



**COMING UP...** APR 28: 2 Kings part 3 (chs. 15-17) MAY 5: Joel MAY 12 NO CLASS (Mother's Day) MAY 19: 2 Kings part 4 (chs. 18-20) MAY 26 NO CLASS (Memorial Day)

**HOSEA SUMMARIZED** in a word or phrase: "Unfaithfulness"

#### THE BASICS

**Who:** Hosea ("salvation" or "deliverance") **When:** pre-exilic, approximately 760–725 BC **Where:** primarily to Israel

**Why:** "Through the personal tragedy of unfaithfulness in his own marriage, Hosea was allowed to experience something of the heartache God Himself felt for His bride, Israel." –Charles Dyer

**"A Scandal in the Parsonage: Hosea 1-3" by Dr. Haddon Robinson**

*The sermon played for this lesson was recorded in 2005.*

#### Introduction

"All the world loves a lover." –Ralph Waldo Emerson

#### The Love Story Begins

The setting is the city of Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel

Hosea marries Gomer

Gomer gives birth to a baby called Jezreel

Second child called Lo-ruhamah, which means 'Not Pitied' ['No Mercy']

Third child called Lo-ammi, which means 'No Kin of Mine' ['Not My People']

#### The Love Story Unravels

The three names of Hosea's children ...

- give us a sketch of the nation Israel

- give us insight into what was taking place in Hosea's family

Hosea refuses to divorce Gomer

Gomer leaves Hosea

## The Love Story Goes On

Hosea loves Gomer and cannot forget

Gomer's life seems good at first but turns downward

Hosea realizes Gomer lives with a man who could not provide the basic necessities

Hosea is acting according to love

Hosea is playing the part with Gomer that God has played with you all your life

Hosea 2:5

Hosea 2:8

“Does God really love us like that?”

You and I have wanted desperately to have our own way

God gives to us metal in the mine. God gives to us trees in the forest. Then the miner with the skill God gave him goes into the earth and mines the metal, and the woodman with his skill chops down the trees. And then when the metal is mined, the smith takes that metal and forms it into a spike. When the tree is cut, the carpenter takes that tree and forms it into a cross. And then when the cross is made, God comes, and in the person of Jesus Christ stretches His arms along the beams of that cross and He dies for the very people who put Him there. He dies for the soldiers that drove the spikes into His hands. He dies for the crowd mocking, laughing, jeering beneath that tree. He died there for them and He died there for you, that you might have the forgiveness of sins. That you might have eternal life. That you might have heaven forevermore. This is even our God, and there is none like unto Him.

Gomer did not change, so Hosea did with her what God did with the nation of Israel

Valley of Achor - “There in that awful, dreadful place I will open to her again the door of salvation and hope”

Gomer sinks lower and lower until she is sold into slavery

Hosea buys Gomer—not to punish but to redeem

Two lessons from this prophecy of Hosea:

God's love story never changes

1. For those of you who have come to know God through faith in Jesus Christ ...

God's love story never gives up

2. For those of you who have not yet come to put your faith in Jesus Christ ...

### In Hosea's Home (ch. 1-3)

Hosea the prophet/husband  
Gomer the adulteress  
    She's been unfaithful to her husband  
    She's secretly—and not so secretly—pursued other lovers  
    She's broken her wedding vows and marriage commitments  
    She's broken Hosea's heart

Hosea the redeemer  
    He shows Gomer undeserved compassion and love  
    He redeems her: ½ the price of a slave (Ex 21:32)  
    He gives her another chance to be his wife  
Hosea cannot fully be her husband until she fully becomes his wife  
    Exclusively faithful, loving and committed to him

In light of this kind of love, how could Gomer do anything less than repent and live in faithfulness?

### In God's Courtroom (ch. 4-10)

God: "You, Israel, are Gomer ..."  
    You've broken your vows and your commitments  
    You've broken My Covenant  
    Your sins have broken My heart  
God presents His charges against them (4-5)  
    You don't know Me ... or even desire to  
    You neither acknowledge Me or honor Me ... nor are you faithful to Me  
    You share your love and affection with your idols  
God exposes Israel's hardened heart (6-7)  
    Israel seems to be repentant ...  
    But her repentance is insincere  
    Your love for Me is like the morning dew  
    You won't listen to My Word  
    You act as if it doesn't even apply to you  
    You love wickedness, and the only thing you're really "hot as an oven" for is more sin!  
God's announces His verdict (8-10)  
    Assyria will invade and overthrow you  
    You will be scattered and deported  
    You will now reap what you have sown

### In God's Parlor (ch. 11-14)

And yet God says ...  
    Though you've broken your vows, your commitments and My heart ... I love you!  
    Though you've broken My Covenant ... I will woo you back to Myself  
I've always loved you (11)  
I love you too much to let you alone (12-13)  
I will bring you to Myself again (14)

### Hosea's Unstated Implication

In light of such loyal, pursuing and redeeming love Israel ...  
... how can you do anything less than whole-heartedly repent ...  
... and live in exclusive, faithful, loving devotion with your "Husband" God?  
Israel has been confronted and exposed, and now God calls on her to return to Him

### Characteristics of the Book of Hosea

- Hosea is the longest of the Minor Prophets.
- Hosea is mentioned nowhere else in the Old Testament and is mentioned only once by name in the New Testament (Rom 9:25). However, the book is referred to directly or indirectly thirty times in the New Testament.
- Hosea employed a cyclical pattern of sin, judgment and restoration.
  - Cycle 1: Hosea 1:1-2:1
  - Cycle 2: Hosea 2:2-23
  - Cycle 3: Hosea 3
  - Cycle 4: Hosea 4-14

*The Old Testament Explorer*



"Hosea" by James Tissot

## Spiritual Adultery

As Gomer was bent toward adultery ...

As Israel was bent toward spiritual adultery ...

So Christian—you and I, the bride of Christ—are bent toward spiritual adultery (Jas 4:4)

And the “lover” we pursue most is the world

We love the world (1 Jn 2:15-17)

We become friendly with the world (Jas 4:4)

We become stained by the world (Jas 1:27)

We conform to the world (Rom 12:2)

## Chasing Our Worldly Lover

We love it for the “wealth” it gives us ...

Sacrifice our health, our marriages and families

We love it for the “security” it gives us ...

A bank account or retirement fund of some kind

We love it for the “significance” it gives us ...

The recognition, respect or applause of men

We love it for the “happiness” it gives us ...

I need this or I deserve that

## Why Do I Do This?

Because I don't know God ... or pursue Him

Because I don't know myself

Because I've grown complacent

Because I tenaciously want to maintain my self-will, my self-sufficiency and my own standard of self-gratification or comfort

Because I'm content with a half-hearted commitment to the Lord

## Questions to Ask Yourself

Be as honest as you can ...

Is my love for the Lord growing warmer ... or colder? Really?

Where might I have grown complacent in my relationship with Him?

Have I become content with offering the Lord a half-hearted commitment in light of all He's done for me?

## “Called Out”

Confronted with the Truth

Actions: from the “grossly” immoral (you know it's wrong) to the “respectable” sins (might not be aware of)

Attitudes: self-righteousness; prayerlessness and ungratefulness from self-sufficiency and self-reliance; desiring to appear rather than to be

Exposed

Call for change

## Repent

In spite of our bent toward spiritual adultery, as the greater “Hosea” God desires to forgive us and restore us to Himself even tonight

Our unfaithfulness does indeed damage our character as well as our relationship with God

And it may result in His discipline for our repentance and learning obedience ... but it doesn't prevent Him from loving us, pursuing us and winning us back to Himself

Since He does this for us, how could we ever doubt His love, His gentleness or His commitment to our good?

In light of His redeeming love, how can we offer Him *anything* less than our exclusive love, faithfulness and devotion ... like a new bride being wed to the husband she loves?

Turn around. Return to Him tonight!

Renew your vows to your “Husband” Jesus

FOR NEXT TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

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PODCAST: <https://feeds.transistor.fm/old-testament-survey>

**Dr. Haddon Robinson (1931-2017)**

Dr. Haddon W. Robinson, longtime faculty member and former President of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and one of the world’s foremost experts in Biblical preaching, went to be with the Lord on July 22, 2017.

Originally from the Mousetown section of Harlem, New York, he received a Bachelor’s Degree from Bob Jones University, Master of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary, Master of Arts from Southern Methodist University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Illinois. He was also awarded honorary degrees from Gordon College and McMaster Divinity College.

Dr. Robinson joined Gordon-Conwell in 1991 as the Harold John Ockenga Distinguished Professor of Preaching, following 12 years as President of Denver Conservative Baptist Seminary, now Denver Seminary, and 19 years on the faculty of Dallas Theological Seminary. Throughout his long and distinguished career he also served as Associate Pastor for the First Baptist Church in Medford, Oregon, Instructor of Speech at the University of Illinois and General Director of the Christian Medical and Dental Society.

In 1996 he was named in a Baylor University poll as one of the 12 Most Effective Preachers in the English Speaking World. In 2006 he was recognized by *Christianity Today* in the top 10 of its 25 Most Influential Preachers of the Past 50 Years. In 2008 he received the E.K. Bailey Living Legend Award. And in 2010 *Preaching* magazine named him among the 25 Most Influential Preachers of the Past 25 Years.

Always looking for new ways to reach more people for Christ, he was also active in broadcast media. He hosted the television program “Film Festival;” and with Dr. Alice Mathews and Mart DeHaan hosted “Discover the Word,” a radio program which for 20 years broadcast 600 times daily to two million listeners throughout North America and other English speaking countries.

A prolific writer, Dr. Robinson wrote more than a dozen books, including his hallmark text *Biblical Preaching*, still used by seminaries and Bible colleges around the world. His articles appeared regularly in *Christianity Today*, *Bibliotheca Sacra*, *Moody Monthly*, *American Lutheran Magazine*, *Leadership and Decision*, and in the *Our Daily Bread* devotional. He also edited the *Christian Medical Society Journal* and the *Theological Annual*, and served on the editorial boards of *Preaching* and *Christianity Today*.

His wife of 66 years, Bonnie, went to be with the Lord on February 24, 2023. His daughter Vicki Hitzges is a motivational speaker. His son Torrey Robinson, Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Tarrytown, NY, is married to Sue and has two sons, Carey (married to Lindsay) and Carl (married to Joanna).

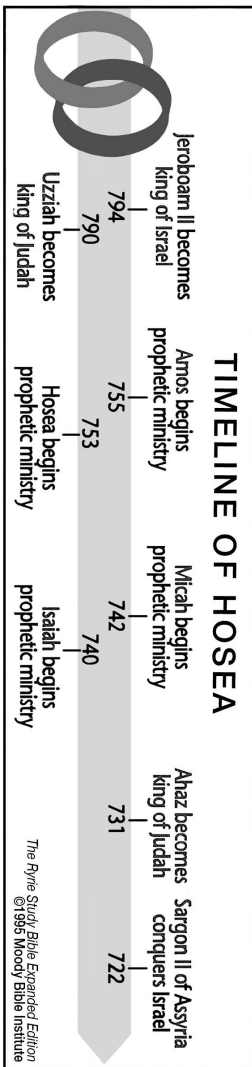


**HOSEA**

Adulterous Wife and Faithful Husband			Adulterous Israel and Faithful Lord			
marriage			message			
Hosea’s prophetic marriage to Gomer	Application of Gomer to Israel	Restoration of Gomer	Israel does not acknowledge God	Israel has no loyal love	Israel has no faithfulness	God’s future restoration of Israel
1:1 2:1	2:2 2:23	3:1 3:5	4:1 5:15	6:1 11:11	11:12 13:16	14:1 14:9

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<p><b>HOSEA</b> served as a prophet to Israel (the northern kingdom) from 753–715 B.C.</p>	<p><i>Climate of the times</i> . . . . . Israel’s last six kings were especially wicked; they promoted heavy taxes, oppression of the poor, idol worship, and total disregard for God. Israel was subjected to Assyria and was forced to pay tribute, which depleted its few remaining resources.</p>
	<p><i>Main message</i>. . . . . The people of Israel had sinned against God, as an adulterous woman sins against her husband. Judgment was sure to come for living in total disregard for God and fellow humans. Israel fell to Assyria in 722 B.C.</p>
	<p><i>Importance of message</i>. . . . . When we sin, we sever our relationship with God, breaking our commitment to him. While all must answer to God for their sins, those who seek God’s forgiveness are spared eternal judgment.</p>
	<p><i>Contemporary prophets</i> . . . . . Jonah (793–753 B.C.), Amos (760–750 B.C.), Micah (742–687 B.C.), Isaiah (740–681 B.C.)</p>
<p><i>The Life Application Study Bible, ©2007 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.</i></p>	



# GOMER

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Gomer was a girl with a reputation. We don't know if she was already a working prostitute or was simply a promiscuous young woman by the time she met Hosea. But she was clearly a high risk for a lasting relationship. She must have been surprised and confused when, instead of propositioning her, Hosea arranged to marry her. By common cultural rule, the decisions were made by Hosea and Diblaim. Gomer may not even have been consulted. Her father was probably eager to remove an embarrassment from his life.

Hosea loved Gomer. Gomer seemed ambivalent toward her husband. Apparently, marriage simply changed the label on Gomer's behavior from promiscuity to adultery. She got pregnant three times, giving birth to two sons and a daughter. Hosea couldn't be sure if the children were his or had been fathered by other men, but he claimed them and named them as God instructed.

God's declarations about Israel overlap Hosea's struggle over Gomer's unfaithfulness. Sometime after the birth of their third child, Gomer became enslaved in prostitution. Hosea had to buy her freedom. He then insisted on her faithfulness.

What did Gomer think and feel during all this? How much did Hosea reveal to her about God's prediction that she would be unfaithful? How did she respond to Hosea's sacrificial faithfulness? We aren't told. After Hosea redeemed her, she isn't mentioned again. Her final appearance in the book leads to hopeful silence. If she responded to Hosea's love, they built a life together.

Probably the closest we come to feeling what Gomer felt are those times when we act unfaithfully toward God yet he continues to faithfully lavish his love on us. Gomer's shameful story turns out to be a thinly veiled version of our story. We know Gomer better than we might think at first, for she was what we are—sinners offered overwhelming grace!

### Strength and accomplishment

- May have traded a shameful past for a faithful future as a result of her husband's sacrificial love

### Weaknesses and mistakes

- Developed a persistent promiscuous lifestyle resistant even to the responsibilities of motherhood
- Sold herself into sexual slavery

### Lessons from her life

- Unfaithfulness damages our integrity but does not prevent someone else from loving us in spite of our failure
- God is committed to loving us even though he knows our waywardness and bent toward sin

### Vital statistics

- Where: Israel
- Occupation: Wife, prostitute
- Relatives: Husband: Hosea. Father: Diblaim. Sons: Jezreel (God plants), Lo-ammi (Not my people). Daughter: Lo-ruhamah (Not loved).

### Key verse

"When the LORD first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, he said to him, 'Go and marry a prostitute, so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution. This will illustrate how Israel has acted like a prostitute by turning against the LORD and worshiping other gods'" (Hosea 1:2).

## HOSEA

### PERSONAL

#### The Agony of an Unfaithful Mate

Marriage

Children

Separation

Reunion

CHAPTERS 1-3

### NATIONAL

#### The Tragedy of an Unfaithful People

Series of sermons declaring the sin of the people and the character of God

Model of the message as Hosea remains true to his wife in spite of her infidelity

CHAPTERS 4-14

Adulterous wife yet faithful husband

Adulterous nation yet faithful God

God: "Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry." (1:2)

God: "Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress." (3:1)

Nation is guilty.

Nation needs judgment.

Nation has hope.

God is holy.

God is just.

God is love.

### Theme

God's faithful love toward His unfaithful people

### Key Verses

2:19-20; 3:1; 11:1-12

### Christ in Hosea

Christ's being "called out" from hiding in Egypt as a child is pictured in Hosea's record of Israel's exodus from Egypt (11:1; see also Matthew 2:15). In Hosea's redemption of Gomer from the slave market, Christ is pictured as the loving, faithful Redeemer of sinful humanity.

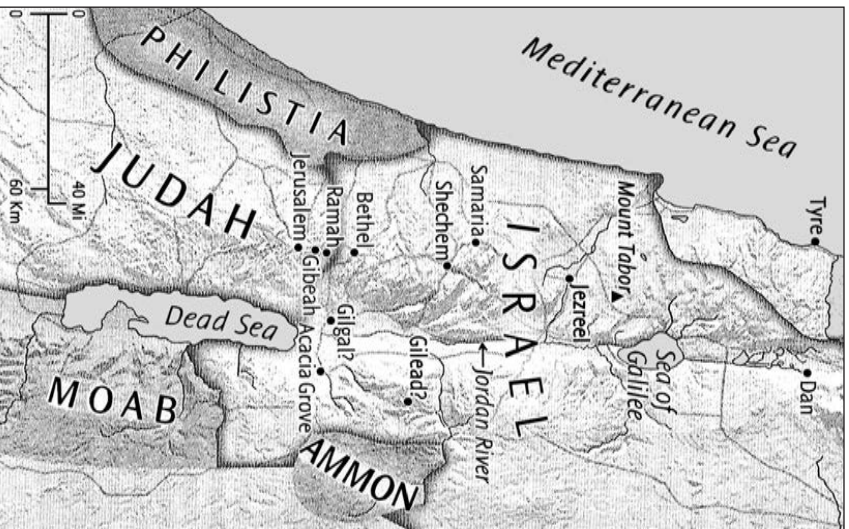
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## Israel's Apostasy and Hosea's Marriage

The stages of Israel's relationship with God are depicted in the prophecies of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, as well as in Hosea's relationship with Gomer.

Stage	Israel's Prophets	Hosea's Marriage
Betrothal	Jeremiah 2:2	Hosea 1:2
Marriage	Ezekiel 16:8-14	Hosea 1:3
Adultery	Jeremiah 5:7, Ezekiel 16:15-34	Hosea 3:1
Estrangement	Jeremiah 3:8-10; Ezekiel 16:35-52	Hosea 3:3, 4
Restoration	Ezekiel 16:53-63	Hosea 3:5

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### Israel and Judah in Hosea's Early Ministry

About 760-750 B.C. When Hosea began his ministry, Jeroboam II was king of Israel. His long reign (793-753 B.C.) brought to the northern kingdom a period of great prosperity, stability and peace. However, Hosea warned that judgment was soon to come, as it did following Jeroboam's death.

- ACACIA GROVE 5:2
- BETHEL 10:15; 12:4
- GIBEATH, RAMAH 5:8; 9:9; 10:9
- GILEAD 6:8; 12:11
- GILGAL 4:15; 9:15; 12:11
- JEREEL 1:4-5; 1:11; 2:22
- MOUNT TABOR 5:1
- SAMARIA 7:1-7; 8:5-6; 10:5-8; 13:16
- SHECHEM 6:9
- TYRE 9:13

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## Hosea 11:1 and Matthew 2:15

While Hosea 11:1 clearly points to the time of the Exodus, some see in these verses a veiled prophecy of Christ's flight to Egypt as a young baby. This is because Matthew quoted this verse in Matthew 2:15. But God's call of His "son" Israel out of Egypt in Hosea 11 is clearly historical, not prophetic. Hosea was looking back seven hundred years to the first Exodus from Egypt, not to Christ's return from Egypt following the death of Herod. How then was Matthew using Hosea 11:1? Matthew wrote to the Jews, and much of his Gospel was devoted to proving to his Jewish readers that Jesus Christ is indeed their Messiah. In the first part of the book Matthew drew a series of parallels between Jesus and the nation Israel. In effect, Matthew sought to prove that Jesus is the Messiah because He is the embodiment of all that Israel as God's "son" should have been. Jesus succeeded where the nation as a whole had failed. The parallels can be charted as

### Israel's History

Israel was called from Egypt as a "child" (Hos. 11:1).

Israel was "baptized" as a nation in the Red Sea (Exod. 14; 1 Cor. 10:1-2).

Israel went into the wilderness where she was tempted for forty years (Exod.-Num.).

Israel went to Mount Sinai to receive God's Law (Exod. 19-20).

### Point of Contrast

Israel was a disobedient child; Christ was not (Hos. 11:2-5).

Israel disobeyed God within three days after the Red Sea baptism (Exod. 15:22-26); Christ was "my Son, whom I love; with whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17).

Israel failed her temptations and incurred God's wrath; Christ successfully passed every temptation.

Israel broke God's Law before Moses could carry the tablets down from the mountain (Exod. 32); Christ said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them" (Matt. 5:17).

### Point of Comparison: Christ's Life

Christ was called from Egypt as a child (Matt. 2:15).

Christ was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River (Matt. 3).

Christ went into the wilderness where He was tempted for forty days (Matt. 4:1-10).

Christ "went up on a mountain" and explained the Law (Matt. 5-7).