

**Divided Kingdom Period: The Prophets to Israel:
God's Redeeming Love Hosea 1:1-14:9**

Hosea is the second of two prophets of the Prophets of Israel.

Unlike Amos, Hosea ministered over a long period of time. The first verse gives the references for the dating of Hosea. The Southern Kingdoms Kings are given as well as the Northern Kingdoms that date Hosea. His ministry was during the reign of Jeroboam, King of Israel. Hosea prophesied about the overthrow of the Northern Kingdom and lived to see it come to pass in 721 B.C.

Hosea has been called the weeping prophet of the north. (Jeremiah is the Southern Kingdoms weeping prophet.) His name means "salvation." Hosea is quoted more than any other book for its size in the NT. (30 times).

Hosea constantly refers to the Northern Kingdom, Israel, as Ephraim. Ephraim was the largest tribe and when you see this in Hosea he is talking about the whole kingdom of the north.

Allow me to offer the following outline for this study.

- I- Hosea's Marriage and Family. Hosea 1:1-3:5**
- II- Indictment of Ephraim. Hosea 4:1-5**
- III- Pictures of Ephraim in Hosea**

**I- Hosea's Marriage and Family.
Hosea 1:1-3:5**

There are two themes that run throughout not only Hosea but also most of the prophets. They are, Judgment and Restoration. The most dramatic part of Hosea is the picture of Israel and her sin in the personal life of the prophet.

God tells Hosea to marry a "**wife of whoredom.**" He was to marry a

woman that pictured Israel. How is this so. Notice **Hosea 1:2** says, "**for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the Lord.**"

1:3 Hosea takes a wife named Gomer. From this union will be born three children. The prophets would often name their children prophetic names. Such is the case here.

1:4 The first child born to Hosea and Gomer is named, "**Jezreel**" which means, "**to be scattered,**" because God was going to scatter Israel.

1:6 The second child was named "**Loruhamah**" and means, "**no more mercy**" or "**unpitied.**" God's judgment would come soon.

1:9 The third child is named "**Loammi**" which means, "**not my people.**"

Hosea 2 records that Gomer proves to be unfaithful to Hosea and runs off after her lovers. **2:5.** Again this is a vivid picture of Israel and her condition.

Hosea 3 reveals that after Gomer has played the harlot and is on the slave market that Hosea is told to go and buy her back. **3:2** records that he paid full price for her as a slave. This is an obvious picture of God purchasing us from the slave market of sin. We see that Hosea's love for Gomer was redemptive love and certainly God's love for us is redemptive love.

II- Indictment of Ephraim. Hosea 4:1-5

The first five verses of chapter four give us the indictment of Ephraim. They were guilty of ignorance **4:1,6**, idolatry **4:12,13,17** and immorality **5:3.**

III- Pictures of Ephraim in Hosea.

In Hosea there are some clear pictures of the condition of Ephraim in the day of Hosea. They give us a picture of Israel today as well. There is also a picture of Israel tomorrow in Hosea.

a- Ephraim in Hosea's time.

There are at least eleven things that Hosea says about Ephraim (Northern Kingdom). Notice with me if you would what he compares them to.

1- Backsliding heifer **4:16**

2- Morning cloud **6:4** Here today and gone tomorrow.

3- Bakers hot oven. **7:4** Burning with their lust.

4- Half baked cake. **7:8** They were mingled with the heathen.

5- Gray haired man.. **7:9** They were without strength as an old man.

6- Silly dove. **7:11** They called out to Egypt while flying to Assyria.

7- Crooked bow **7:16**. They would not hit their target and could not be trusted to be true.

8- Broken pot. **8:8** They would be scattered among the nations of the world.

9- Wandering and lonely wild animal. **8:9**

10- Dried up root. **9:16**. Not capable of producing life.

11- Empty vine. **10:1** A vine with no fruit.

b- Ephraim today. (Including Judah. Remember the two nations would become one again.)

There is a verse of scripture in Hosea that gives us a clear picture of Israel today. **Hosea 3:4** says, "**For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a**

prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim." Notice what they would be without in the future time from Hosea.

1- Without a king. In 721 Hoshea the Northern King was taken captive by Assyria. In 587 Zedekiah the last Southern king was deposed. Then they rejected their true King, the Messiah. They are now without a king.

2- Without a prince. **Ezek 44:3** records the next prince that will minister in the millennium.

3- Without a sacrifice. When Titus destroyed the temple in 70 A.D. the sacrifice stopped. Today there is no sacrifice in Israel.

4- Without an image. (pillar) This probably refers to them being without a temple.

c- Picture Tomorrow.

Remember we said that there are two themes in most of the prophets, destruction and restoration. The picture of Israel is not completely developed. There is still some of the exposure to be made clear. While it is only prophecy now, the restoration is a fact in God's mind.

Notice especially in Hosea the restoration pictured in **14:4-7**.

If these verses were not enough there are many others scattered throughout Hosea. Notice with me the redeeming love of God for Israel in the following verses.

2:19,23 God you will remember had Hosea to name his child Lo-Ammi "**not my people**" Here He says they will be His people.

3:5 This king is none other than Christ.

