

## GOALS OF THIS LESSON:

1. Understand the overall message of the book of Hosea.
2. Relate to God's feelings of Israel's betrayal through Gomer's unfaithfulness to Hosea.

*Introduction:* Hosea prophesied around 750 B.C. and is in many ways unlike Amos before him. While Amos came as an outsider to Samaria, expressing the severe judgment of God, Hosea is a resident of the northern kingdom and preaches to the people from a different perspective. After marrying a woman who typified the character and influence of the age, he experiences the heartache of an unfaithful spouse. From this perspective, he is able to understand the betrayal God felt as a result of the unfaithfulness of Israel. Thus, while Amos revealed stern judgment, Hosea revealed the feelings of God and the love that demanded such judgment.

Hosea summed up Israel's sin by the word "whoredom" or "harlotry." (See the accompanying chart on the parallels between Gomer's adultery and Israel's spiritual adultery.) Israel had become a prostitute, selling herself before the baalim of the land, serving calf worship erected by Jeroboam, and making alliances with certain nations in exchange for protection instead of relying on God.

**Survey of the book:** Study the *Survey Chart* carefully to understand the outline of the book. Skim through the book noting especially the chapter headings to get a feel of the overall message. As you study each chapter in the lessons to come jot down a summary statement on the diagonal lines of your *Survey Chart*.

**1:1-9: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

1. Was Gomer already a harlot when Hosea married her? Explain the reason for your answer.

## Revealing Fact:

Jezebel is the site where Jezebel had Naboth murdered in order to take his vineyard and give it to her husband Ahab. Jehu was appointed by God to fulfill the prophecy of Elijah that dogs would lick Jezebel's blood in Jezreel and all the house of Ahab would die. Jehu obeyed the Lord by killing all the house of Ahab, even order the heads of the seventy sons of Ahab sent to him at Jezreel. "Jezreel" means "God will scatter" or "God will sow." God would first scatter Israel from Him and then in the kingdom, sow them back to Himself.

2. Since Jehu obeyed the Lord in the matter of killing all the house of Ahab, why is God promising to avenge this bloodshed on the house of Jehu?
3. How would naming each of the children prophetic names have made a greater impact on the people Hosea preached to?

4. How would God save Judah from Assyria, "but not by bow, sword, or battle?"
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. By naming his third child Lo-ammi, what has Hosea finally realized about Gomer and this child?

**1:10--2:1: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**  
*(Compare the cross-references to the New Testament to get a full understanding of these verses.)*

**2:2-7: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

6. How would God "strip Israel naked and expose her as in the day she was born?"
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Why does God use such graphic language to describe Israel's sin and His punishment of her?

**2:8-13: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

8. What did Israel believe her gods did for her?

**2:14-23:** In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

9. The "Valley of Achor" comes from **Joshua 7:24-26**. Understanding the meaning of "Achor", how does it become a door of hope for Israel?

10. Notice in **verse 16** the phrase "My husband" in the Hebrew is *ishi*, while "My master" is *baali*. God was o

Main Points From This Lesson:

1. The children of Gomer with prophetic names: Jezreel (*God will scatter, sow*), Lo-Ruhamah (*no mercy*), Lo-Ammi (*not my people*).
2. We are betrothed to Christ (**2 Corinthians 11:2**) and therefore we also must not sell ourselves to serve this world and the things in it (**James 4:4**).

Chapters 3-4

HOSEA

Lesson 2

Goals for the lesson:

1. See the plan of God for Israel: though rejected now, they will have an opportunity to return.
2. Recognize that the sins of Israel are often repeated among us today.

**3:1-5:** In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

1. What are Hosea's conditions for Gomer after he buys her back (apparently out of slavery)?
2. What period of time in Israel's history is being spoken of in **verse 4**?

**4:1-5: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:** (*Remember, these words are uttered by Hosea as he is burdened with the ruin of his own home.*)

*☞ Note that the word "charge" (NKJV) in **verse 1** is literally a lawsuit or legal complaint.*

3. In **verse 4**, why does the prophet say that there is no need for anyone to reprove the people for their sins?

**4:6-10: In the space below, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

4. Who does God blame for the people's lack of knowledge?

-- Why is lack of knowledge so destructive to a people?

*☞ Understand "they" in **verse 7** as the priests.*

5. According to **verse 8** the priests were happy about the sins of the people. How did the priests benefit from the people's sins?

**4:11-14: In the space below, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

6. What is a "ritual harlot?" Why are the women not be held as accountable for adultery as the men?

**4:15-19: In the space below, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

Revealing Fact:

The NKJV translates *stubborn calf* in **verse 16**. The KJV translates *backsliding heifer* which offers a much more picturesque description. When one brings a heifer off the range and places a halter on her and tries to lead her, the word *backsliding* is very appropriate. She digs her rear heels in to the point that she begins to slide back until she will even fall on her rear in the mud. For this, God would leave them to feed like a lamb in an open country--that is, without protection.

Chapters 5-7

HOSEA

Lesson 3

Goals of the lesson:

1. Further understand the sins of Israel.
2. Make appropriate application to our lives in order to avoid the same sins.

**5:1-7: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

1. Notice in **verse 6** that when Israel went up out of Egypt with their flocks and herds they found the Lord at Mt. Sinai. Why will they not find the Lord when they seek Him this time? What warning should this be to us?

**5:8-15: In the space below, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

2. Consider in **verse 8** that even though the Assyrians will come from the north to attack Israel, God calls upon them to blow the horn in the southern extremity of the country to prepare themselves for battle. By this, what is God saying is going to happen in the invasion?

**6:1-11: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

3. In **verses 1-3** what is wrong with the call of the people to return to the Lord?
4. Jesus quotes **verse 6** twice in the New Testament and complains that if the people understood this verse they would be better servants of the Lord. What does the verse mean?

**7:1-7: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

5. **Verses 4-7** apparently make a parallel between a baker preparing his bread and heating the oven to conspirators who make preparations and heat their heart to kill the king. See **2 Kings 15** to understand the condition of Israel at this time:

**7:8-16: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

6. The picture of **verse 8** is of a people who had mixed themselves with the heathen and adopted their ways. Because of this they were a *cake unturned*. How does this figure describe their condition before God and how are we warned by it?

Main Points Of This Lesson:

1. We need to understand that a superficial "returning" to the Lord will not be acceptable to Him. Service to God must come from the heart and knowledge of God, not simply through the externals of sacrifice.
2. As Israel sinned by relying on the nations for their protection, so we must avoid trusting in the philosophies and methods of the world to provide and protect us.

Chapters 8-10

HOSEA

Lesson 4

Goals of the lesson:

1. Recognize the worthlessness of serving possessions and worldly success.
2. Recognize that mixing worship with worldliness only brings condemnation.

**8:1-7: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

1. Why is the trumpet being blown in **verse 1**?

**8:8-14: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

2. Explain the figure of **verse 7**. What application can we make today? See **Galatians 6:7**.
  
3. In **verse 9**, why would God have preferred Israel remaining like a wild donkey instead of going to Assyria?

**9:1-9: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

4. What is meant in **verse 3** that Israel would return to Egypt?
  
5. **Verses 4-5** are similar to **3:3-4** and refer to Israel's days in captivity. According to these verses, why will it not be possible for them to offer sacrifices pleasing to the Lord?
  
6. The beginning of **verse 8** is translated by the ASV, "*Ephraim was a watchman with my God...*" However, instead of the prophets of Israel being watchmen *with* God, what had they become?
  
7. What were the days of Gibeah?

**9:10-17: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

8. How was Ephraim like Tyre?

*✍ The name Ephraim meant "double fruit," but now what have they become?*

**10:1-11: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

*✍ According to verses 1-3, Israel is now in a precarious position. With the way they have served God will He protect or provide for them? On the other hand, what strength does their earthly king have?*

*✍ Verse 5 refers to the calf worship as being at "Beth Aven" (house of vanity) instead of the real name of the site which was "Bethel" (house of God).*

9. What is God saying He will do to Ephraim in **verse 11**?

**10:12-15: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

Main Points Of This Lesson:

1. When an individual or a nation leaves the teachings of God to follow their own ways, God will also leave them to desolation.
2. We must be impressed with the severity of God's judgments.

Goal for the lesson:

1. To recognize God's longsuffering and mercy. Though His people have sinned grievously, He offers His forgiveness if they will repent.

**11:1-7: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

(11:2a is translated by the ASV, "The more the prophets called them, the more they went from them.")

1. In context, **verse 1** is obviously not referring to Jesus coming out of Egypt as a child as is quoted by **Matthew (2:14)**. How do you reconcile Matthew's use of this text?

**11:8-11: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

2. What is "Admah" and "Zeboim" and therefore the point of this text?

**11:12--12:6: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

3. What is God's point when He refers to Jacob wrestling with the angel and winning?

**12:7-14:** In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

4. In **verse 7**, God is referring to Israel as a "Canaanite." Why does God make such a statement?

**13:1-3:** In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

**13:4-8:** In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

**13:9-16:** In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

5. What is meant by the figure in **verse 13**, "*He is an unwise son, for he should not stay long where children are born?*" **NRSV** translates, "*...for at the proper time he does not present himself at the mouth of the womb.*"

**14:1-9: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:**

6. What kind of sacrifices does the Lord want Israel to offer when they return to Him?

Main Points Of This Lesson:

1. God's desire to save is so strong that He did not utterly destroy a nation who was deserving of judgement.
2. God experiences pain and grief over His people when they sin.
3. In spite of God's tender mercies and love toward His people, judgment will surely come to the wicked.