

# The Book of Hosea

## Chapter One

### I. Background Information

#### A. The Author - Hosea

1. His name means “salvation”, similar to Joshua.
2. Son of Beerī (“well, fountain”)
3. Resident of the Northern Kingdom of Israel
  - a) His prophetic message centers around the Northern Kingdom
  - b) He shows much familiarity with the region
  - c) His tomb is claimed to be in Safed, a town in Galilee (for whatever its worth)
4. His ministry seems to have lasted at least fifty years.
5. Relation to other prophets:
  - a) Contemporary of Isaiah
  - b) He and Amos, who preceded him, ministered to the Northern Kingdom during this period.
  - c) Many parallels to Jeremiah
    - (1) Both known for sadness, suffering
    - (2) Both proclaimed coming judgment to unheeding audiences

#### B. The Setting

1. The Decline and Fall of the Northern Kingdom
  - a) Illusions of prosperity and success
  - b) Spiritual and moral decline

#### C. Basic Outline

1. The Personal Example of Hosea - Chapters 1-3
2. The Prophecies of Hosea - Chapters 4-14

#### D. Important Topics to Consider

1. The use of names is very important in this book.
  - a) Names had much more meaning to the ancient Jews.
  - b) Pay close attention to their meanings
2. The use of an “object lesson” in Hosea’s marriage
  - a) God uses the illustration of Gomer’s unfaithfulness to illustrate Israel’s unfaithfulness to Him
  - b) Note that this really happened. It is not allegorical, nor are “code words” beings used (i.e. Gomer’s harlotry is really idolatry in poetic terms)
3. Judgement and Restoration
  - a) A common theme in the Prophetic books is coming judgment, but also note that coupled with this are promises of future blessing
  - b) Many of these promises look forward to the Millennial Kingdom
4. In spite of being a “minor” prophet, this book is quoted around thirty times in the New Testament.

### I. Chapter One

#### A. Gomer

1. Name means “completion, consummation,”
1. Her father was Diblaim (“two fig cakes” *and I’m not making that up!*)

2. “of whoredoms” probably speaks of the ritualistic prostitution connected with Baal worship.
  - a) Remember the shape the Northern Kingdom is in. Hosea is in the minority by remaining true to God.
- A. vs. 2 - “for the land hath committed...” - note here that the appearance of prevalent theme of spiritual unfaithfulness illustrated through marital unfaithfulness.
- B. The Children
  1. God chooses to speak through the names of these children, much like he did with Isaiah (Isaiah 8:1-4)
  2. Jezreel
    - a) Means “scattered”
    - b) Significance
      - (1) Foretells the end of Jehu’s dynasty on the Northern throne (II Kings 10:29-30)
      - (2) Foreshadows the defeat of the Northern Kingdom to Assyria
  1. Loruhamah
    - a) Means “unpitiably, no more mercy”
    - b) Significance
      - (1) The Northern Kingdom’s fate is sealed
      - (2) By contrast, the Southern Kingdom of Judah is granted more time by divine deliverance (see II Kings 19:35 for details)
  2. Loammi
    - a) Means “not my people”
    - b) Significance
      - (1) Shows the complete breakdown in the relationship between God and His people.
      - (2) However, the promises of God are faithful and He will keep his promise to Abraham (compare 1:10 and Genesis 22:17)
- A. Looking Ahead...
  1. Note verse 11.
  2. This is unfulfilled. Israel has not been reunited as described here.
  3. “day of Jezreel” - I think this refers to the Battle of Armageddon, which takes place in the Valley of Jezreel.
  4. Thus, the promise here is fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom