

Minor Prophets Major Truths: Hosea

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Hosea's ministry steps in when the Northern Kingdom of Israel's spiritual condition was very bleak, they were being an unfaithful unloving spouse.

Hosea 4:1–2 (ESV)

There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; ² there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.

Hosea 6:6 (ESV)

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

Hosea 4:6

My people are being destroyed because they don't know me. Since you priests refuse to know me, I refuse to recognize you as my priests. Since you have forgotten the laws of your God, I will forget to bless your children.

Hosea 7:8-9

Ephraim mixes with the nations; Ephraim is a flat loaf not turned over. ⁹ Foreigners sap his strength, but he does not realize it. His hair is sprinkled with gray, but he does not notice.

Hosea 10:1

How prosperous Israel is— a luxuriant vine loaded with fruit. But the richer the people get, the more pagan altars they build. The more bountiful their harvests, the more beautiful their sacred pillars.

Exodus 34:14 (ESV)

For you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God

Hosea 5:4

Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God, for the spirit of whoredom is within them, and they know not the Lord.

Hosea 1:2-3

When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, "Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord." ³ So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

There 3 kids they had were named:

Jezreel - God scatters – (alluding to the coming Exile when the Assyrians invaded in 722BC)

Lo-ruhamah - No Mercy, No Compassion

Lo-Ammi - Not my people

Hosea 2:1-7

Say of your brothers, 'My people,' and of your sisters, 'My loved one.' ² "Rebuke your mother, rebuke her, for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband. Let her remove the adulterous

look from her face and the unfaithfulness from between her breasts.³ Otherwise I will strip her naked and make her as bare as on the day she was born; I will make her like a desert, turn her into a parched land, and slay her with thirst.⁴ I will not show my love to her children, because they are the children of adultery.⁵ Their mother has been unfaithful and has conceived them in disgrace. She said, 'I will go after my lovers, who give me my food and my water, my wool and my linen, my olive oil and my drink.'⁶ Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes; I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way.⁷ She will chase after her lovers but not catch them; she will look for them but not find them. Then she will say, 'I will go back to my husband as at first, for then I was better off than now.' She has not acknowledged that I was the one who gave her the grain, the new wine and oil, who lavished on her the silver and gold—which they used for Baal.

Hosea 2:14–23

But then I will win her back once again. I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her there.¹⁵ I will return her vineyards to her and transform the Valley of Trouble into a gateway of hope. She will give herself to me there, as she did long ago when she was young, when I freed her from her captivity in Egypt.¹⁶ When that day comes," says the Lord, "you will call me 'my husband' instead of 'my master.'¹⁷ O Israel, I will wipe the many names of Baal from your lips, and you will never mention them again.¹⁸ On that day I will make a covenant with all the wild animals and the birds of the sky and the animals that scurry along the ground so they will not harm you. I will remove all weapons of war from the land—all swords and bows—so you can live unafraid in peace and safety.¹⁹ I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion.²⁰ I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as the Lord.²¹ "In that day, I will answer," says the Lord. "I will answer the sky as it pleads for clouds, and the sky will answer the earth with rain.²² Then the earth will answer the thirsty cries of the grain, the grapevines, and the olive trees. And they in turn will answer, 'Jezreel'—'God plants!'²³ At that time I will plant a crop of Israelites and raise them for myself. I will show love to those I called 'Not loved.' And to those I called 'Not my people,' I will say, 'Now you are my people.' And they will reply, 'You are our God!'"

1 Peter 2:10 (ESV)

"Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

Hosea 3:1-5

Then the Lord said to me, "Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover. This will illustrate that the Lord still loves Israel, even though the people have turned to other gods and love to worship them."² So I bought her back for fifteen pieces of silver and five bushels of barley and a measure of wine.³ Then I said to her, "You must live in my house for many days and stop your prostitution. During this time, you will not have sexual relations with anyone, not even with me."⁴ This shows that Israel will go a long time without a king or prince, and without sacrifices, sacred pillars, priests, or even idols!⁵ But afterward the people will return and devote themselves to the Lord their God and to David's descendant, their king. In the last days, they will tremble in awe of the Lord and of his goodness

Hosea 14:1-2

Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for your sins have brought you down.² Bring your confessions, and return to the Lord. Say to him, "Forgive all our sins and graciously receive us, so that we may offer you our praises.