



A MINOR PROPHET

Hosea



¹The word of the Lord that came to Hosea, the son of Beerī, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel. ²When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord.” ³So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

- Hosea 1:1-3

⁴I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. ⁵I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon; ⁶his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon. ⁷They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon. ⁸O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; from me comes your fruit. ⁹Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

- Hosea 14:4-9

The word of the Lord that came to Hosea, the son of Beerī, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

- Hosea 1:1

²⁵After you have had children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time—if you then become corrupt and make any kind of idol, doing evil in the eyes of the Lord your God and arousing his anger, ²⁶I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you this day that you will quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. You will not live there long but will certainly be destroyed. ²⁷The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which the Lord will drive you.

²⁸There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or eat or smell. ²⁹But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul. ³⁰When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the Lord your God and obey him. ³¹For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your ancestors, which he confirmed to them by oath.

- Deuteronomy 4:25-31

Hear the word of the Lord, O children of Israel, for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land

- *Hosea 4:1*

Israel's Spiritual Adultery

- Israel unfaithfully turned from the Lord to idols (4:2)
- Their idolatry produced societal violence (6:9; 12:1)
 - *Political corruption (7:3-7)*
 - *Foreign alliances/gods (7:11; 8:9)*
 - *Ungratefulness to God (7:15)*
 - *Social injustice (12:7)*
 - *Forgetfulness of God (13:6ff)*

For I desire steadfast love (mercy) and not sacrifice, the knowledge of
God rather than burnt offerings.

- *Hosea 6:6*

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- Deuteronomy 4:26-28

Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

- Hosea 14:9

⁴I will heal their apostasy, I will love them freely...⁷They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

- Hosea 14:4, 7

Outline of Hosea

- Adulterous Wife and Faithful Husband (Hosea 1:1–3:5)
- Adulterous Israel and Faithful God (Hosea 4:1–14:9)
- Main themes:
 - Our sin: Spiritual adultery
 - God's just judgements
 - God's steadfast love restores and forgives

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself... ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-19, 21

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- 1 John 1:9

“Its not your love that sustains the marriage, but from now on its the marriage that sustains the love.”

- *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

- 2 Timothy 2:13

He who has been forgiven much, loves much

- *Luke 7:47*

Questions for Application

- Is the Lord your first love?
- Consider What other loves might be sneaking in to lure you away from your first love? What changes need to be made?
- How can you grow more in love with God this week through these simple means of grace?
 - Confession/assurance
 - Prayer
 - Fellowship with God's people
 - Time in the Word
 - Kingdom service

