

Through the Bible Course

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Hosea

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Key Word: Unfaithful

Key Verse: 4:17

Hosea Means – Salvation

Time: He was a prophet to northern kingdom referred to as Israel, Ephraim, Jacob. However, on occasions, he warned Judah also. He spoke during reigns of Jeroboam II when Israel was at the zenith of her power, but she declined rapidly and six kings followed Jeroboam in rapid succession, for of them being assassinated.

Background: When Israel had broken away from Judah in south they set up idolatrous worship of calves at Bethel and Dan. They made this their national religion. They never departed from idolatry.

I. Israel's sin illustrated – chapters 1 through 3

1. Hosea married Gomer who became unfaithful to marriage vow and followed after lovers who at first gave her what she wanted, but soon deserted her. Hosea continued to love her and bought her back from slavery (3:2) for half-price of slave.
2. This was used of prophet to show Israel her unfaithfulness to God and illustrated His love for them even in their infidelity.
3. Names of his children illustrates God's dealings with the nation
 - a. Jezreel means "God will scatter"
 - b. Lo-ruhamah meaning "unpitied"
 - c. Lo-ammi meaning "not my people"
4. Gomer's trouble meant her return to Hosea; so Israel's trouble, valley of Achor, will be means for her return to God.

II. Jehovah and the unfaithful nation – chapters 4 through 13

1. General charge – 4:1-5
2. Willful ignorance – 4:6
3. As were prospered, sinned more and more – 4:7-11; vs. 9 declares shall be rewarded according to doings
4. The idolatry such that is said (vs. 17) Ephraim joined her idols – 4:12-19
5. Condition of Israel described as moth-eaten and rotten (vs. 12) so God will turn from them (vs. 15) – 5:1-15
6. They talk about returning, but their goodness is as a cloud (vs. 14); it does not last – 6:1-11
7. Their sin likened into a cake which the baker has neglected and allowed to burn to a

crisp on one side and remain soggy on the other (vs.8) – 7:1-16. They call upon Egypt and Syria (vs. 11) instead of God (vs. 13-16)

8. They set up kings in disregard of God (vs. 4). They made their calves of Samaria (vs. 5) and so were punished because they forgot God (vs. 14) – 8:1-14

9. Shall not dwell in Lord's land, but be carried captive to Egypt and Assyria – 9:1-6

10. Because they will not harken to God and despise His prophets (vs. 7, 8, 17) the Day of Visitation has come – 9:7-17

11. Israel is an empty vine which has brought forth idolatry – 10:1-15

12. In spite of fact, God loved and brought out of Egypt, they continued to sin and would be put under Assyria. God would come like a lion (vs. 10) – 11:1-12

13. Historical background of Jacob – 12:1 – 13:8

a. Something of history of Jacob and God's controversy with Jacob – 12:1-14

b. They sin more and more; are as morning cloud, chaff, and smoke. God will come upon them as a lion – 13:1-8

III. Israel's repentance – restoration – 13:9 through 14:9

1. Destroyed self, but God will be their helper – 13:9-13

2. God will ransom them from grave – 13:14-16

3. Call to return – 14:1

4. Prayer of repentance they are to say – 14:2, 3

5. God will heal backsliding – 14:4-9

a. Ephraim shall say, "What have I to do with idols?" – verse 8

Note: Some verses to especially notice – 4:17, 5:15, 8:14, and 10:1