

Hosea



God's Love Still Hangs On

Consider It

Comprehend It

Connect It

A 3 C's Contemplative Bible Study
By Dr. Jack M. Jacob

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	Page 1
Introduction.....	Page 2
Geography of Hosea	Page 5
Reading Record for Hosea	Page 6
Lesson One: A Curious Calling (1:1 through 3:5).....	Page 8
Lesson Two: The Blind Leading the Blind (4:1 through 6:6)	Page 16
Lesson Three: You Cannot Have Your Cake and Eat It, Too (6:7 through 11:11)	Page 22
Lesson Four: Just Who Do You Think You're Fooling? (11:12 through 14:9)	Page 30
Bibliography of Additional Resources.....	Page 36

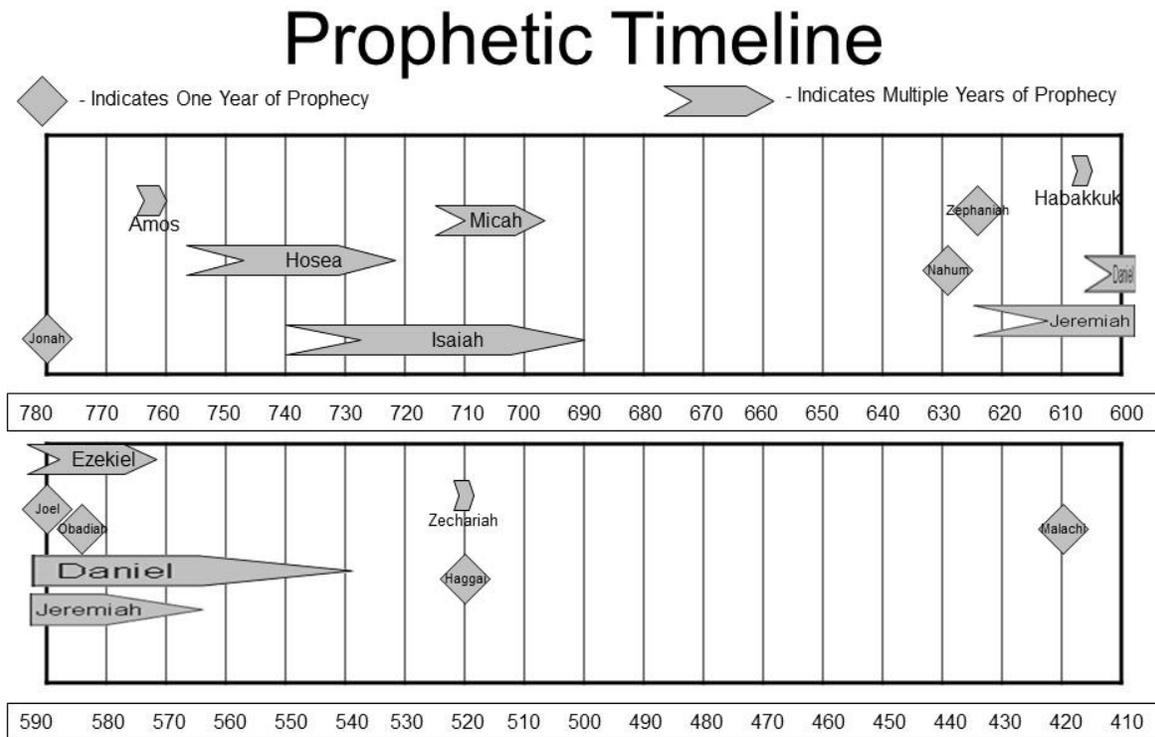
All Scriptures quoted, partially quoted, or adapted from the New American Standard Version of the Holy Bible with 1995 Update.

Introduction to the Book of Hosea

Author: Most conservative scholars today do not doubt the authorship of this book; however, some have lately suggested that the book may have been compiled by students or followers of the prophet. While the author of this study tends to believe Hosea is the author of this work, it does not do diminish the veracity, value, or importance of the work it was compiled by others from Hosea's words and actions.

Date: There are a number of clues as to the dates of Hosea's ministry. The most powerful is his description in 1:1 "The word of the Lord which came to Hosea the son of Beeri, during the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel." Jeroboam II ruled from approximately 803 BC to 763 BC and it is during this time that Hosea mentions having received a word from the Lord. Since it was customary for priests to begin their ministry at age 30, it is not unreasonable to assume Hosea did as well. Assuming this to be the case, the dates that make the most sense, from comments within the text, are that Hosea lived from 785 until a short time after the fall of Israel in 722 BC. Based upon an age of 30 prior to the start of his ministry, this would mean that he ministered from about 755 until just prior to 722 as there is no mention of the fall of Israel in a book that is dedicated to that prophecy.

Contemporary Prophets: Assuming the arguments made above are legitimate for the dating of the book, this would make Hosea a contemporary of Isaiah, Micah and Amos.



Permission Granted to Duplicate

Historical Situation: The account of Jeroboam's life in 2 Kings 14:23-29 makes it clear that; although Jeroboam was an evil king, God used him to prosper the nation of Israel during his reign. This can be seen in references to paneled houses, large crops, etc. in the book of Amos. This was also a time of great conquest. With the Assyrians facing the Urartu of the north, Israel was free to expand its borders almost back to where they had been under David and Solomon. Hosea predicted that this would not last and, indeed, it began to decline shortly before his death and resulted in the total destruction of Israel as a nation. Unlike Judah, Israel would never come back to the Promised Land as an independent nation, but only with the remnants of Judah. Most of this decline would happen after the Syro-Ephraimite War of 734-732 BC when Assyria tired of King Hoshea's alliances with both them and Egypt and they joined with Judah to route the Israelites.

Main Focus of the Book: Like Hosea's wife, Israel was being unfaithful to their relationship with God. God was communicating to the northern kingdom just where this unfaithfulness would lead them, but also offered them hope at each step of the way.

Outline:

- I. Prostitution in the family of God and Hosea (1:1 through 3:5)
 - a. Hosea's family symbolizes God's broken family (1:1 through 2:1)
 - i. Prostitution destroys both families (1:2-9)
 - ii. Future restoration of God's family (1:10-2:1)
 - b. Contending with harlotrous wives (2:2-25)
 - i. Efforts to remove prostitution (2:2-15)
 - ii. Future restoration of God's covenant (2:16-25)
 - c. Restoration of the families of God and Hosea (3:1-5)
 - i. Love brings Hosea's wife back (3:1-3)
 - ii. Love brings Israel back to God (3:4-5)
- II. Prostitution comes from no knowledge of God (4:1 through 6:6)
 - a. Declaration of a covenant lawsuit (4:1-3)
 - b. Charges against the priest and worship (4:4-19)
 - c. Judgment/war, for the leaders do not know God (5:1-14)
 - d. Restoration possible if you seek to know God (5:15 through 6:6)
- III. Prostitution contradicts loyal devotion to God (6:7 through 11:11)
 - a. Charges against leaders for social sins (6:7 through 7:7)
 - b. Charges of turning to other nations, not God (7:8 through 8:14)
 - c. Metaphors of total destruction (9:1 through 10:15)
 - d. Restoration possible because of God's love (11:1-11)
- IV. Prostitution brings deceitfulness with God (11:12 through 14:9)
 - a. Charges of deceitfulness, like Jacob (11:12 through 13:6)
 - b. Total destruction of the nation (13:7-16)
 - c. Restoration is possible if they return to God (14:1-9)¹

¹ Smith, Gary V. *The Prophets as Preachers: An Introduction to the Hebrew Prophets*, Broadman and Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN, 1994.

Personal Word: As you study the book of Hosea, you might be tempted to want to accuse the Israelites for their foolishness. After all, how foolish is it to substitute the worship of an idol to the worship and allegiance to the one, true, living God? You also might be tempted to think: “I know they got it wrong. Why don’t I just read about those that got it right?” Or you might think, “Yeah, I’ve read this before. So what?” Whenever you find yourself falling into these mindsets, ask yourself a series of questions:

- (1) What “idols” have crept into my life?
- (2) How many times have I been forgiven for not following God’s instructions?
- (3) How can I learn from their mistakes?

Asking some questions along the way is more than just a good way of studying the Bible, it just may be the way the Bible studies you.

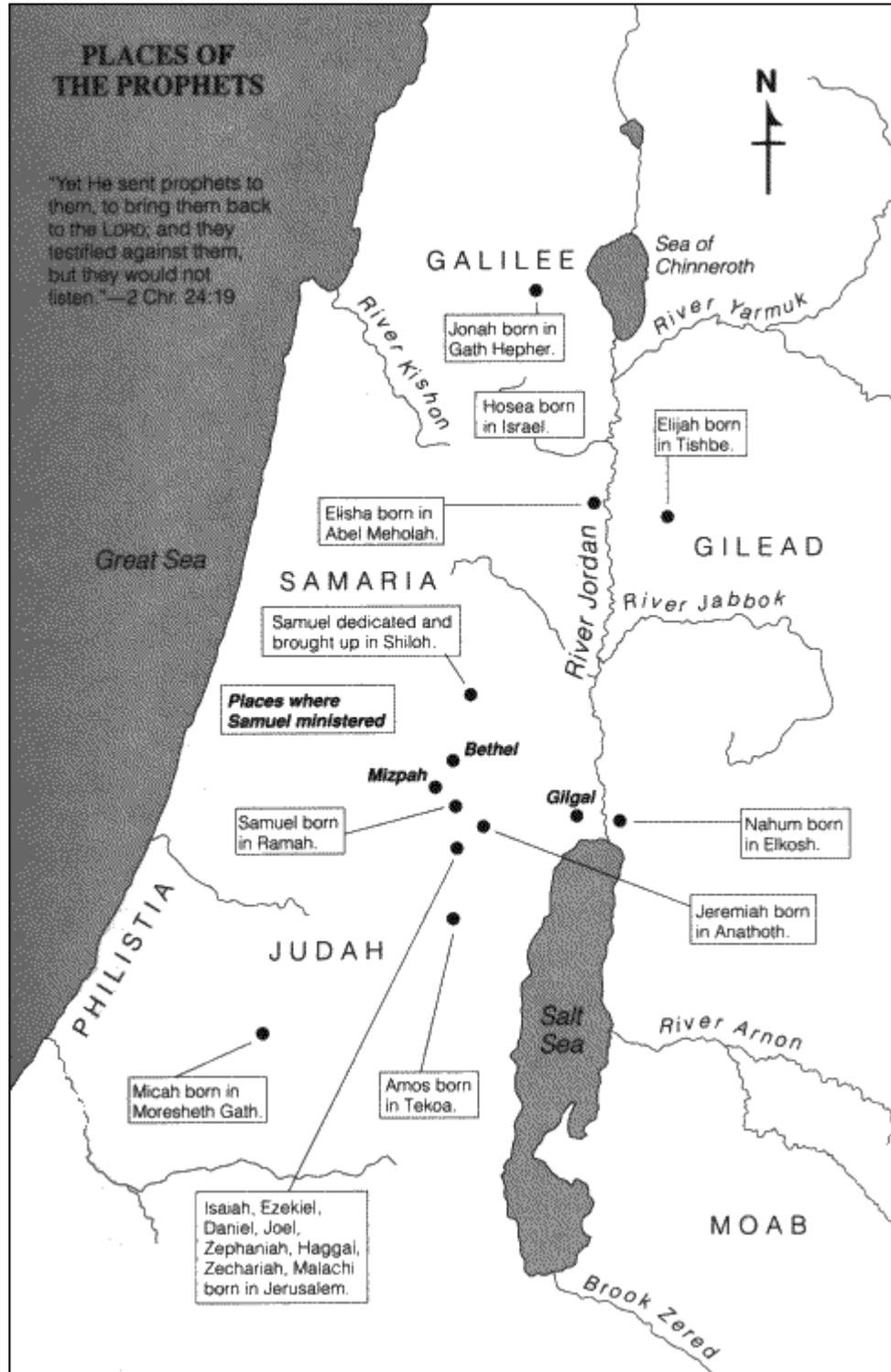
May you be challenged, encouraged and instructed by this study.

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Jack Jacob

Map of Geography of Hosea



² Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN, 1993.

Reading Record for the Book of Hosea

- Chapter 1
- Chapter 2
- Chapter 3
- Chapter 4
- Chapter 5
- Chapter 6
- Chapter 7

- Chapter 8
- Chapter 9
- Chapter 10
- Chapter 11
- Chapter 12
- Chapter 13
- Chapter 14

Record Observations



Lesson One: A Curious Calling Hosea 1:1 through 3:5

As a Christian in North America, it is often hard for me to realize just how much people suffer for the name of Christ. Sure, I read about it in the papers, the internet, magazines from *Voice of the Martyrs*, and stories of visiting missionaries, but it is hard for me to truly grasp the cost that many pay for the privilege of being called a child of God. In North America, the worst we usually face for being a believer in Jesus, the Christ, is ridicule, being ostracized, or an occasional harangue. Some people face much more.

I read a story of a woman from Africa that was given a choice by her older brother when she announced to the family that she had become a Christian. These were the choices as presented:

- (1) She could renounce her faith in this “Jesus”.
- (2) She could take her own life and they would keep her faith to themselves and bury her secretly.
- (3) She could be forcibly sterilized by the mutilation of her reproductive organs.
- (4) She could have acid thrown in her face and her breasts removed without anesthesia so as not to be able to attract a man.
- (5) She would have a combination of these things done to her if she did not choose one on her own.

While I am not certain what she chose, think of the ramifications! To follow God meant that she had to not only be willing to suffer, but had to actively participate of her own accord, so to speak. This is not how most of the people that I know came to Christ. As a matter of fact, I have actually read and used the line, “God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life,” in reaching out to someone with the gospel. But would you follow God if you knew this “wonderful plan” might mean the loss of your life? Your disfigurement? Being disowned by your family?

In our lesson today, we observe God calling Hosea to follow Him and serve Him as a prophet. God called him to do so by willingly taking on a life of misery as Hosea was to take a wife that was a prostitute and then love her even after she went back to prostitution.

Describe below the hardest thing God has ever asked you to do. (How did it feel before, during and after obeying God?)

Consider It

1. What kind of wife did God tell Hosea to marry? (1:2-9)
2. Why did God tell Hosea to name his first son Jezreel? (1:2-9)
3. What does “Lo-Ruhamah” mean? (1:2-9)
4. How was God going to treat Judah differently than Israel? (1:2-9)
5. What does “Lo-Ammi” mean? (1:2-9)
6. What hope did God offer to Israel? (1:10 through 2:1)
7. What does “Ammi” and “Ruhamah” mean in this hope? (1:10 through 2:1)
8. What did Gomer do to Hosea for which Gomer was to be punished? (2:2-7)
9. How was Gomer to be punished? (2:2-7)
10. What was Gomer thinking when she did this? (2:2-7)
11. What did Gomer decide after the way got difficult? (2:2-7)
12. What did Israel do that compared to Gomer’s sin? (2:8-13)

13. How did God promise to punish Israel? (2:8-13)

14. What hope did God offer after this terrible threat of punishment? (2:14-25)

15. What events from their history did God use to remind Israel of the joy of following Him?
(2:14-25)

16. What does “Ishi” mean? (2:14-25)

17. What does “Baali” mean? (2:14-25)

18. What was God trying to tell Israel through the use of these names? (2:14-25)

19. What strange instruction did God give Hosea next? (3:1-5)

20. What did Hosea do for Gomer this time? (3:1-5)

21. How was this like what God was going to do for Israel? (3:1-5)

Comprehend It

1. Complete the following chart of Kings mentioned in Hosea 1:1.

King	Scripture Reference	Nation Ruled (Israel/Judah)	Length of Reign	Character (Good/Evil)	Significant Events During Reign
Jeroboam	2 Kings 14:23-27				
Uzziah (also named Azariah)	2 Kings 15:1-7; 2 Chronicles 26				
Jotham	2 Kings 15:32-38; 2 Chronicles 27				
Ahaz	2 Kings 16:1-20; 2 Chronicles 28				
Hezekiah	2 Kings 18:1 through 20:21; 2 Chronicles 29 through 32				

- From what you learned in question one, of what was God saying Israel was guilty?
- How were Gomer and the nation of Israel alike?
- From your knowledge of God’s Word, how would Hosea have felt about marrying a prostitute?
- What is the “blood in the valley of Jezreel” to which God refers when Hosea’s first son is born? (Hint: See 2 Kings 10:1-11)
- What had God promised as a result of this blood?

7. Why did God treat Israel and Judah differently?
8. Israel was conquered in 722 BC and Judah was allowed to remain until 586 BC. Why did God treat them differently?
9. Why did Gomer go after other men?
10. Why did Israel go after other gods?
11. How is Gomer's final decision like the prodigal son in Luke 15?
12. What approach did God use, after punishment, to get the Israelites to return to Him?
13. Using a Bible Dictionary, explain what God meant by turning the Valley of Achor into hope. (If you do not have access to a Bible Dictionary, one can be found at www.biblegateway.com.)
14. What did God promise would be the status of Israel in the future?
15. When was this to occur?
16. Again, using a Bible dictionary or other source, what did God mean by they loved Raisin Cakes?

Connect It

1. From your answer to the opening question, what made what God called you to do so hard?

2. Did you do what He called you to do? Why or why not?
3. How is sin like harlotry?
4. Would you say calling sin harlotry is too harsh? Why or why not?
5. What sin are you involved in that you would say is not the same as harlotry?
6. Why does God continue to offer hope to the Israelites after telling them about their punishment?
7. How has God used discipline to bring you back to following Him?
8. How has God used tenderness to bring you back to following Him?
9. Describe a time when you thought you could find what you were looking for in someone or something other than God:
10. What made you realize that someone or something could not substitute for God?
11. How has God used a time of sin in your life to teach you more about his love and forgiveness?
12. Does this make you glad you sinned? Why or why not?

13. What part of your future in Christ do you look forward to the most?

14. What needs to change about how you think or act based on studying this lesson?



Lesson Two: The Blind Leading the Blind Hosea 4:1 through 6:6

Jesus gave a warning in His day, “Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”³ He was talking about the Pharisees being upset about His teaching. What He meant was that the leaders we follow must first know the right way, second, lead the right way and, third, care if we get there. Otherwise, following them will lead us into the pit. This story is an example:

“In a recent running of the Boston marathon, officials were amazed to find a number of the participants simply dropped out of the race and went home...or so it seemed. What happened was the back 10% of the runners had lost sight of those leading them and took a wrong turn. They ran down many streets looking for the route but could not find it. When one young marathoner was asked why they kept running, he answered, “If figured anyone ahead of me must know where they were going.” Sadly, this was not the case. On a positive note, the runners did finally make it to the finish line as officials were preparing for the closing of the festivities. What caused the confusion? One wrong turn.”

While I do not know if this story is accurate or not, the principle is quite clear. If you are following someone, you need to make sure they know where they are going, or you will both end up lost or worse.

³*New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update* (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995), Mt 15:14.

In our lesson today, we find that Hosea has a similar problem in his day. The priests and governmental leaders of his day were supposed to lead the people in the worship of God, but they had become so accustomed to compromise and the religious pluralism of worshiping both Baal and God, that they no longer knew God personally. All that was left was to lead the people in a heartless and meaningless set of rituals that were not even a shadow of the relationship God desired with His people. While it might seem like a small thing in our day of clergy sexual abuse, television evangelists' IRS difficulties and other problems in the church, this was not a light matter. God had a terrible punishment in store for both the priests and the people because of their lack of intimate knowledge of Him and His ways.

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being none and 10 being very close, how would you rate your pastor's relationship with Christ?

Using that same scale, how would you rate your own?

Describe a time when a sermon, Sunday School lesson, or other presentation by a leader in your church, inspired you to go home and read the Bible for yourself:

Consider It

1. According to God through Hosea, what three things were the Israelites lacking? (4:1-3)
2. What were the results of this lack? (4:1-3)
3. How did these results affect their lives? (4:1-3)
4. How did the priests respond to their actions? (4:4-19)
5. What did God say was destroying the people? (4:4-19)
6. At whose feet did God lay guilt for this? (4:4-19)

7. What three things did God say take away understanding? (4:4-19)
8. What was a particular practice for which the people were upset, but God said He would not punish? Why? (4:4-19)
9. How did God say the people would eventually respond to their own wickedness? (4:4-19)
10. Because of the sins of the priests, who was God going to punish? (5:1-14)
11. What did the sins of the people keep them from doing? (5:1-14)
12. How did God respond to the sins of the people at first? (5:1-14)
13. How was He going to respond in the future? (5:1-14)
14. Why did God say Ephraim had gone into harlotry? (5:1-14)
15. How did Ephraim respond to God's initial attempts to discipline them? (5:1-14)
16. What did God say He required in order to avoid the discipline He was describing? (5:15 through 6:6)
17. How did God anticipate the people responding to His discipline? (5:15 through 6:6)

18. Was this response to be genuine? Why or why not? (5:15 through 6:6)

19. What did God say He was looking for from His people? (5:15 through 6:6)

Comprehend It

1. What did God mean by a “knowledge of God”?
2. How did a lack of knowledge of God lead the people to do wickedness?
3. What excuse did the priests use for their sin?
4. What was God’s response?
5. What did Hosea mean by “They feed on the sin of My people and direct their desire toward their iniquity” (4:8)?
6. How should the priests have responded to the sin and iniquity of the people?
7. How does this show you how far the nation had sunk?
8. Why did God say He would not punish the wives that were unfaithful to their husbands?
9. Does this contradict His word in other places of the Bible? Why or why not?

10. What specific things did God say contributed to the sinfulness of Israel?
11. What had Ephraim done that had caused them to be mentioned as more sinful than the rest?
12. Why was God not punishing Judah at this time?
13. Does this seem fair? Why or why not?
14. What did God require in order to bring the people back from this terrible punishment?
15. From your knowledge of the rest of the short history of Israel, did they learn their lesson? Why or why not?

Connect It

1. Is a lack of the knowledge of God prevalent today or not? Give examples.
2. What is the difference between knowing God's Word and knowing God?
3. Is this significant? Why or why not?
4. Rate yourself in the area of experiential knowledge of God. Use 1 as no knowledge and 10 as know God as well as you need to. Explain.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
5. How has your knowledge of God kept you from sinning in the past?

6. How would you explain the importance of knowing God to a new believer?

7. How would you explain the importance of knowing God to a non-believer?

8. God continued to offer hope to the Israelites if they would repent. Israel was judged in 722 BC and never came back from exile as an independent nation. Was this fair of God? Why or why not?

9. What sins do you need to repent of right now? (Stop, pray and ask God to forgive you and ask for His help to turn away from those specific sins right now.)

10. What action will you take today to begin to repent of those things?

11. Are there any consequences for our sins today?

12. Idolatry and alcohol contributed to the waywardness of the Israelites. What contributes to your sinfulness?

13. What can you do about those things in the future?

14. What do you plan to do differently as a result of this study?



Lesson Three: You Cannot Have Your Cake and Eat It Too

Hosea 6:7 through 11:11

As a child, I was both strange and typical. While there are many examples that I could give of how I was strange, one of the most poignant examples of just how typical I was as a child can be seen in the following story:

Every Saturday, my father would give each of us children (I have an older brother and a younger sister) one dollar of allowance. Most Saturdays, we would run down to the convenience store where we would spend the entire dollar on 1 and 2 cent candy (I realize this shows my age). This would happen every Saturday. One Saturday, my brother decided that he would not go

with us to the convenience store because he was going to save his money for fireworks for the upcoming Fourth of July celebration. My sister and I went to the store without him for several weeks. The weekend before the Fourth of July, my brother offered to go with us to the store if we could stop off at the fireworks stand for him to buy his fireworks, which we agreed to do. While we were at the fireworks stand, I was amazed at all the fireworks my brother was placing in his red, plastic basket, but I said nothing. I fully expected the man at the counter to tell him he did not have enough money, but he pulled out a small wad of one-dollar bills and paid for a large bag of firecrackers, bottle rockets, parachutes, and poppers. Man, did he have a lot! I decided I would use my money for fireworks as well, so I put together a much smaller assortment of those same fireworks but had to put most of it back because all I had was a dollar. I asked (or maybe whined is a better word) for him to loan me some money to buy more fireworks, but he refused by saying that he had saved his money while I had wasted mine. I pouted all the rest of the way home while planning to tell my parents just how unfair he had been. I was certain that they would agree and make him share, but when I got home, I got a surprise. My father agreed with my brother and told me, “Jack, you can’t have your cake and eat it, too. You have to choose one or the other.” I would like to say that I learned my lesson, but this is a lesson that I am still learning with having to decide to save for a rainy day instead of buying something today.

In this lesson, the people of Israel were trying to tell God, through Hosea, that they were worshiping God faithfully, even though their sinful lives seemed to indicate otherwise. They wanted to be able to count on God for His deliverance and still get away with whatever they thought they wanted to do. Hosea had the difficult job of showing them they could not “have their cake and eat it, too.”

Describe a time when you had to give something up to get something you really wanted. How did it feel while you were saving and waiting to get it?

Consider It

1. In what things did God say He delighted? (6:7 through 7:7)
2. What two things were the people trying to substitute for these things? (6:7 through 7:7)
3. Of what sins were the priests guilty? (6:7 through 7:7)
4. To what false hope did the Israelites cling? (6:7 through 7:7)
5. How did the authorities respond to their sins? (6:7 through 7:7)
6. Assuming God is referring to “Ephraim” as the leaders of Israel, what had the leaders done when faced with God’s judgment? (7:8 through 8:14)
7. To whom did they turn for help? (7:8 through 8:14)
8. What reason did God give for not helping them? (7:8 through 8:14)
9. Why did the people cry out to God and assemble to worship? (7:8 through 8:14)
10. How did God say He would repay them for this type of worship? (7:8 through 8:14)
11. How did the people attempt to defend themselves against God’s charges? (7:8 through 8:14)
12. What was God’s rebuttal? (7:8 through 8:14)

13. What is the calf of Samaria? (7:8 through 8:14)
14. What specific ways was God already punishing their wickedness? (7:8 through 8:14)
15. How did God promise to punish them in the future? (7:8 through 8:14)
16. Where had the people worshiped other gods? (9:1 through 10:15)
17. What position had Israel occupied for God? (9:1 through 10:15)
18. How had they failed in this position? (9:1 through 10:15)
19. What physical punishment was God going to bring on their families? (9:1 through 10:15)
20. What emotional punishment was God going to bring on their families? (9:1 through 10:15)
21. How did the people carry this same lack of respect for God over to their earthly rulers? (9:1 through 10:15)
22. What was going to happen to the idols of Israel? (9:1 through 10:15)
23. How did God want the people to respond to this threat? (9:1 through 10:15)
24. How did God predict the people would respond? (9:1 through 10:15)
25. In the past, how had God responded to their sins? (11:1-11)

26. Where did God say the Israelites would go for punishment? (11:1-11)
27. What metaphor did God use to describe His relationship with His people? (11:1-11)
28. What hope did God offer them for this time of transgression? (11:1-11)

Comprehend It

1. What did God mean when He said in Hosea 6:6, “For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings?”
2. Was this a contradiction of the law? Why or why not?
3. In 1 and 2 Kings, God describes the people as bloody wrongdoers and raiders. Is this accurate? Why or why not?
4. What were the people counting on to keep them out of trouble with God?
5. How did they show this in the following areas of life:
 - a. Worship
 - b. Family
 - c. Loyalty to Leaders
 - d. Economic Dealings
6. What did God mean by describing Israel as “silly doves”?

7. Besides the obvious issue of idolatry, how did Israel “mix with the nations”?
8. Why was God so concerned that the people cried out to Him, but not from their hearts?
(7:14)
9. How did God predict the nations surrounding them would respond to Israel?
10. Why was this to be?
11. How did the cry, “My God, we of Israel know You!” and their actions contradict one another?
12. Where have we read about a golden calf getting the people in trouble before?
13. Baal is a “god” of fertility and Asherah was his concubine. How does God show the Israelites the futility of serving these fertility gods?
14. Over and over God said the people were doing the things of worship without the heart of worship. Why was this a problem?
15. What does it mean that Ephraim was a watchman?
16. How and why did Ephraim fail in this endeavor?
17. Is it fair for God to slay the precious ones of the wombs of the Israelites? Why or why not?
18. How does God show His patience with the Israelites?

19. Did the people think God was being fair with them? What reasons did they give?

20. What did God say was the reason for things going so wrong for the Israelites?

21. What reason did God give for not turning them completely over to their judgment?

Connect It

1. How would you describe the worship of the Israelites?

2. How would you know if your worship is similar to theirs?

3. What makes worship authentic?

4. Is it possible for a person to be living in known sin and still worship God? Why or why not?

5. The Israelites thought God owed them blessings for their service of worship. How do you see this same mentality today?

6. Is this the correct view of the purpose and results of worship? Why or why not?

7. What did the Israelites worship?

8. Do you see this in your church? If so, how?

9. The Israelites moved from disrespecting God to disrespecting those in authority over them. Do you see this today?

10. Are there any ways that you disrespect authority? If so, list them.

11. If you listed ways you disrespect authority, according to this passage, where does this disrespect come from?

12. What do you plan to do to deal with this disrespect?

13. The days of Israel's punishment was at hand and they did not realize it. Do you see any ways that God is judging your nation today? Your state? Your city? Your church? Your family? Yourself?

14. If you listed some ways God is judging, according to this passage, what will it take for Him to relent?

15. How does your Christian walk need to change?



Lesson Four: Just Who Do You Think You're Fooling? 11:12-14:9

Have you ever known anyone that was greater in their own eyes than they could ever possibly be in the eyes of anyone else? Billy was just that kind of person. He thought he could whip anyone. He was smaller than anyone and weaker than most, but that did not stop him from getting into fights with many people.

Each time, bruised and bleeding, he would begin to talk about how he would have won if it were not for this or that. He would go on about how he could have easily whipped the person but did not want to hurt him too badly. The saddest part of his delusion was that he believed HIMSELF! One day, Billy got into a fight with someone that pulled a gun and shot him. As Billy was lying in the hospital dying from the bullet the doctors could not remove, one would have thought he would have gotten honest with himself and others, but no. Gasping in between sentences, Billy was still telling stories about how he could have won if he had only brought his gun (which people found out later he didn't even own).

A few hours later, Billy died, and, at the funeral, the preacher talked about all the things Billy could have done if given the chance. His family even put the following words on his tombstone, "I could have lived if it wasn't for death."

Chances are good that you have known many such people. What makes people think they can fool others? What makes them think people will not see right through their charade? How do they get to the point that they even believe themselves?

In our lesson this week, we see what happened to the people of Hosea's day as they persisted with their foolishness of trying to fool God. In the end, the only people they fooled were themselves.

Have you ever known anyone that tried to fool others? If so, describe ways they tried:

Why did they do this?

Consider It

1. How did God say Ephraim was trying to deceive Him? (11:12-13:6)
2. Who was Ephraim fooling? (11:12-13:6)
3. What was Ephraim trying accomplish with this deceit? (11:12-13:6)
4. How did God tell Ephraim to return to Him? (11:12-13:6)
5. How had God attempted to communicate with Israel? (11:12-13:6)
6. How had Israel responded to these attempts? (11:12-13:6)
7. What did God promise He was going to do for this response? (11:12-13:6)
8. Where did Israel's sin start? (11:12-13:6)
9. Where did that initial sin lead them? (11:12-13:6)
10. Why was God so concerned with this sin? (11:12-13:6)
11. What metaphors did God use for the punishment He was going to bring on Israel? (13:7-16)
12. How did Israel receive a king? (13:7-16)

13. How did Israel lose her king? (13:7-16)
14. What did God mean by, “He is not a wise son, For it is not the time that he should delay at the opening of the womb.” (13:7-16)
15. What kind of victory did God say He could have given Ephraim? (13:7-16)
16. What did Ephraim and Samaria choose as their end? (13:7-16)
17. How would Israel be destroyed? (13:7-16)
18. What did God want Israel to confess and repent from? (14:1-9)
19. How did God promise to respond to this confession? (14:1-9)
20. Why did God not want Ephraim worshipping idols? (14:1-9)
21. What final warning did Hosea give the people? (14:1-9)

Comprehend It

1. What made Israel think they could deceive God?
2. What did God mean by Ephraim feeds on wind and pursues the east wind?
3. From your knowledge of ½ Kings and ½ Chronicles, how did this reliance on the east wind turn out?

4. How was Israel using trickery like Jacob had when he was younger?
5. Jacob had wrestled with God and hung on until God blessed him and changed his name to Israel. What was God telling the people by reminding them of this story from their history?
6. Why did God give the three specific requirements in 12:6?
7. How did Israel see itself?
8. What does this tell you about how far their sin had gone?
9. How had God tried to reach Israel?
10. How had they responded to this?
11. How was Israel acting like Jacob when he fled to Aram? (See Genesis 28)
12. God continually says He will punish Judah as well, but later. Did this come true? If so, how?
13. What was the beginning of Ephraim's sin?
14. Where did that sin lead?
15. What did God mean that Ephraim was delaying at the "opening of the womb" (13:13)

16. Why were the children to bear the punishment of the sins of their fathers?

17. Is this fair? Why or why not?

18. Why was the confession of 14:1-3 so important?

19. Why would God respond to a mere confession of words?

Connect It

1. Has anyone ever tried to “pull the wool over your eyes”, but you knew the truth? If so, how did their attempt at deception make you feel?
2. What are some of the things you have leaned on, at times, instead of looking to God for deliverance or provision?
3. What made you realize you needed to trust God instead?
4. Do you keep any kind of record or journal of the things God has done for you since becoming a Christian?
5. What are some of the things God has done for you since becoming a Christian?
6. How do these memories affect your desire to trust God for your provision now?
7. Ephraim’s idolatry led them into greater sins. What causes you to fall into sin?
8. How can you be proactive in fighting those temptations?

9. Israel thought they had no problems and had no sin, but 1 John 1:8 tells us that if we claim to have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves. What sin do you need to confess to God and repent from right now?

10. Hosea 14 shows that God desires for us to voice our confession and He promises to forgive and restore. Take time, right now, to pray and purpose in your heart to turn away from these sins.

11. What needs to change in your life as a result of studying this passage?

12. What would you state as the overall message of the book of Hosea?

13. How has your life changed since beginning this study?

14. Pray and thank God for His word and for speaking to you through His word.

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