

Listening to the Prophets
Old Testament Minor Prophets
Hosea

Bibliography

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Introduction-(Ryrie)

- Hosea, like his contemporary, Amos, prophesied to **Israel** (the Northern Kingdom).
- Hosea prophesied around 732 B.C.
- By 732 B.C. Damascus had fallen to the Assyrians and by 722 **Samaria**, the capital of Israel, fell and the Jews were deported.
- Isaiah and Micah were ministering to the Southern Kingdom (Judah) during this time.
- God spoke through Hosea to proclaim immanent **judgment** upon Israel.

Chapters 1-3-Hosea's Personal Life

- God told Hosea to take a **prostitute** for a wife.
- Bible scholars debate whether Hosea's wife was a prostitute before the marriage or if she became one after the marriage. Either way, this marriage was ordained by God (1:1-2).
- The purpose of Hosea's marriage was to illustrate Israel's **unfaithfulness** toward God.
- Jezreel (Hosea 1:4) held symbolic meaning as this was the valley Jehu murdered the sons of Ahab.
- God promised to restore Jezreel in the end times (1:10-11).
- It is interesting to note the valley of Jezreel is where **Armageddon** will take place.
- God promised Jerusalem would be delivered from Assyria. However, the deliverance would not occur by Jerusalem's own strength.
- When Sennacherib destroyed Israel, God prevented him from destroying Jerusalem.
- Gomer, Hosea's wife, pursued other lovers but was not **satisfied**.
- Gomer eventually returned to Hosea.

- Gomer's return foreshadowed Israel's ultimate return to God during the Millennium (2:7-8; 3:1-5).
- Not only will God restore Israel to their land during the Millennial, He will also cause the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky to be at **peace** with Israel (2:18; see Isaiah 11:6-9).
- Hosea was to redeem his wife for fifteen shekels of silver. This was the purchase price for a slave.

Chapters 4-14-Hosea Prophecies Against Israel

- Hosea told the people of Israel they would be destroyed due to their lack of **knowledge** (4:6).
- The Church (today's Christians) will become God's messenger before Christ's second return.
- Judah was warned to stay away from Israel (4:15-17).
- How fearful when one's heart is hardened toward God and redemption is no longer an option (4:3-4).
- Sin blinded Israel's eyes as it sought help from **Assyria** (5:13).
- Assyria ultimately destroyed Israel.
- Jesus quoted Hosea 6:6 when talking to the Pharisees (Matt. 9:13).
- Hosea prophesied Assyria's take-over (8:1, 8-11; 9:3).
- God reminded Israel of its **harlotry** years before entering the Promised Land (9:10).
- God never forgot Israel's betrayal when they asked for a king (9:15).
- Matthew uses 11:1 to make an analogy between Israel and Jesus (Matthew 2:15).
- Hosea prophesied Israel's imminent restoration (11:9-11).

Chapter 14-Hosea Prophecies Israel's Future Restoration

- Israel will be **blessed** during the Millennium (14:4-8)

Summary

- Hosea 14:9 gives a summary of Hosea's prophecies.
- Those who seek God will find Him and will be blessed.
- Those who turn from God will stumble.

