

The Book of Hosea
Wayward Ones Restored – Part 1

Intro:

You and I are greatly indebted to the OT prophets.

Eph2:20-21

²⁰ (D) built on the foundation of the (E) apostles and prophets, (E) Christ Jesus himself being (G) the cornerstone

Why should we study an Old Testament prophet?

1. All scriptures is inspired by God and profitable for us to study for our own edification, to help us know God, i.e., to know his nature, to know his will. T"nings written in past...."
2. Jesus said that the scriptures speak of him. Therefore we should look revelation in Hosea of the Messiah, of his redemption, of his saving purposes.
3. We need a balanced study of the Word of God. We need to study the books of the OT as well as the NT.

Life of a prophet was not easy:

Exo. 3:10-12 - ¹⁰ (R) Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, (S) "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, (I) "But I will be with you,

Jer. 1:16-17 - ¹⁶ And (A) I will declare my judgments against them, for all their evil (B) in forsaking me. (C) They have made offerings to other gods and (D) worshiped the works of their own hands. ¹⁷ But you, (E) dress yourself for work; [a] arise, and (F) say to them everything that I command you. (G) Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them.

Isa. 20:2-4 - Go, and loose the sackcloth from your waist and take off your sandals from your feet," and he did so, walking (C) naked and barefoot.

³ Then the Lord said, "As my servant Isaiah has walked naked and barefoot for three years (D) as a sign and a portent against Egypt and Cush, [a] ⁴ so shall the (E) king of Assyria lead away the Egyptian captives and the Cushite exiles, both the young and the old, naked and barefoot, with buttocks uncovered, the nakedness of Egypt.

Summary of the Book: We will see that Yahweh told Hosea to marry a woman who would prove unfaithful to him. There was a reason for this. Hosea's relationship with his adulterous wife is a picture of Israel's spiritual adultery in forsaking Yahweh and joining herself to other gods, to the pagan gods.... Yet Hosea buys his wayward wife back from

the slave market where she is being sold and loves her with faithful and forgiving love – he restores her because of his faithful love. So Yahweh , though bringing harsh judgment on his people, will at last do the same for faithless Israel.

The Lesson: God is a covenant-keeping God: his steadfast love and faithfulness do not fail though his people may fail him. (“He remains faithful if we are faithless...”).

The realization of his faithful love to us helps us realize that his salvation is solely because of his mercy and grace to undeserving sinners and engenders within us the desire to be faithful to him and to others who we are in relationship with.

Outline:

I. A Wayward Wife

II. A Wayward People

III. A Pursuing God

Chapter 1:

The word of the LORD that came to Hosea,

Nature of God: he makes himself known

He communicates his truth, his will, his nature

Doctrine of inspiration of the Scriptures

“Word” = message, truth of the LORD

Yahweh sovereignly brought it to Hosea

It was God’s will to speak to and through Isaiah

See 12:10 - (A)I spoke to the prophets;

it was I who multiplied (B)visions,

and through the prophets gave parables.

the son of Beer, (A)in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of (B)Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

This was in the 700’s... during the reign of these kings in Israel and Judah.

The historical anchoring of the Word of God in historical people and times...

²When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea,

Doctrine of inspiration...

God speaks

God spoke through Hosea

God evidently spoke more than once: "When ...first spoke..."

God spoke to Hosea.

1 Pet.1: 20-21 - that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For ^(AK)no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God ^(AL)as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit

I. A Wayward Wife

Meaning of "wayward."

"Go, take

A command from Yahweh

to yourself a wife of whoredom and have ^(D)children of whoredom, for ^(E)the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD."

Jerusalem Bible: "Go, marry a whore, and get children with a whore, for the country itself has become nothing but a whore by abandoning Yahweh."

Probably she was already a loose woman, a whore – so it's speaking not of what she will become but what she is now.

An unusual command but a command with a purpose – a picture of the people.

The prophet's whole life was to be used for God's purpose and revelation - including his marriage and children,

We also see here the Nature of God: he is a jealous God

He requires absolute submission and loyalty.

³ So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

4 And the LORD said to him, “Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while ^(F)I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and ^(G)I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. ⁵ And on that day ^(H)I will break the bow of Israel ^(I)in the Valley of Jezreel.”

Jezreel was a valley where great slaughter under leadership of Jehu.

In 30 years Samaria would fall to Assyrians in 722BC.

6 She conceived again and bore a daughter.

Note – probably not Hosea’s child.

And the LORD said to him, ^(J)“Call her name No Mercy,^[a] for ^(K)I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all. ⁷ But ^(L)I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God.

The announcement of coming judgment.

It is God’s prerogative to have mercy on whom he will.

I ^(M)will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen.”

Salvation is of the Lord, not of human strength or wisdom.

8 When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son. ⁹ And the LORD said, ^(N)“Call his name Not My People,^[b] for ^(O)you are not my people, and I am not your God.”^[c]

¹⁰ ^[d] Yet ^(P)the number of the children of Israel shall be ^(Q)like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered.

Reference to Abrahamic covenant.

¹¹ And ^(W)the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together,

Salvation and unity of both Israel and Judah are in the future, under one head.

John 11:51-52 - ^(E)being high priest that year ^(G)he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and ^(H)not for the nation only, but also ^(I)to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

and ^(X)they shall appoint for themselves one head.

The “one head” is surely a reference to Messiah, the Lord Jesus.

And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

Footnotes:

- a. **Hosea 1:6** Hebrew *Lo-ruhama*, which means *she has not received mercy*
- b. **Hosea 1:9** Hebrew *Lo-ammi*, which means *not my people*
- c. **Hosea 1:9** Hebrew *I am not yours*
- d. **Hosea 1:10** Ch 2:1 in Hebrew
- e. **Hosea 1:10** Or *Sons*

Chapter 2

[a] Say to your brothers, (A)“You are my people,”[b] and to your sisters, (B)“You have received mercy.”[c]

2 “Plead with your mother, plead—

This is Hosea talking to his children? Also the Lord speaking to his people.

**for (C)she is not my wife,
and I am not her husband—**

... because of her sins.

**that she put away (D)her whoring from her face,
and her adultery from between her breasts;**

Here is the first of many calls to repentance.

**3 lest (E)I strip her naked
and make her as (F)in the day she was born,
and (G)make her like a wilderness,
and make her like a parched land,
and kill her with thirst.**

**4 (H)Upon her children also I will have no mercy,
(I)because they are children of whoredom.**

**5 For (J)their mother has played the whore;
she who conceived them has acted shamefully.**

For (K) she said, 'I will go after my lovers,
 who (L) give me my bread and my water,
 my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.'

⁶ Therefore (M) I will hedge up her^[d] way with thorns,
 and (N) I will build a wall against her,
 so that she cannot find her paths.

⁷ She shall pursue her lovers
 but not overtake them,
 and she shall seek them
 but shall not find them.

(O) Then she shall say,
 'I will go and return to (P) my first husband,
 (Q) for it was better for me then than now.'

A reminder of the return of the prodigal son.

⁸ And (R) she did not know
 that it was (S) I who gave her
 (T) the grain, the wine, and the oil,
 and who lavished on (U) her silver and gold,
 (V) which they used for Baal.

⁹ Therefore (W) I will take back
 my grain in its time,
 and my wine in its season,
 and (X) I will take away my wool and my flax,
 which were to cover her nakedness.

¹⁰ Now (Y) I will uncover her lewdness
 in the sight of her lovers,
 and no one shall rescue her out of my hand.

¹¹ (Z) And I will put an end to all her mirth,
 her feasts, her (AA) new moons, her (AB) Sabbaths,
 and all her (AC) appointed feasts.

¹² And (AD) I will lay waste her vines and her fig trees,
 (AE) of which she said,
 'These are (AF) my wages,
 which my lovers have given me.'

I will make them a forest,

(AG)and the beasts of the field shall devour them.

13 And (AH)I will punish her for (AI)the feast days of the Baals

- Description of Baals

when she burned offerings to them

and (AJ)adorned herself with her ring and jewelry,

and went after her lovers

and forgot me, declares the Lord.

Therefore, we see that Punishment from the Lord is coming for her sins.

(The Lord's Mercy on Israel)

14 “Therefore, behold, I will allure her,

and (AK)bring her into the wilderness,

and (AL)speak tenderly to her.

15 And there I will give her vineyards

and make the Valley of Achor^[e] a door of hope.

And there she shall answer (AM)as in the days of her youth,

as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.

16 “And (AN)in that day, declares the Lord, you will call me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer will you call me ‘My Baal.’ 17 For (AO)I will remove the names of the Baals

from her mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no more. 18 And (AP)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 (AQ)I will abolish^[f] the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in (AR)safety. 19 And

I will betroth you to me (AS)forever. (AT)I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. 20 (AU)I will betroth you to me in

faithfulness. And (AV)you shall know the Lord.

21 “And (AW)in that day (AX)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 **(AY)** Jezreel,^[g]

²³ and **(AZ)** I will sow her for myself in the land.

And **(BA)** I **(BB)** will have mercy on No Mercy,^[h]

and **(BC)** I will say to Not My People,^[i] **(BD)** ‘You are my people’;

and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’”

Hosea Redeems His Wife

3 And the Lord said to me, **(A)** “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 So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a **(B)** homer and a lethech^[a] of barley. ³ And I said to her, “You must **(C)** dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you.” ⁴ For the children of Israel **(D)** shall dwell many days **(E)** without king or prince, **(F)** without sacrifice or **(G)** pillar, without **(H)** ephod or **(I)** household gods. ⁵ Afterward **(J)** the children of Israel shall return and **(K)** seek the Lord their God, and **(L)** David their king, **(M)** and they shall come in fear to the Lord and to his goodness in the **(N)** latter days.

Footnotes:

- a. **Hosea 3:2** A *shekel* was about 2/5 ounce or 11 grams; a *homer* was about 6 bushels or 220 liters; a *lethech* was about 3 bushels or 110 liters

“The whole thrust of the book is that God will not go back on the marriage vows He has exchanged with her.” D. Kidner, p. 27

Outline of text:

1:1 – historical setting of the events recorded

1:2- Yahweh’s command to Hosea to marry an adulterous woman who would bear him children whose names describe truths about Yahweh’s relationship to this people:

Jezreel = coming judgment

No Mercy – none to Israel

2:1-13 – Gomer’s adultery is a picture of Israel’s going after Baals

2:14-23 Yahweh’s tender love and commitment to Israel and his restoration of her.

3:1-5- Hosea commanded to buy back his wife and he commands her to be faithful to him

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APPLICATIONS:

1. If God inspired Scriptures, if it is His Word to mankind, we need to read it, study it, proclaim it, and obey it.
2. God 's truth, though eternal, is communicated, is sent to real people in real life situations. We need it in all the common trials of life. Yahweh's command and Word came to Hosea in his everyday life – let him through great trials and heartaches. This inspired Word of God was given to us, to the church, through real people with real problems and immense challenges, yet it was the Holy Spirit working out God's will for those people in their times and situations – the Word of the Lord has been hammered out on the anvils of human pain and suffering as well as joy and worship – it was good enough for them and is the same for us.
3. Our lives are not our own, we were bought with a price. Hosea would have preferred not to marry a woman who would proved grossly unfaithful...but he submitted to God's command. And after all was said and done, it turned out well,
4. A Key Theme:

Inclusion of Gentiles in God's people:

1:10 - (R)And (S)in the place where it was said to them, (T)"You are not my people," it shall be said to them, (U)"Children^[e] of (V)the living God."

5. "God had every right to totally destroy Israel, yet his compassionate, faithful love would not let him totally do this – he restored his people in spite of their rejection of him. This is a message of grace to a sinful people. We are Israel – we were pursuing idols and immersed in sin. But in love God came to us. How shall we not respond in love and gratitude and service? Like the father in the story of the prodigal son.

-by Jeff Gregory
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Additional Notes:

The destruction of Israel:

1:4 -)I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.

Judgment is coming on Israel because of her sins

Yahweh's compassion for his wayward people – 11:3*

Yahweh's call to return to him – 12:6

Yahweh's command to return to him. 14:1

Call to repentance from idolatry, for dependence on man - 14:3

Israel's repentance manifested – 6 :1

Israel's future blossoming – 14:7

Yahweh is the source of Israel's blessings – 14: 8

Key Verse:

14:4 - I (A)will heal their apostasy;

(B)I will love them freely,

for my anger has turned from them.

Summary verse:

14:9 - (A)Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;

whoever is discerning, let him know them;

for the ways of the Lord are right,

and (B)the upright walk in them,

(C)but transgressors stumble in them

Hosea scriptures found in NT:

11:1 - (A)When Israel was a child, (B)I loved him,
and out of Egypt I (C)called (D)my son.

13:14 - I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol;

(B)I shall redeem them from Death.^[a]

(C)O (D)Death, where are your plagues?

(E)O (F)Sheol, where is your sting?

(G)Compassion is hidden from my eyes.

Application to our lives:Resources:

Bible Project

Questions:

Significance of Ephraim, Gibeah

Key verses:

10:12b- for it is the time to seek the Lord,
that he may come and ☺rain righteousness upon you.

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2:14-23 Yahweh's tender love and commitment to Israel and his restoration of her.

3:1-5- Hosea commanded to buy back his wife and he commands her to be faithful to him

4:1-3 - Charges against Israel:

No faithfulness nor steadfast love

No knowledge of God

4- charges against the priest:

-lack of knowledge

-the law of God is forgotten

-feed on sin and iniquity

:9 – the people also are given over to whoredom and drink; they engage in idolatry, especially Israel.

5:1-14 Yahweh will judge both Israel and Judah for their whoredom and faithlessness

:15- Yahweh waiting for the m to repent and seek him.

6:1-3** – The people express their desire to return to the Lord and to know him

:4 – the nation's fickle love for Yahweh

:5 – Yahweh's words through the prophets have "hewn" and "slain" them.

:6 – Yahweh desires true devotion not just religious ritual

7:1- Judgment on unrepentant and rebellious Ephraim

8:1

:6 – Samaria worships a calf idol

:14 – Israel has forgotten his Maker

9:1 – Because Israel has forsaken God they will be sent to Assyria and Egypt

:7 – the prophets have become corrupt fools

God's harsh judgment will fall on Ephraim

:15-16 – God hates them because of their evil; he will kill them and reject them and make them wanderers among the nations

10:1 – the more prosperous Israel grew, the more altars she built

:5 – Samaria worships the calf-idol

:11-12 – Ephraim and Judah must repent, “for it is the time to seek the LORD.”

11:1 – Although God I called them out of Eghpt, they kept sacrificing to the Baals

:4 “I led them with...bands of love”

:5 – Assyria will be their king

:6 – the sword shall destroy their cities

:8 – “How can I give you up, O Ephraim?”

...
 (D) My heart recoils within me;
 my compassion grows warm and tender.”

12:2-5 – Rehearsment of the life of Jacob (also v. 12); indictment against Judah

13:1 – Though the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, she worshipped Baals.

Ex. V. 2 “Those who offer human sacrifice kiss calves!” Harsh judgment will fall on Ephraim and Samaria because of their idolatry: “their little ones shall be dashed to pieces, and their pregnant women ripped open” (v. 16)

14:1-3 – Specific Instructions on how Israel should repent

:4-7 – the ways God will restore them

:8 – Yahweh is the one, not the idols, who sustains her

:9 – summary verse for the whole book