

# Hebrews 11

## HOSEA

Prophet to Israel

Hosea 6:1-3, *“Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. 2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. 3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.”*

Hosea 14:4, *“I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.”*

Galatians 5:16, *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”*

Galatians 6:1, *“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”*

Proverbs 14:14, *“The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.”*

<b>Key Verses:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <i>Hosea 6:1-3</i></li><li>➤ <i>Hosea 14:4</i></li><li>➤ <i>Galatians 5:16</i></li><li>➤ <i>Galatians 6:1</i></li></ul>
<b>Meaning of the name Hosea:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Salvation is of the Lord</li><li>➤ Jehovah is help or salvation</li></ul>
<b>Time:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ 755-710 BC</li></ul>

## *The Man with a Sorrowful Heart*

Little is known of Hosea's history beyond what we find in his writings. He has been called the first prophet of Grace and Israel's earliest evangelist. He was a native of the Northern Kingdom, the iniquities and idolatries of which weighed heavily on his heart. He bore the same name as that of the last king of Israel (I Kings 15:30). In Jewish tradition, he is identified with Beerah of Reuben (I Chron. 5:6). Christian tradition, however, relates him to the Hosea of the tribe of Issachar.

The home tragedy overtaking him earned him the title of "The Prophet of a Sorrowful Heart." Through the wrongs he suffered he came to realize the sins committed by Israel against God, and the long history of unfaithfulness to Him. The accounts of Hosea's marriage, the birth of his children and his wife's unfaithfulness and restoration make sad reading. Hosea was called to express God's message and to manifest His character.

Gomer, his wife, was immoral; hence the word of the Lord came to him amid much personal anguish; his home life was destroyed. Society was corrupt and God's law spurned, and Hosea came to see in his own suffering a reflection of what the sorrow of God must be, when Israel proved utterly unfaithful.

Three children were born to Hosea and Gomer:

- I.** Jezreel, recalling the deed of blood (II Kings 10), and by it a knell was rung in the ears of Jeroboam. The name of this child an omen of coming judgment.
- II.** Lo-ruhamah, meaning, "one who never knew a father's love." This expressive name pointed to a time when, no more pitied by Jehovah, Israel would be given over to her enemies.
- III.** Lo-ammi, signifying "one not belonging to me." Israel had turned from a father's love and deserved not to belong to God. Thus this third child's name prophesied the driving out of the children of Israel from their land to exile.

Gomer, the erring wife, is received back (Hos 3:1,2), the price of her redemption being paid by Hosea. So the prophet was not only God's messenger of grace – he reflected God's character and foreshadowed ultimate redemption through the Messiah and Israel's re-establishment as a nation.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Lockyer, All the Men of the Bible, pp149-150

## OUTLINE FOR HOSEA

### Chapter One

1. Symbolic History of Israel – past, present and future 1-3
2. Israel's Sin – God is Holy 4-7
3. Israel's Punishment – God is Just 8-10
4. Israel's Restoration – God is Love 11-14

### Chapter Two

Results of Deserting God from 2:6-7;

1. Disappointment
2. Deprivation
3. Desolation

### Chapter Three

- I. God's Purpose 3:1
  - A. Hosea's love to this harlot woman is a picture of God's love to His idolatrous people.
  - B. God commands him to keep loving her even though she has other lovers and friends just as Israel does
- II. God's Purchase 3:2
  - A. Hosea goes out and buys Gomer for half the price of a slave. His sorrow, patience, compassion and final act of redeeming, chastening and restoring of Gomer are that of God's to sinful Israel. Isaiah 52:3; 44:22
  - B. Jesus paid the full price for our redemption. He also paid the full price for Israel's redemption and she will be Christ's in the Millennium.
- III. God's Providence or Watchcare 3:3
  - A. Israel could have returned to God but rejected the opportunity. Isaiah 30:15-17
  - B. B. God is patiently waiting for her as that He might be merciful to her. 30:18
  - C. "The many days (3:4)" From final rejection at 70A.D on through until the fullness of the Gentiles are fulfilled
  - D. The miracle of history is that the Jews still exist as a race.
  - E. Notice the marvellous promise "So will I also be for thee." 3:3
- IV. Israel's Tragedy – "without a king" in 3:4 – Notice the unusual prophecy which tells us they will be cured of idolatry ("without an image.. and teraphim") and will never go back to idolatry during the "many days' of her waiting for Messiah in the dispersion among the Gentiles.
- V. Israel's Future 3:5 and Acts 15:16
  - A. They shall return.
  
  - B. They shall seek the Lord their God and fear Him in the latter days. But only after they have passed through the terrible tribulation of the latter days as

predicted by Jeremiah 30:3,7,11,16-18,24; Daniel 11 and 12 and Zechariah 12-14.

## Chapter Four

Apostasy

4:1-13:8

1. A Moral Apostasy 4:2 (swearing, lying, stealing, etc)
2. A Covenant Apostasy 4:6; 8:12 (like the covenant at the marriage altar)
3. A Political Apostasy 7:11 (turned to Egypt and Assyria for help)
4. A Religious Apostasy – Five discourses deal with this subject.

## Chapters 13-14

God's Final Dealings with Israel

- I. God's last warning to the ten tribes of Israel in 13:9-16
- II. God's final call to the ten tribes of Israel which never heard another word from God after this call:
  - A. An appeal to turn to God 14:1-3
  - B. He gives them the very words with which they are to repent: "Asshur shall not save us, we will not ride upon horses (Egypt): neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy." 14:3
- III. God's promise of final restoration in 14:4-8 with twenty blessings:
  - A. "I will heal their backsliding..." 14:4
  - B. "I will love them freely..." 14:4 It is not because of what He sees in Israel but what He is in Himself.
  - C. "I will be as the dew to her..." 14:5 This will be fulfilled to her during the 1000 year millennium.

## DIVINE DESCRIPTIONS FOR BACKSLIDING ISRAEL

*"Ephraim is joined to idols, let him alone (4:17)."*

*"Ephraim hath mixed himself among the people (7:8)."* They are no longer a separate people.

*"Ephraim is a cake not turned (7:8)."* This means one that is yet uncooked dough on one side but burnt on the other side, half baked. He means he has a divided heart.

*"Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not (7:9)."* He has been weakened by evil associations.

*"Gray hairs are here and there upon yet he knoweth not (7:9)."* Ephraim is falling apart prematurely and he is not conscious of it!

**"Hosea"** – 1:1 – Salvation. A prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel.

“**Gomer**” – 1:3 – complete. Hosea’s unfaithful wife who provides the backdrop for God’s sermon to Israel through Hosea.

“**Jezreel**” – 1:4 – God soweth. God would avenge the blood of Jezreel, thus this child was a constant reminder to Israel that she was headed for destruction.

“**Loruhamah**”. – 1:6 – no mercy, unloved. The baby girl seemingly not his; thus he had no father’s filial love. Israel would have no more mercy by only judgment from God.

“**Loammi**” – 1:9 – not my people or kin. Israel was rejected.

“**Fall**” – 4:5 – stumble, stagger, totter. Hosea likens the false prophets and their followers to bumbling, staggering, and tottering “spiritual drunks” walking in the dark. Had they looked to the Lord instead of their own wisdom and strength, they would not have fallen. Isa. 63:13 says, “That led them... that they should not stumble (same word).”

“**Ephraim**” – 4:7 – double ash-heap, doubly fruitful. Maybe “double ash-heap” refers to a double inheritance of land which Joseph received. The name is used frequently in the prophets for the northern kingdom of Israel (maybe because it was the largest) as is also Samaria, its capital. Hosea uses the name Ephraim in this sense 37 times.<sup>2</sup>

## THE FAITH OF HOSEA THE PROPHET

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<sup>2</sup> Hester, Old Testament Bible History Guidebook, pp262-265

**I. BY FAITH** Hosea knew the true and living God despite the nation's idolatry

Hosea 1:1a, *“the word of the LORD that came unto 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.”*

**II. BY FAITH** he received the call to be a prophet of God, preaching to a backslidden, idolatrous people.

Hosea 1:1b, *“the word of the LORD that came unto 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.”*

**III. BY FAITH** he married a harlot woman to illustrate God's love for a Spiritually adulterous and unfaithful nation.

Hosea 1:2, *“The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.”*

He obeyed God, hoping this would convict them and cause repentance and healing from backsliding idolatry – spiritual adultery.

**IV. BY FAITH** he loved Gomer, believing the marriage covenant would challenge Israel to return from whoring to be faithful to the covenant of God! However, Israel refused to repent.

Hosea 1:2, *“The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.”*

The name Hosea means “salvation is of the Lord”

Only the Lord Jesus delivered the woman at the well in John 4:1-29 and the woman caught in adultery. *“Go and sin no more.”*

**V. BY FAITH** he remained faithful; though Gomer chose not to respond even though he purchased her from slavery to sin. This caused deep sorrow to the prophet Hosea.

**VI. BY FAITH** he had three children through Gomer.

Hosea 1:3, *“So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son.”*

**VII. BY FAITH** he named the children as God directed.

1. **JEZREEL** Hosea 1:4, *“And the LORD said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel.”*
2. **LORUHAMA**H Hosea 1:6-7, *“And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And God said unto him, Call her name Loruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away. But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.”*
3. **LOAMMI** Hosea 1:9, *“Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God.”*

**VIII. BY FAITH** he sought to warn them of God’s judgement upon them.

**Indictment:** According to Hosea, Israel sinned in four ways.

1. They were violating basic covenant requirements of faithfulness and kindness, rejecting knowledge of God and His law. They had become self-satisfied and proud and had forgotten God’s grace. They even spoke contemptuously against Him.
2. They were engaging in idolatry and harlotry or cult prostitution.
3. They were trusting in human devices (kings, princes, warriors, and foreign covenants) rather than in God.
4. They were guilty of injustice and violence, including murder, theft, lying, and oppression of the defenceless.

**Instruction:** Through Hosea the Lord told the people of Israel to stop their promiscuity, idolatry, and iniquity and to return to Him in humility and faithfulness toward the law of the covenant.

**Judgment:** Hosea informed Israel that their present distress was because the Lord had abandoned them and that further discipline would come. This would include foreign domination, deportation, destruction, desolation, and death.<sup>3</sup>

**IX. BY FAITH** Hosea offered them the comfort of hope.

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<sup>3</sup> Holman, KJV Study Bible

“Hosea reminded Israel of the Lord’s grace and love in making them a people, and in blessing them in the past with His attentive and patient care and His abundant provision. He was their only hope, and His ways were right. The Lord also assured them that in response to their repentance and faith He would again have compassion on them and redeem them; He would remove unrighteousness and restore the covenant, bringing righteousness and the knowledge of God; and He would rebuild and beautify Israel.”<sup>4</sup>

Psalm 130:5, *“I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.”*

Acts 1:11, *“Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”*

2 Thess 2:16&17, *“Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, 17, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.”*

Hosea 14:1-5, *“O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips. Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy. I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him. I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.”*

## **X. BY FAITH HOSEA CONTINUED FAITHFULLY TO THE END**

He continued throughout despite their hard hearts and rejection of his ministry.

Hosea 14:9, *“Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.”*

1 Corinthians 15:57-58, *“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”*

2 Peter 3:8-18

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<sup>4</sup> Holman KJV Study Bible