental you would protect it with your life!

Stewarding our life on earth and eternally because we are borrowing from the Lord

How much more should we steward our life on earth and eternally because of WHO has given it to us?

Romans 14:7-8

⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Section about not passing judgement – Mouths testify to the truth of God or slander His character and His creation

This section in Romans between verse 1 and 12 is talking about not passing judgement on others. It is important to remember as we interact with others that what comes out of our mouths either testifies to the truths of who God is or slanders God’s character and His creation.

Vs 7-8 – Christians do not live to themselves but to the Lord – Starts/ends rebirth/death into next life

Verses 7 and 8 is more specifically talking about the fact that Christians do not live to themselves because they live to the Lord. This way of living begins at regeneration and continues after death into the next life.

So, our only hope that we have as believers is the hope that we find in Jesus.

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Hope not a wish but assurance – Saved from sin and death to righteousness and eternal life

We talked of what the Bible refers to when speaking of hope that this isn't a mere wish but this hope is assurance that we will be saved from the due penalties of our sin and will rather give us eternity in heaven with our Lord.

Talking to and about people should be uplifting – uplifting w/ words & prayers

So, if we are living today, as believers in Christ, how we talk to people and about people should be only uplifting. We are either uplifting others with our words or we are uplifting others with our prayers.

James 3:5-10

⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

If only hope is in Jesus – no reason to speak death/poison

If our only hope in life and death is in the Lord Jesus and we have been saved from our iniquities, we should have no reason to speak out death or poison.

Kids received Christmas gifts – All they spoke of

All my kids received gifts under the Christmas tree this year. For the past 3 weeks all they have spoken of is how wonderful of a gift they had received.

We have received greatest gift – How often do we speak of it?

We have received the greatest gift that one could ever receive and yet we have to ask ourselves, how often we speak of this gift.

How do we use our tongues? Tamed or untamed?

Are we using this little flap of flesh that we have in our mouth to be tamed by the power of the Holy Spirit or have we allowed our flesh to take over?

We all fall short – say dumb things – humility and apologetic

Now we know that we all fall short. We all mess up and say dumb things. I have done it many many times before. I recently found myself apologizing for being too harsh with my words leaving a few individuals feeling discouraged.

Daily submission – Holy Spirit – Think, speak, act

We must daily submit ourselves to the Lord so to be under the power of the Holy Spirit in how we think, how we act and how we speak.

Ephesians 4:20-25

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²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Scripture renews our minds – controls our thoughts – directs our actions – new self

Allow the truth of the scriptures to renew your mind which controls your thoughts and directs your actions to be in alignment with your new self.

So, our only hope we have in this life and in death is in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
Let us pray

Finish line of Hosea – Lose people during this marathon – 4-10

Well, we made it to the Hosea finish line. I honestly thought we were going to lose a few of you during this marathon especially in chapters 4-10.

Final chapter of Hosea – Hope in Christ – Lens to reflect upon this book

We begin the final chapter of Hosea this morning. As we close out the book and we tie in the question that we just answered regarding our only hope being found in Christ, let this be the lens that we reflect upon our journey through Hosea. Let this be the result, the action, the response to what we have learned from Hosea.

Patterns of the Bible replicated in Hosea

Early on I reminded us of the same pattern we see throughout the Bible and is replicated in Hosea:

- Man Sins
- God warns but is patient
- Man doesn't learn
- God judges and disciplines
- God restores man back to Him

As parents we see this same cycle with our children

If we forget this, let us be reminded of the same cycle when we put it into action with our own children.

Bottom line: God loves His children so let us find our hope in Him by returning to Him!

Title

I titled this sermon, "Where do we go from here?"

Please stand with me as I read from our main text this morning in Hosea chapter 14.

Hosea 14

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¹ Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God,
for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.
² Take with you words
and return to the LORD;
say to him,
“Take away all iniquity;
accept what is good,
and we will pay with bulls
the vows of our lips.
³ Assyria shall not save us;
we will not ride on horses;
and we will say no more, ‘Our God,’
to the work of our hands.
In you the orphan finds mercy.”
⁴ I will heal their apostasy;
I will love them freely,
for my anger has turned from them.
⁵ I will be like the dew to Israel;
he shall blossom like the lily;
he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;
⁶ his shoots shall spread out;
his beauty shall be like the olive,
and his fragrance like Lebanon.
⁷ They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow;
they shall flourish like the grain;
they shall blossom like the vine;
their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.
⁸ O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?
It is I who answer and look after you.
I am like an evergreen cypress;
from me comes your fruit.
⁹ Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;
whoever is discerning, let him know them;
for the ways of the LORD are right,
and the upright walk in them,
but transgressors stumble in them.

Here ends the reading of our main text in Hosea 14. You may be seated.

Well, where do we go from here?

Question Amaris asked on first valentines as dating couple

This was a question that my now wife Amaris asked me on our first valentines as a dating couple.

Recent trip over from the westside

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This past week we came back over from visiting my family on the westside and as we passed through the Issaquah area she reminded me of this story.

Bought hiking book

We, I mean I, bought a book called 100 classic hikes in Washington when we first started dating.

Do every hike

I said, "lets do every hike in the book!"

She said, "every hike?"

"yeah like over time..."

Math

I started doing the math in my head...

4/year = finish in 25 years

"If we do 4 hikes a year, we will finish all of the hikes 25 years from now."

"Okay, I guess," she replied.

You might be the one

It was my pre-emergent way of saying, "you might be the one!"

Me Ambitious – Amaris honeymoon phase

Let's be honest, I was a little ambitious to tackle all 100 hikes and Amaris' reply was during the honeymoon phase of our dating relationship.

Today's version

Today that same conversation would sound like this:

"Hey do you want to go on a hike?"

"Heck no!...wait is there coffee involved?"

"Yeah its like 3 blocks lets just hike there."

1st hike start out easy

So I thought since we were going to be covering all 100 hikes in this book that we should start out easy and find one relatively close.

Hike in Issaquah – well traveled – little elevation gain – views of I-90 - Romantic

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I found one in Issaquah that was well traveled, had little elevation gain and some great views of the traffic on I-90...something super romantic.

Met up – Nick attire – Boots, gators, hiking shorts, hiking shirt, trekking poles - cologne

We met up to drive out to the trailhead and I have my hiking socks, hiking boots on covered with my gators, my hiking shorts with my hiking shirt, my trekking poles and liberal dousing of my outdoor cologne...100% deet.

Amaris attire – soccer clothes

Amaris on the other hand showed up in her soccer warm up pants and a cotton t-shirt.

Not soccer – not taken seriously – don't look like a hiker – out of place – look incompetent

I said, "c'mon Amaris, we are going hiking not playing soccer. No one will take you seriously on the trail. You don't even look like a hiker. You will look totally out of place, like you don't know what you are doing."

This is what I got – A couple of miles, lose the trekking poles

In Amaris fashion she said, "yeah well this is what I got, and by the way the hike is only a couple of miles how about losing the trekking poles."

Be experienced – Look experienced

I knew that in order to be experienced I had to look experienced.

Trail well marked – clear path – couple of hours in lost – location not in book - not on map

The trail was well marked, and the path was clear but it wasn't but a couple of hours into our hike that we found ourselves in a location that wasn't discussed in the book or marked on the map.

We were clearly lost, and I had no idea where we got off track.

"Well, where do we go from here?" She said.

Decided to carry on looking for something familiar

Rather than looking at the map and figuring out where we got off track we continued on our journey in hopes that something familiar came up.

Interstate louder – would lead to way out

As we continued on, the sound of the interstate got louder and louder and I knew that there was a way out if we continued on the path.

Upscale Issaquah neighborhood – Starbucks would salvage

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Eventually the trail dumped us out into an upscale, Issaquah neighborhood and of course I knew that if we got to a Starbucks I could salvage the hike.

Odd stares – Finally found Starbucks – comfy chairs and warm drinks

We walked down the streets of the neighborhood receiving odd stares by those who passed by in their vehicles. We finally came to a Starbucks and found relief with some comfy chairs and a warm drink.

Atmosphere of Starbucks

As we looked around at the atmosphere in Starbucks noticing the people around us in their Saturday afternoon street clothing, Amaris looked over at me and said.

“Hey hiker boy...who looks dumb now.”

The Israelites have found themselves in a similar situation:

- Lost
- Off track
- In search of a human solution to a human problem
- Asking themselves, “where do we go from here?”

Cross references

As usual, I will be cross referencing throughout the message so if you want to note or put a thumb in the following verses you can have the next one cued up before I get there.

Hebrews 13:15

Hosea 6:1

Hosea 6:4

Hosea 5:13

James 1:22-25

Hosea 10:1

Hosea 2:14-23

Proverbs 4:19

14 begins with solution that is better than anything they have

Hosea 14 begins with the prophet calling them back to a solution that will trump anything they could ever come up with on their own.

Final words - Beauty of expression – Rank with OT

In beauty of expression these final words of Hosea rank with the memorable chapters of the Old Testament.

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Compare rainbow after storm – promise of Israel’s restoration

Like the rainbow after a storm, they promise Israel’s final restoration.

Unfailing love for His faithless people – Grace – assurance of healing – described in imagery

Here is the full flowering of God’s unfailing love for his faithless people, the triumph of His grace, the assurance of His healing—all described in imagery that reveals the loving heart of God.

Hosea 14:1

¹ Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God,
for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.

² Take with you words
and return to the LORD;
say to him,
“Take away all iniquity;
accept what is good,
and we will pay with bulls
the vows of our lips.

Israel invited to return by Hosea – words of obedience – “vows of our lips”

Israel was invited to return, bringing words of repentance accompanied with obedience, repaying God’s gracious acceptance of them with “vows of our lips.”

Return coupled with reminder of sin

Not only are the Israelites invited to “return” to their God; They are also reminded of their sins.

God’s forgiveness must be accompanied by awareness of sin.

Ask for forgiveness – Lord will graciously receive

When they ask for forgiveness, the Lord will graciously receive them.

Forgiveness in grace – Getting something we don’t deserve

The beauty of forgiveness is that when God grants his forgiveness, it is done out of grace. The definition of grace is getting something that we don’t deserve. God gives us this when we turn to him.

Hebrews 13:15

¹⁵ Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Not interested in empty sacrifices – hollow words – He sees through lip service

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God is not interested in their empty ritual sacrifices or their hollow words. God saw right through their lip service in Hosea 6:1 when he said,

Hosea 6:1
“Come, let us return to the LORD;
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

It was just 3 verses later that God’s response was.

Hosea 6:4
“What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes early away.

God reuses his language for a new purpose

God flips the words of judgement that He spoke in chapters 4-10 in a restorative manner in which we will see throughout chapter 14.

Hosea 14:3
“Assyria shall not save us;
we will not ride on horses;
and we will say no more, ‘Our God,’
to the work of our hands.
In you the orphan finds mercy.”

We are reminded of the false hope that can be found in human securities in Hosea 5:13

Hosea 5:13
“When Ephraim saw his sickness,
and Judah his wound,
then Ephraim went to Assyria,
and sent to the great king.^[a]
But he is not able to cure you
or heal your wound.

Human solutions won’t save them – Assyria can’t save them – Orphan

The Israelites can no longer look to Assyria, to their own measures of salvation. The prophet reminds the nation of Israel that they are an orphan that has no Father but that they can be adopted back into the family of God and He will find mercy on them.

Hosea 14:4

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⁴ I will heal their apostasy;
I will love them freely,
for my anger has turned from them.

Apostasy – sin = sickness – Healing from waywardness – Anger to compassion

The word apostasy means to abandon or renounce one's faith. The prophets will often depict sin as sickness and renewal as healing. God will heal them of their wayward actions and thinking. Like a loving Father His heart has turned from anger to compassion as they are restored back to Him.

Hosea 14:5

⁵ I will be like the dew to Israel;
he shall blossom like the lily;
he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;

6:4 spun – Capricious and fickle

We see the words of the Lord in Hosea 6:4 spun here. In Hosea 6:4 God referred to the Israelites as the dew that goes early away. They are capricious and fickle with their words.

Dew is now life giving – nation will blossom

Now the Lord refers to himself as the dew that gives life giving water to Israel and therefore the nation will blossom into the creation that God intended.

God has a purpose – Life outside His purpose is lived in vain – Void/emptiness

God has a purpose and plan for each and every one of us. When we live a life outside of Christ our purpose is carried out in vain. No matter how successful we are it brings a void, an emptiness that doesn't nourish our soul.

Operating in calling – we are nourished – obedience to the Lord not to man

When we are operating in the calling that the Lord has placed on our life we are nourished by the power of His life giving water. Our calling is done out of obedience to the Lord rather than to the obedience of man.

James 1:22-25

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Doers of the word brings nourishment

When we are doers of the word we will be nourished and will blossom within our calling.

Hosea14:6

⁶ his shoots shall spread out;

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his beauty shall be like the olive,
and his fragrance like Lebanon.

Figures of speech – trees and flowers – meaningful to those in semiarid lands Palestine

Among the great biblical figures of speech are those that relate to trees and flowers—especially meaningful to those who dwelled in semiarid lands like Palestine.

Compares future blessing to a lily – Cedar of Lebanon – Olive tree

Here Hosea likens Israel in her time of future blessing to a lily, a cedar of Lebanon, and that most essential of all trees, an olive tree.

2nd/3rd lines – healthy growth – splendor – majesty – fragrance – Israel admired

The second and third lines of verse 6 show the result of this healthy growth: the cedar will have the “splendor” or majesty of the olive tree and the “fragrance” of the cedar of Lebanon itself. So the nation of Israel will be admired throughout the world.

Metaphor of child ☐ adult

Speaking as if for high hopes for your child when it grows up into a flourishing adult

⁷They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow;
they shall flourish like the grain;
they shall blossom like the vine;
their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

Choice vine – original purpose

Israel again becomes a choice vine, which was her purpose from the beginning.

10:1 – Height of prosperity – credited and reinvested into false idols

When we look back at 10:1 we saw that in the height of the prosperity of blessing that was given to them by God they abused it and invested it into false idols.

Hosea 10:1

¹Israel is a luxuriant vine
that yields its fruit.
The more his fruit increased,
the more altars he built;
as his country improved,
he improved his pillars.

Verse 7 illustrates paradise – covenant renewal

The landscape described in verse 7 is an Eden-like paradise, illustrating covenant renewal.

Cue up Hosea 2:14-23

We saw this way back in Hosea 2:14-23 if you want to flip there where Hosea makes a plea to the nation to return back to the Lord:

Hosea 2:14-23

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¹⁴ “Therefore, behold, I will allure her,
and bring her into the wilderness,
and speak tenderly to her.

¹⁵ And there I will give her her vineyards
and make the Valley of Achor^(a) a door of hope.
And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth,
as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.

¹⁶ “And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer will you call me ‘My Baal.’ ¹⁷ For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no more. ¹⁸ And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety. ¹⁹ And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. ²⁰ I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.

²¹ “And in that day I will answer, declares the LORD,
I will answer the heavens,
and they shall answer the earth,

²² and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and they shall answer Jezreel,

²³ and I will sow her for myself in the land.

And I will have mercy on No Mercy,
and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’;
and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’”

Promises by God scattered throughout Hosea despite judgment

The promises of a future restoration are scattered throughout the book of Hosea even in the midst of harsh judgement.

Hosea 14:8

⁸ O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?
It is I who answer and look after you.
I am like an evergreen cypress;
from me comes your fruit.

When Israel has nothing left – Idols are helpless – God is mighty to save

The Lord, not idols, will care for Israel. He, not Israel, is the tree providing shelter and prosperity, the “evergreen cypress” from whom their fruitfulness would come.

Hosea 14:9

⁹ Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;
whoever is discerning, let him know them;
for the ways of the LORD are right,
and the upright walk in them,
but transgressors stumble in them.

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Closing Question

Hosea closes with answering the question we started with:

"Where do we go from here?"

Listen – Learn – Benefit from God's word – In Hosea's day this meant life or death

He appeals to us to listen, to learn and to benefit from God's word. To those receiving the Lord's message through Hosea, this meant the difference between life and death.

We have a choice – Choose path of God to life – Choose path that leads to death

For you, the reader of the book of Hosea, the choice is similar: either listen to the book's message and follow God's ways, or refuse to walk along the Lord's path.

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Proverbs paints it in this way:

Proverbs 4:19

¹⁹ The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.

If lost don't look for man-made solution – We can find the way by turning to Christ

If you are lost and are wondering where you should go from here, you can find the way by turning from your sin and following God.

Psalms 119:105

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

The answers to our directions can be found in the very word of God.

Err by forgetting God's love – sins are hopeless

We can err by forgetting God's love and feeling that our sins are hopeless

Err by forgetting the seriousness of our sin and downplaying our persistence of it

We can also err by forgetting his wrath against our sins and thinking he will continue to accept us no matter how we act.

Forgiveness is the key – God forgives – he judges sin – shows mercy to the sinner – God will renew

Forgiveness is the key word: when God forgives us, He judges the sin but shows mercy to the sinner. We should never be afraid to come to God for a clean slate and a renewed life.

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Coupling Hosea with NT – How scripture was written

I want to close with coupling the bigger picture of Hosea to the New Testament. All scripture is has been physically written by men but breathed out and inspired by God.

I read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 last week and I want to remind us of it again.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Hosea not a stand-alone – Human writers didn't know the future

Hosea is not a stand-alone book. The writers of the Old Testament, from a human standpoint had no idea what was going to take place in the future.

But God did!

Hosea wrote this book almost 800 years before Jesus

Hosea, who's name means "salvation," when he wrote the book of Hosea almost 800 years before Jesus came on the scene didn't know what the future would look like from a human point of view.

Deep connections to the NT – Redemption is the same – God of old is God of new

There are deep thematical connections the book of Hosea has with New Testament. The redemption that we see take place in the Old Testament is the same as the New Testament because The God of old is the God of New. He is the Alpha and Omega. The beginning and end. He has always been.

Check out pairing of Hosea with NT

Look how the book of Hosea pair with scripture written hundreds of years later in the New Testament:

In Hosea 1:6, 9

⁶She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the LORD said to him, "Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all.

⁹And the LORD said, "Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God."

1 Peter 2:10

¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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Hosea 1:10

¹⁰ Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God."

Romans 9:25-26

²⁵ As indeed he says in Hosea,
"Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,'
and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'"

²⁶ "And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,'
there they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"

Hosea 6:6

⁶ For I desire steadfast love^a and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Matthew 9:13

¹³ Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 12:7

⁷ And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.

Hosea 10:8

⁸ The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel,
shall be destroyed.
Thorn and thistle shall grow up
on their altars,
and they shall say to the mountains, "Cover us,"
and to the hills, "Fall on us."

Luke 23:26-31

²⁶ And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸ But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Hosea 14
Where Do We Go From Here?
January 21, 2024
Sermon 14

Hosea 11:1

¹When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.

Matthew 2:15

¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

What the prophet Hosea was speaking in Israel 750 years before Christ is true 2024 years after Christ.

Let the words of the prophet continue to ring true today in your life.

Home Group Questions:

1. Do you think it is scarier for people to put their hope in Christ in life or in death? Why or why not?
2. What has been the most enriching part of studying the book of Hosea for you?
3. Israel has historically been fickle with their back and forth with God. What can we learn from the history of the Israelites and put some preventative measures in so that we don't repeat history?
4. We have all probably had promises broken before and have also broken them ourselves. What level of comfort do the promises of God bring to you? Why?
5. James 1:22-25 speaks of being "doers" of the word. What area of your life has God been challenging you to be a doer of the word? What is holding you back?