

The Book of Hosea

- I. A GRIEVING HUSBAND AND HIS GRIEVOUS WIFE (HOSEA VS. GOMER) (HOSEA 1-3).
- A. Hosea's wife, ill-famed. His wife Gomer was apparently a harlot before marriage and an adulteress after marriage. Hosea attempts in vain to save this marriage by:
1. Barring her from the markets of the world (2:6).
Hosea thought he could force her to remain home in this manner. He even sought the help of his first son, Jezreel, asking him to reason with his mother concerning the folly of her ways (2:1-5).
But all this was to no avail. Gomer apparently continues to run off at the first opportunity.
 2. Buying her out of the markets of the world. It was not long before Gomer had been used, abused, and abandoned by her lustful lovers, and found herself in a slave market. God ordered Hosea to find and redeem her from this market (3:1-2).
- B. Hosea's children, ill-named. The prophet fathered three children through Gomer. Each child (at God's command) was given a name which carried with it prophetic meaning.
1. The first child, a boy, named Jezreel (1:4), meaning "to be scattered," predicted two future events.
 - a. The setting aside of the dynasty of a northern king named Jehu.
 - b. The Assyrian invasion, at which time the entire northern kingdom would be scattered (1:5).
 2. The second child, a girl, named Lo-ruha-mah (1:6). This name literally meant, "no more mercy," indicating that God's judgment was just around the corner. Along with this baby, however, came the promise that God would spare Judah, the southern kingdom, of this coming Assyrian invasion. (See 1:7.) This, of course, happened as recorded in 2 Kings 19:35.
 3. The third child, a boy, named Lo-ammi (1:9). Here the name means "not my people."
- II. A GRIEVING HUSBAND AND HIS GRIEVOUS WIFE (GOD VS. EPHRAIM) (HOSEA 4-14).
- A. Ephraim denounced:
1. Because of her ignorance (4:6).
 2. Because of her idolatry (4:12-13, 17).
 3. Because of immorality (5:3).
- B. Ephraim desired: In spite of her wickedness, God still loved her (6:4).
- C. Ephraim described:
1. They were as a backsliding heifer (4:16).
 2. She was aflame with lust like a baker's hot oven (7:4). God said the hearts of the people smolder with evil plots during the night, and burst into flaming fire the next morning.
 3. They mingled with the heathen and had become as useless as a half-baked cake (7:8).
 4. They were as a silly dove, calling to Egypt, and flying to Assyria for help (7:11).
 5. They were as a crooked bow, always missing the target, which was God's glory (7:16).
 6. They lay among the nations as a broken pot (8:8).
 7. They were as a wandering and lonely wild ass (8:9).
 8. They were as a dried up root (9:16).
 9. They were as an empty vine (10:1).
- D. Ephraim disciplined: God declared (8:7). (See also 10:13.)
1. God would therefore (for awhile) withhold his mercy from them (2:4).
 2. They would be many days without (3:4):
 - a. A king: In 721 B.C. Hoshea, Israel's last king, was dethroned, and in 587 B.C., Zedekiah, Judah's final king, was deposed. Some six centuries later Israel's only true king was rejected (Jn. 19:16). Thus, this tragic situation will continue until he comes again (Rev. 19:11-16).
 - b. A prince: The next recorded prince in Israel's future will not minister until the millennium. (See Ezek. 44:1-3.)
 - c. A sacrifice: In A.D. 70 Titus destroyed the Temple and all animal sacrifices ceased. During the tribulation they will once again be instituted, only to be stopped by the antichrist (Dan. 9:27).
 - d. An image: This literally means, "the pillars," and may refer to the Temple. A temple will be rebuilt during the tribulation (Rev. 11:1-2), destroyed (Zech. 14:2), and again raised during the millennium (Ezek. 41:1; 43:1-7).
 - e. An ephod: A reference to Israel's high priesthood. The ephod was a garment he wore. Her last high priest personally planned the murder of the nation's own Messiah. (See Jn. 11:49-51; Mt. 26:57-68.)
 - f. Teraphim: These were normally figurines, or images in human form. (See Gen. 31:34.) It is not known what Hosea had in mind here.
 3. They would go off as slaves into Assyria (10:6).
 4. They would be (for awhile) swallowed up among the nations (8:8; 9:17).
- E. Ephraim delivered. Someday this glorious event will indeed take place. Note the following passages:
1. Hosea 2:19, 23.

2. Hosea 3:5.
3. Hosea 6:1-3.
4. Hosea 11:1,4.
5. Hosea 13:10, 14.
6. Hosea 14:4-7.