

**RELENTLESS LOVE**  
**PREACHING THROUGH THE BIBLE: HOSEA**  
**Hosea 2:19-20**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **A. BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

During the final days of the Northern Kingdom, God uses Hosea's personal tragedy to illustrate Israel's national tragedy. Hosea's one-sided love for his faithless wife Gomer is like Jehovah's unrequited love for faithless Israel. Hosea portrays the personal and national sin, the necessary coming judgment, and God's resolute and unconditional love that will save His people.

### **B. TITLE**

#### 1. HEBREW

- **יְשׁוּעָה**—**Howshea** = 'salvation'
- Could be a contraction for 'Yahweh saves'

#### 2. SEPTUAGINT

- **Ωσηε**

#### 3. LATIN

- **Osee**

### **C. PLACE IN HEBREW BIBLE**

#### 1. PART OF 15 LATTER PROPHETS—TRUE 'PROPHETIC' BOOKS OF THE OT

#### 2. FIRST OF THE MINOR PROPHETS

- Some say because of its length—but **Zechariah** is longer
- The Talmud says Hosea was the greatest prophet of his generation

### **D. AUTHORSHIP**

1. Hosea—attributed in **1:1**
2. Not challenged by modern scholars

### **E. HOSEA THE AUTHOR**

#### 1. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION IN INTRODUCTION

- a. Son of Beeri—**1:1**
- b. Husband of Gomer—**1:3**

- The daughter of Diblaim
- Meaning of ‘Gomer’ = cease, fail, come to an end

### c. Children

#### 1. Son—**Jezreel**—**1:4-5**

- a. Meaning = ‘God scatters’
- b. Sounds similar to Israel—Hosea uses it to portray Israel

**1:11**—after the reunion of Judah and Israel—*great will the day of Jezreel*

c. **1:4-5**—God will avenge Jezreel’s blood, shed by Jehu—and break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel

- Jehu overthrew the Omride dynasty in the town of Jezreel
- He murdered King Joram, queen mother Jezebel, leading officials, and Judean king Ahaziah (**2 Kgs 9:1–10:11**)
- Hosea announces the house of Jehu will be punished with military defeat in the valley of Jezreel

#### 2. Daughter—**Lo-ruhama**—**1:6**

- Meaning = ‘no mercy’
- God will no longer have mercy on Israel, but will have mercy on Judah

#### 3. Son—**Lo-ammi**—**1:9**

- Meaning = ‘not my people’
- You are not my people, and I am not your God

## 2. CHARACTER AND MESSAGE

- a. Hosea was compassionate for his people
- b. His betrayal by Gomer helped him empathize with God’s sorrow over Israel
- c. So, he strongly chastised Israel for their faithlessness
- d. But he was also tender-hearted—holding out hope for consolation and salvation

## 3. DATES

- From end of Jeroboam II’s reign to early years of Hezekiah—just past Assyrian conquest
- About 755 to 710 BC

## F. SETTING

### 1. NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

- Hosea addressed his message to the *house of Israel*—**5:1**
- Hosea called the king of **Samaria** ‘*our king*’—**7:5**
- Israel—was often called ‘**Ephraim**’—the largest tribe—**5: 3, 5, 11, 13**
- During Jeroboam’s reign—Israel had short period of economic and political prosperity
- During Hosea’s middle years—Assyrian Tiglath Pileser III eroded Israel’s strength
- 722 BC—Assyrians under Shalmeneser V conquered and dispersed Israel

## 2. KINGS OF DURING HOSEA’S PROPHETIC MINISTRY

- Jeroboam II (782-753)
- Zechariah (753-752)
- Shallum (752)
- Menahem (752-742)
- Pekahiah (742-740)
- Pekah (740-732)
- Hoshea (732-722)

## 3. KINGS OF JUDEA—SEE **1:1**

- Uzziah (767-739 BC)
- Jotham (739-731)
- Ahaz ((731-715)
- Hezekiah (715-686)

## 4. PROPHETS CONTEMPORARY WITH HOSEA

- Amos—Israel—was older than Hosea
- Isaiah—Judah—was about the same age
- Micah—Judah—was about the same age

## G. STYLE

NARRATIVE—METAPHORS—TO PROPHECY

## H. BIBLICAL CONTEXT

- a. Matthew—applies **Hos 11:1** to Christ
  - **Mt 2:15**—*Out of Egypt I called my Son*
  - **Hos 11:1**—*When Israel was a youth I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son*
  - Israel’s Exodus was a prophetic forecast Jesus later being called out of Egypt as a child

b. Several other passages quoted or referenced in the NT

**1:10**—*Yet the number of the sons of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered. And in the place where it is said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ it will be said to them, ‘You are the sons of the living God.’*—in Rom 9 and II Cor 6

**2:23**—*I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion. And I will say to those who were not My people, ‘You are My people!’ And they will say, ‘You are my God.’*—in Rom 9 and I Pe 2

**6:6**—*For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.*—in Mt 9 and 12

**10:8**—*Then they will say to the mountains, ‘Cover us!’ And to the hills, ‘Fall on us!’*—in Lk 23 and Rev 6.

**13:14**—*O death, where are your thorns? O Sheol, where is your sting?*—in I Cor 15

## I. THEMES

1. THREE THEMES OF HOSEA 1-3 ARE REPEATED LATER IN THE BOOK

a. **Chapter 1**—Gomer’s adultery—illustrates Israel’s unfaithfulness—chapters 4-7

b. **Chapter 2**—Gomer’s degradation—illustrates judgment on Israel—chapters 8-10

c. **Chapter 3**—Gomer’s restoration—illustrates Israel’s redemption—chapters 11-14

2. GOD’S FAITHFULNESS—VS—ISRAEL’S IDOLATRY

3. GOD’S HOLINESS—VS—ISRAEL’S SIN

○ 150 statements in book concerning the sins of Israel

4. GOD’S JUSTICE—VS—ISRAEL’S LACK OF JUSTICE

○ Israel *never* had a ‘good’ king

5. GOD’S LOVE—VS—ISRAEL’S HARD-HEARTEDNESS AND EMPTY RITUAL

6. FINAL RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

a. God would have compassion for Judah but not Israel—**1:6-7**

▪ 10 northern tribes were dispersed—2 southern tribes were exiled and returned

b. But God would eventually restore **Israel** and make her sons innumerable—**1:10**

▪ Speaking generically about ‘Israel’ as God’s people

c. And eventually Judah and Israel will be reunited under one leader—**1:11**

▪ Messianic prophecy yet to be fulfilled

▪ Paul refers to this in **Romans 11**

## J. OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTION—1:1

## THE ADULTEROUS WIFE AND FAITHFUL HUSBAND—1:2 through chapter 3

### Prophetic Marriage of Hosea and Gomer—1:2-1:11

- Hosea's marriage to Gomer
- Hosea's three children
- Prophecy about Judah, Israel (Northern Kingdom) and restored Israel

### Gomer's Adultery—and God's Judgment of Israel—2:1-13

### Restoration of Israel—2:14-23

### Hosea's Restoration of Gomer—chapter 3

## ADULTEROUS ISRAEL AND FAITHFUL LORD—chapters 4-14

### Spiritual Adultery of Israel—4:1-6:3

### Israel's Refusal to Repent for Adultery—6:4—though chapter 8

### God's Judgment of Israel—chapters 9-10

### Restoration of Israel—chapters 11-14

## II. BIBLICAL TEXT

**2:19-20—19** *"I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, in lovingkindness and in compassion, 20 And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the Lord.*

## III. EXPOSITION—RESORATION OF GOMER—2:14-23

### A. EXAMPLES OF FAITHLESSNESS—TO MARRIAGE

1. **Linda Wolfe** holds record for being the most married woman in the world
  - Married 23 times
  - First marriage at 16 was for love.
  - Last marriage 1996 for publicity—Glynn "Scotty" Wolfe—world's most married man
  - She married a convict, a homeless man, a musician, a plumber
  - One husband lasted just three days. She married another man three times.
2. **Glynn Wolfe** (July 25, 1908 – June 10, 1997)—world's most married man
  - Baptist minister from Blythe, California
  - Record for most marriages (29!)
  - Shortest was 19 days
  - Longest—11 years.

### B. GOD BRINGS HOPE IN THE MIDST OF DISASTER

*2:15—Then I will give her her vineyards from there, and the valley of Achor as a door of hope. and she will sing there as in the days of her youth, as in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.*

## 1. HISTORICAL ANALOGY—TRAGEDY OF ACHAN—AND VALLEY OF ACHOR

### a. Achan

- Judean who pillaged spoils at Jericho—in violation of God’s command—**Josh 7**
- He and children and stock were stoned to death, burned and buried
- Called ‘Achar’—*the troubler of Israel*—II Chr 2

### b. Achor

- Valley—northern border of Judah’s territory—**Josh 15**
- Near Jericho—where Achan was buried
- This desolate place became
  1. A *door of hope*—**Hos 2:15**—and joyful singing
  2. A *place for herds to lie down*—**Is 65:10**

## 2. ISRAEL—AGAIN GOD’S PEOPLE

*as in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt*

### a. God reclaimed them as ‘my people’—as He had delivered them in the Exodus

- 17 times—**Exodus 3-10**—God refers to Israel as *my people*—as in *let my people go*

### b. This alludes to a reversal of Hosea’s child’s name—**Lo-ammi**—not my people

## C. PROPER RELATIONSHIPS IN MARRIAGE

**16**—*It will come about in that day,” declares the LORD, “That you will call Me Ishi and will no longer call Me Baali*

### 1. FAITHFULNESS TO GOD

- a. Their devotion will be to **Ishi**—their [true] **husband** and **champion**
- b. Not to the god Baal

### 2. THE PROPER ROLE OF THE MALE

- a. You will call me **Ishi**—**partnering** role of **husband**
- b. Not **Baali**—**not master**—owner

### 3. THE HUSBAND AS PROTECTOR

**2:18**—*And will make them lie down in safety*

**Ps 4:8**—*I will both lie down and sleep in peace because you alone O Lord make me dwell in safety*

### D. MESSIANIC KINGDOM PROPHECY—PRINCE OF PEACE

**2:18**—*And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land, I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land*

#### PARALLELS SEVERAL PROPHETIC PASSAGES FROM **ISAIAH**

**Is 2:4**—*they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war*

**Is 9:6**—*Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace*

**Is 54:10**—*My covenant of peace will not be shaken*

**Is 66:12**—*Behold, I extend peace to her [Jerusalem] like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream*

### E. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GODLY SOCIETY—**2:19-20**

*I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, in lovingkindness and in compassion, 20 And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness.*

#### 1. RESTORES IDEALS FOR GOD’S KINGDOM—NEVER PRESENT IN ISRAEL

- **Righteousness**—right relationship with God
- **Justice**—obeying His law—and being fair to one’s neighbor
- **Lovingkindness**—gentle—instead of legalistic and harsh—but kind
- **Compassion**—mercy—especially for the poor and dispossessed
- **Faithfulness**—total rejection of idolatry—absolute fidelity to God

#### 2. ALSO—IDEALS FOR A STRONG MARRIAGE

#### 3. THESE ARE DERIVED FROM GOD—NOT US

- a. We are incapable of generating or sustaining these ideals by ourselves
- b. But God ‘betroths’ us—in these characteristics
  - He draws us into personal covenant with Him
  - And generates them for that relationship with us

#### 4. The **source** and the **goal**—is our personal relationship with Him

*Then you will know the Lord.*

## F. RELENTLESS LOVE WILL RESTORE ISRAEL

### 1. GOD SCATTERED ISRAEL BUT NOT JUDAH—1:6

- Because Israel was continuously idolatrous—from beginning to end
- Judah—experienced seasons of reformation—and faithfulness

### 2. THE PROMISED RESTORATION

**1:10-11**—*Yet the number of the sons of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered; and in the place where it is said to them, “You are not My people,” it will be said to them, “You are the sons of the living God.” And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel will be gathered together, and they will appoint for themselves one leader, and they will go up from the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel.*

### 3. GOD’S LOVE IS RELENTLESS—IT CANNOT DENY ITSELF

- a. Eventually He will restore even ‘Israel’
- b. His love is too great—He will not withhold His mercy forever

**11:8**—*How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I surrender you, O Israel?*

- c. But there is one condition
  - 1. Their repentance and fidelity
  - 2. **Only God** can accomplish this for them—by **healing** their faithlessness

**14:4**—*I will heal their apostasy, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away from them*

### 4. PROMISE SEEN—IN REVERSAL OF THREE NAMES

- a. **Betroth** forever—**2:19**—contrasts with ‘not my people’—Lo-ammi
- b. **Compassion**—**2:19**—mercy—contrasts with ‘no mercy’—Lo-ruhama
- c. **I will sow her into the earth**—**2:23**—contrasts with ‘sow’ as scattering—with Jezreel

### 5. THE PROMISE FULFILLED

- a. Currently—the church—has become His bride—**Eph 5:25-27** and **II Cor 11:1-2**
- b. Future—someday ‘Israel’ will be restored
  - 1. A **remnant** will be repent and return—**Rom 11:5**
  - 2. All ‘Israel’ will be saved—**Rom 11:26**—all believing Jews and Christians