

Hosea

I. Intro

A. Background:

1. A very convoluted political system
 - a. Read following some of the historical accounts (books like Judges and I&II Kings)
2. The end of the northern tribes as we knew it. Concern for Israel, but also for Judah
 - a. Israel/Jacob/Ephraim/Samaria connection as the same

B. Hosea, the person: he is a prophet and knows the Lord's voice deeply and personally.

C. Method of teaching

1. Words of prophecy conveyed. His life was a ministry and his family had a national ministry (and international / across millennia).
2. Hosea is a great example that it's really God at work the whole time
3. **I Peter 1:10-12** – this book was written for you!

II. A quick overview of the book, chapter by chapter in a fly by, so you can get the gist of the book

III. Themes for the book of Hosea

1. *Hesed*.
2. Knowledge of God.
3. Righteousness, justice, compassion, love, kindness.
4. Stupidity of man, frivolity of sin.
5. Seek the LORD. Return.
6. Pursuing, betrothing love of God

B. Main theme and big point – sin separates yet God's love pursues.

IV. With that as an overview, let's restart with the biblical look at love stories

A. **Genesis 1-3; Exodus 32; Isaiah 5; Ezekiel 16; Song of Songs; Luke 15**

B. *God is love*” (**I John 5**). I will give it to you again: sin separates but God's love pursues.

V. **Hosea 1:2-11** – wife and kids and names

VI. **Hosea 2** – Gospel pursuing love

A. **2:14-23** – “*therefore*.” Only only with God can this be the very next word after an entire diatribe on the failing and running away with His gifts. “*Therefore, behold I will allure her.*”

VII. **Hosea 3** – Gomer again; visions of glory and hints at redemption amid flailing bride

1. Enter the reminder from **Ezekiel 16**

VIII. End of **Hosea 5** and beginning of **ch 6** – a self-centered reply→rebuke, not redemption

A. And yet! **Hosea 6** is one of those super beautiful looks forward to Christ, and to God's heart

1. *Hesed*. Love > sacrifice
* “Come, Return” * - song on the back; begins with self-centered cry but God makes it His mode of salvation!

IX. Statements of truth, condemnations of the people

A. **8:6** – “*a craftsman made it, so it is not God.*”

B. **8:8** – “*Israel is swallowed up; they are now among the nations*”

C. **9:10** – “*...and devoted themselves to shame, and they became as detestable as that which they loved.*”

D. **10:1** – a luxuriant vine and in **10:8** – thorn and thistle

E. **11** – Jesus! “Out of Egypt I have called my Son...”

1. The Holy One doesn't stay aloof and holy only. He is also the loving, pursuing One!

F. **13:14** – Jesus again! This is the power of the Gospel! Read **I Corinthians 15:55-57**