



Seeing Jesus in the Minor Prophets

Hosea

Historical Background



Timeline

- To get our historical bearings for this series, let's do a brief Jewish historical overview. In and around 1050 B.C. The Hebrew people were united under one King...Saul. Saul reigned for approximately 40 years and was succeeded by David who reigned approximately 40 years who was succeeded by his son Solomon who reigned for approximately 40 years. At the end of Solomon's life and reign (931 B.C.) the Kingdom was divided into two kingdoms, one in the north and one in the south. The southern kingdom of Judah was made up of the tribe of Judah and the smaller tribe of Benjamin. The northern kingdom of Israel (also referred to as Ephraim) was made up of the remaining ten tribes. During this period of a divided kingdom was the ministries of Elijah and Elisha (930-830) as well as the major and minor prophets (760-425). Hosea was one of the first prophets. We know this because the very first verse of Hosea teaches us that...
 - ❖ Hosea 1:1--*The word of the Lord that came to Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.*
- Since we have a pretty good idea of when these kings reigned, we have a pretty good idea of when Hosea ministered.



Setting

- Hosea's ministry was primarily to the northern kingdom of Israel (Ephraim) yet his "influence was widespread, impacting both parts of the divided kingdom."¹ During his ministry the northern kingdom experienced extraordinary political upheaval. Frequent assassinations lead to 6 kings over a 30 year period (keep in mind a king does not have a four year term but serves his entire life). The instability of their political system left them vulnerable to invasion. For this reason there was great fear of the powerful Assyrian empire who was conquering adjacent nations. In addition to the political disarray, the moral status of Israel was in the pits. Hosea 4 describes it this way...
 - ❖ Hosea 4:1-2--*There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; 2 there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.*
- Worst of all, Israel embraced the worship of Baal. The Lord gave blessing and yet Israel took the bounty that the Lord had given them and offered it up to Baal...
 - ❖ Hosea 2:8--*it was I who gave her the grain, the wine, and the oil, and who lavished on her silver and gold, which they used for Baal.*
- Baal worship was not merely the offering of wine and oil. Baal worship involved the use of cult prostitutes.
 - ❖ Hosea 4:14--*for the men themselves go aside with prostitutes and sacrifice with cult prostitutes*
- Thus, this was the primary issue that Hosea addressed. He is primarily concerned with Israel's unfaithfulness to God and God's response to their unfaithfulness.

¹ Anthony Selvaggio, *The Prophets Speak of Him*, p.16



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Book Overview

- If you have been faithful to read through Hosea multiple times. One thing you might have noticed is that Hosea is all over the place. One moment God is saying I hate you, the next moment he is saying I love you to the same people. One moment he is speaking in first person, the next he is speaking in third person. He also can't seem to decide how he wants to refer to Israel. Sometimes he calls them Israel. Sometimes he calls them Ephraim. Sometimes he refers to them as Jacob, Bethel, or Jehu (1:4). For this reason, those who seek to outline it have extraordinary difficulty. We are going to attempt to cut through the disorganized construction of this book to see what God is saying three things through the prophet Hosea. He is saying to Israel (and to a lesser extent Judah)...
 1. You have become a faithless whore.
 2. Wrath is coming, mercy is not, and you are not my people.
 3. I will not leave you the way you are. I will love you and make you righteous.
- In Chapters 1-3, God uses Hosea's life and family to say these things. In Chapters 4-14, these things are unpacked in explicit detail.

1. You have become a faithless whore



Introduced in Chapters 1-3

- ❖ Hosea 1:2--*the Lord said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord.*
- ❖ Hosea 2:2--*"Plead with your mother...that she put away her whoring from her face, and her adultery from between her breasts*



Continued through chapters 4-14

- ❖ Hosea 4:10-12--*They shall eat, but not be satisfied; they shall play the whore, but not multiply, because they have forsaken the Lord to cherish 11 whoredom, wine, and new wine, which take away the understanding. 12 My people inquire of a piece of wood, and their walking staff gives them oracles. For a spirit of whoredom has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the whore.*
- ❖ Hosea 4:15--*Though you play the whore, O Israel, let not Judah become guilty.*
- ❖ **Hosea 5:3-4**--*I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from me; for now, O Ephraim, you have played the whore; Israel is defiled. 4 Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. For the spirit of whoredom is within them, and they know not the Lord.*
- ❖ Hosea 5:7--*They have dealt faithlessly with the Lord*
- ❖ Hosea 6:7--*But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me*
- ❖ Hosea 6:10--*In the house of Israel I have seen a horrible thing; Ephraim's whoredom is there; Israel is defiled.*
- ❖ **Hosea 9:1**--*Rejoice not, O Israel! Exult not like the peoples; for you have played the whore, forsaking your God. You have loved a prostitute's wages on all threshing floors.*

2. Wrath is coming, mercy is not, and you are not my people.



Introduced in Chapters 1-3



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- ❖ Hosea 1:4-5--“Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. 5 And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”
 - We must understand that Jezreel “was the scene of many significant-- and violent-- events in Israel's history.”² Thus, to name your kid Jezreel would have been like naming your kid “violent bloodshed” or “terrible wrath.” Why did God pick this name? Because terrible wrath is exactly what he was going to bring upon Israel.
- ❖ Hosea 1:6--“Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all.”
- ❖ Hosea 1:9--“Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God.”
- ❖ Hosea 2:4--Upon her children also I will have no mercy, because they are children of whoredom.



Continued through chapters 4-14

- ❖ Hosea 5:14--For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, and like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, even I, will tear and go away; I will carry off, and no one shall rescue.
- ❖ **Hosea 9:14-17**--Give them, O Lord — what will you give? Give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts. 15 Every evil of theirs is in Gilgal; there I began to hate them. Because of the wickedness of their deeds I will drive them out of my house. I will love them no more; all their princes are rebels. 16 Ephraim is stricken; their root is dried up; they shall bear no fruit. Even though they give birth, I will put their beloved children to death. 17 My God will reject them because they have not listened to him; they shall be wanderers among the nations.
- ❖ Hosea 10:14-15--as Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel on the day of battle; mothers were dashed in pieces with their children. 15 Thus it shall be done to you, O Bethel, because of your great evil.
- ❖ **Hosea 13:6-9**---...they forgot me. 7 So I am to them like a lion; like a leopard I will lurk beside the way. 8 I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs; I will tear open their breast, and there I will devour them like a lion, as a wild beast would rip them open. 9 He destroys you, O Israel, for you are against me, against your helper.

3. I will not leave you the way you are. I will love you and make you righteous.



Introduced in Chapters 1-3

- ❖ Hosea 1:10--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.”
- ❖ Hosea 2:14-23--“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 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**

² Duanne A. Garrett, *Hosea, Joel: The New American Commentary*



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steadfast love and in mercy. 20 I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord. "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.



Continued through chapters 4-14

❖ Hosea 11:8-9--*How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. 9 I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.*

- At this point, you ought to be thinking...This is great and all, but I thought the title of this series was seeing Jesus in the Minor Prophets. So where is Jesus in all of this?"

In the book of Hosea, Jesus is...

1. He who makes a spotless bride of a faithless whore

- Gomer was not unique in her whoring. Israel is not alone in their unfaithfulness to God. Both of these are types of the Church. On our own were any of us faithful to the God has created us and sustains us? Did even one of us obey the Lord's command of...
 - ❖ Exodus 20:3--*"You shall have no other gods before me"*
- The answer is no, but just in case anyone thinks they might have let us remind ourselves that...
 - ❖ Romans 3:10-12--*"None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.*
- Thus, apart from Christ, we too were whores. We were faithless. We were worthless. It doesn't stop there either. We, like Gomer, were slaves. No matter how hard we tried we just couldn't seem to do anything but prostitute ourselves. We lived for happiness, possessions, success, and a myriad of other things, but Romans 3 makes it clear that we never lived for God. We see this in Gomer's life...
 - ❖ Hosea 3:1-2-*And the Lord said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins. 2 I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley.*
- Apparently even after being married to Hosea and bearing his children, she just couldn't be faithful. Now her faithlessness is coming back to haunt her in that she is being auctioned off as a slave. She now had to pay for her faithlessness. We too once faced the same predicament. We would have to one day face the consequences of our faithlessness and like Gomer, the only way that this was going to change was if someone was willing to pay the price for us. Just as Hosea did for Gomer when he said...
 - ❖ Hosea 3:2--*I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley.*
- Jesus was willing to pay the price for us. Only the price was significantly higher than a few shekels of silver and some grain. Jesus would purchase us with his very life...



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- ❖ Ephesians 5:25--*Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*
- Jesus bought us and made us his own...
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 6:19-20--*You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price*
- Not only do we belong to Jesus but just as Hosea makes Gomer a righteous bride as he says...
 - ❖ Hosea 3:3--*"You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you"*
- Jesus makes us his spotless bride...
 - ❖ Ephesians 5:25-27--*Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*
 - ❖ Revelation 19:7-8--*Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; 8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—*

2. He who gives glory to those destined for wrath

- In Hosea 1, God instructs Hosea to name his first child Jezreel because he is going to bring wrath upon Israel. Israel though is not the only one who would be destined to endure God's wrath. Each and every one of us was born under God's wrath.
 - ❖ Ephesians 2:3--*we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*
- Yet Jesus did not leave us this way. We were destined for wrath but we who are in Christ will not experience wrath because our faithful, loving savior Jesus Christ became our propitiation (which means that he was sent to bear the wrath of God for us).
 - ❖ 1 John 4:10--*In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins*
- Because of Jesus, we will receive glory, not wrath, on the day of judgement. This is why Paul says...
 - ❖ Colossians 3:4--*When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory*
- Romans 9 teaches us that in Christ, we are not vessels of wrath, rather we are...
 - ❖ Romans 9:23--*vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—*

3. He who shows mercifully makes God's enemies into God's children

- The names of Hosea's other two children, No Mercy and Not my people, were not just their names but ours as well. However, in Hosea 1:10, God promises to change this reality and the New Testament reveals that he has indeed done this through Jesus!
 - ❖ Romans 9:24-26-- *even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? 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.'*
 - ❖ 1 Peter 2:9-10--*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you*



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

4. He who does this for more people than we can fathom.

- In Hosea, God promises that the number of His chosen people will be innumerable...
 - ❖ Hosea 1:10--*the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered.*
- To their ears this meant that the Jewish people would grow to become the most numerous people on the planet and that in so doing, they would rule the world! They were looking to go from being the...
 - ❖ Deuteronomy 7:7--*the fewest of all peoples,*
- To being the most and the mightiest. They believed this was what God was promising in Hosea 1:10 and (Genesis 13:16, 32:12).
- However, the promise was even better. The chosen people would not merely be a large but temporary kingdom made up of a single ethnicity. That is too small a vision for our glorious God! It would be an immense, eternal, kingdom of people from all over the planet who would together cry out to their Savior Jesus...
 - ❖ Revelation 5:9-10--*"Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."*
 - ❖ Revelation 7:9--*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes*

5. The faithful son we could never be.

- ❖ Hosea 11:1--*When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.*
 - The majority of Hosea uses typology to preach Jesus. He is presented through Hosea who is the righteous husband who is willing and able to redeem his unrighteous bride of whoredom. However, here we see another type. We see a typology of sonship. In the Old Testament, Israel (corporately) are God's children. They were chosen by God, instructed by God, sustained, even delivered by God from the Pharaoh in Egypt, yet they are a faithless child. Hosea goes on to say...
 - ❖ Hosea 11:2--*The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols*
 - Jesus however is the son, that Israel never could be. When he was called out of Egypt (Matthew 2:15) he was faithful. We see this in passages like...
 - ❖ John 5:19-20--*For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing*
 - ❖ John 17:4--*I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do*
 - This passage is the faintest whisper telling us of one who would do what we could not so that that he might make us what we could not have made ourselves...Holy sons of God.

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6. The resurrected Lord!

- ❖ Hosea 6:1-2--*"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. 2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him"*
 - Verse one we see Hosea pleading for his people to repent. Furthermore, we see him rightly acknowledge that God deals wrathfully with sinners. It is God who has torn them and it is God who has struck them down. This is how he deals with sinners. Yet, even in his wrath he has a merciful purpose. He is not utterly destroying them. His purpose is that they would repent. His ultimate desire for his people is to "heal," "bind up," and "raise us up." It is in this point that we see Jesus because it is through Jesus that he will raise us up.
 - Paul is recalling Hosea's words (1:2) when he says...
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:3-4--*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that **he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures***
 - When speaking of the power of the resurrection in our lives, Paul again will recall the words of Hosea...
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:50-57--*I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 **"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"** 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - In Hosea, the tone is significantly less exciting...
 - ❖ Hosea 13:14--*Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death? O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting?*
 - In Hosea 13, God is basically saying "I could ransom them if I wanted to and not even the power of death could stop me." However, it isn't until Jesus that we discover that he will and that it was absolutely true that the power of death could stop him! In fact, his victory over death is so complete that after we who are in Christ have been raised, we will literally be untouchable by death for all eternity!