**Notes**

* Hosea's name means Salvation
* From the Northern Kingdom; Israel
* Minor Prophet
* **Ministry:** 755-710 B.C. (2 Kings 15-17)
* **Book Written:** 755-725 B.C.
* **Aka:** “death-bed prophet of Israel”
* **Called by God** to Prophesy to the Israel
* **Called by God** to marry…
* Other than the book of Hosea not much is known about this prophet.
* Prophets (Halley’s Bible Handbook):
  + Applied to individuals who provided significant military and judicial leadership – for example Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15) and Deborah (Judges 4:4)
  + Also used of persons who had ecstatic experiences of contact with God (Numbers 11:24-29; 1 Samuel 19:20-24; 2 Kings 3:15)
  + Individuals who were protected by God in some special way (Abraham, Genesis 20:7; Psalm 105:15)
  + During Monarchy prophets became advisors to kings (1 Samuel 22:5; Isaiah 37:1-4; Jeremiah 37:16-17)
  + There were at times many prophets: days of Ahab there were 400 (1 Kings 22:6)
  + Prophets were spiritual conscience of the nation. They are appointed to remind kings, priests, and people of their obligations to God and people.
* Israel is broken into 2 kingdoms
  + Northern – Israel: Israel had peace and prosperity, but became sloppy; taking things for granted
    - King Ahab, when marrying Jezebel, brought Baal into Israel (1 Kings 19)
    - 2 Kings 17:7-18: “9And the people of Israel did secretly against the LORD their God things that were not right. They built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city.”
  + Southern – Judah
* Hosea was called by the Lord to take an unfaithful wife
  + Wife represents Israel’s unfaithfulness (Spiritual Adultery); A whore, prostitute, fornication, immorality, harlotry
* Gomer's children are God’s Actions (Likely not Hosea’s kids)
  + **First Son:** Jezreel (“scattered” / “God will sow”)
    - Assyrian Empire came and destroyed Israel, scattering them
    - Valley of Jezreel
      * **Jehu** massacred Ahab’s entire family and the Lord Grieved (2 Kings 15:0-10)
      * God said, “I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel”; 2 Kings 9:7-10:28
  + **Daughter:** Lo-Ruhamah (“No Mercy” / “Not Pitied”/ “Not lLoved”)
    - Israel’s days are numbered
    - He will have mercy on Judah (2 Kings 19:32-35; not by their army – 701 B.C.)
  + **Second Son:** Lo-Ammi (“Not My People”)
    - You broke the marriage covenant in your brokenness and unfaithfulness
* Hosea Verse-by-Verse
  + Hosea 2:2-3: It’s a call to the people to hold Israel accountable for their acts
  + Hosea 2:14: Sometimes the wilderness is the only place we can really hear God
  + Hosea 2:14: God will woo ‘her’ (Israel) back
  + Hosea 2:16: Me Ishi (My Husband/intamcy) vs Me Baali (rulership/Baal)
  + Hosea 2:18: Millennial Scene (Isaiah 2:4; 11:6-9, Micah 4:3)
  + Hosea 2:19-10: Repeated 3 times (important), God brings everything, Israel brings nothing
  + Hosea 2:22-23: Jezreel (God will Scatter), now he’s sowing…
  + Hosea 2:23 (Romans 9:25; 1 Peter 2:10)Jews Only -> Jesus Christ -> All People
  + Raisin Cakes (2 Samuel 6:19) eaten in special occasions or idolatrous ceremonies as an aphrodisiac (Song 2:5)
  + Hosea 3:3-5: Israel would exist without her existing political and religious relations until Messiah returns.
* What can be learned?
  + A wayward wife who looked to other lovers to supply for her what she felt she needed
  + A lot about love we just don’t get from the world – God shows us true love
    - God **CHOOSES** to love us
      * Sounds simple, but He loves us when we don’t deserve it. We are loved even when we are unfaithful
      * **Not just a matter of the heart. It’s also the matter of the will**
  + Can lost love be found? YES
    - Story of Redemption, Sacrifice, Humility, and LOVE
  + **We are all guilty of unfaithfulness to God; not just in live, today**
  + “Those that think the God of the old testament is a God of Judgement and the God of the New Testament is a God of Love should spend some time here in Hosea” Amplified Study Bible
  + Hosea is a Love Story; God’s endless/relentless pursuit for us
  + God never stops loving us; He takes an active role in pursuing us
  + God does not condone our sins; He just love us
  + As a parent; God blesses us with children to help us get perspective of Gods love for us
  + God loves you and will take you back NOW
  + **God sent His son for our unfaithfulness – NOW THAT’S LOVE**
  + Remember what God has done for us
  + God Teaches us...
    - Mercy; We fail to show Mercy
    - Grace; We fail to give Grace
    - Patience; We fail to have patience
    - Devotion; We fail to devote ourselves to the Lord
  + Jesus’ chief responsibility is to save humanity from their sin and idolatry. This is why the angel instructs Joseph to name him Jesus, “because he will save his people from their sins” (Matt. 2:21).
* Supporting Verses
  + Genesis 22:17; 32:12: He will fulfill His promise to Abraham:
  + **26** “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ there they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’” Romans 9:26
  + Hebrews 1: God punishes those He Loves
  + Exodus 32:1
  + James 4:4
  + Revelation 21-22:5
  + Romans 5:8
  + 1 Corinthians 10:11
  + Isaiah 62:5