

# Midweek Bible Study

## An Exposition of Hosea Background and Introduction

### Things to know about any Prophetic Book

Knowing the Covenantal background to the Prophets is very important.

Knowing the historical setting of a prophetic book is very important

Prophets before the exile		during exile	after exile
<b>To Israel:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Am (760)</li><li>• Hos (755)</li></ul>	<b>To Judah:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Joel (835)</li><li>• Isaiah (740)</li><li>• Micah (735)</li><li>• Zeph (630)</li><li>• Jeremiah (627)</li><li>• Habakkuk (609)</li><li>• Lament. (586)</li></ul>	<b>To the Jews in Babylon:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Daniel (605)</li><li>• Ezek (592)</li></ul>	<b>To the remnant after return:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Haggai (520)</li><li>• Zecha (520)</li><li>• Mal (432)</li></ul>
<b>To Ninevah:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jonah (760)</li><li>• Nahum (660)</li></ul>			
			<b>To Edom:</b> Obadiah (586-33)

The location of the Minor Prophets in the Hebrew Bible  
Hebrew canonical order

There are 12 minor Prophets, but in HB it is “The Book of the Twelve.”

### Introduction to Hosea

Hos. 1:1

One of the earliest canonical (writing) prophets  
His ministry is in the northern kingdom (Israel)

Begins during the reign of Jeroboam II (793-753)

Continues through the fall of Samaria (722) to the reign of Hezekiah in the South  
Possibly from 750-715 BC

“His ministry thus began with Israel as a prosperous and expanding empire and ended with the nation obliterated, its capital city a ruin, and its people scattered” (Garrett, DNTOT).

His name means “The salvation of Yahweh.”



# I 🌿 Midweek Bible Study

Major difficulty in Hosea: Did God command Hosea to marry a prostitute?

## Outline and Themes

### I. Hosea and Gomer (1-3)

Hosea's marriage is the controlling parabolic theme

- A. Sign-act of judgment (1:2-9)
  - 1. Marry a prostitute
  - 2. Child 1: Jezreel, God sows judgment
  - 3. Child 2: No mercy/not pitied, end of the northern Kingdom
  - 4. Child 3: Not my people, end of the covenant, the ultimate breach.
- B. Relationship is restored (1:10-2:1)
- C. The Lord's marriage to Israel (2:2-23)
  - 2:14-17 It is God's grace that precedes and causes Israel's return
  - 2:14-23 The covenant is renewed with a new covenant, vows and new names.
- D. Hosea's marriage restored (3:1-5)
  - Anticipates the restoration of the Kingdom over a united Israel, which is fulfilled in Christ.

### II. Oracles (4-14)

The three charges (4:1)

A rib (lawsuit) oracle

- A. No *emet*
- B. No *hesed*
- C. No knowledge of God
  - \*These indictments are then dealt with in reverse order.
  - No knowledge of God (4:2-6:3)
  - No lovingkindness (6:4-10:15)
  - No truth (11:12-14:9)

Final appeal for repentance (13:14b-14:3)

Promises of mercy (14:4-8)

Wisdom postscript (14:9)

Hosea in the NT

Hos. 1:10; 2:23 and Rom. 9:25; 1 Pet. 2:10

Hos. 11:1 and Mat. 2:15

Hos. 6:2 and 1 Cor. 15:4

Hos. 13:14b and 1 Cor. 15:55

## Themes

The Covenant

Whoredom – spiritual adultery (covenant breaking motif)

The Love of God



## Hebrew Bible Canonical Order

### Torah

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy (ends with the expectation  
of a new Moses (Deut. 18: 15, 18; 34:10))

### Prophets

#### Former Prophets

Joshua (begins with Joshua who mediates on the Torah)  
Judges  
Samuel  
Kings

**The storyline (historical  
progression) of the OT**

(Exile and break in the storyline)

#### Latter Prophets

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Ezekiel  
The Twelve (ends with expectation of Elijah  
Mal. 3:1; 4:5)

#### Writings

Psalms (begins with meditating on Torah, Ps 1:2)  
Job  
Proverbs  
Ruth  
Song  
Ecclesiastes  
Lamentations  
Esther

**Commentary on the Storyline  
Prophetic Commentary  
Personal Commentary  
Wisdom commentary**

Daniel  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Chronicles

**Storyline Resumes**