

The Marriage of Hosea

Lesson 4

Hosea 1-3

During the 41-year reign of King Jeroboam II, the northern kingdom had returned to the glory days they had not seen since the time of King Solomon. His military strength had extended their northern border into Aram (also called Syria) and once again they controlled the trade routes. He was politically powerful and the kingdom experienced peace and prosperity. But while the nation was prospering economically, they were on a spiritual decline. Israel had so many gods and so many shrines it was impossible to tell which god was the god of Israel.

It was into that setting that Hosea (whose name means “Salvation”) was sent with the Lord’s threefold message: The Lord hates sin; judgment is certain; but the Lord’s love stands firm. Hosea 1:1 states that Hosea is the son of Beerai but no other information can be found in scripture regarding either Hosea or his father. The most important information given is the time in history he prophesied. Though Hosea was sent to Israel, both the kings of Israel and Judah are named.

1. Who were the kings of:
 - Israel:

 - Judah:

Amos had already been sent with the Lord’s message of judgment to Bethel, but his message made no impact upon the nation. In Hosea, the Lord sent a different type of prophet, one whose very life would become a living parable to Israel. In this life parable of marriage, Hosea represented the Lord as the husband and Hosea’s wife represented Israel.

2. Who was Hosea told to marry and why? (vs. 1:2)

3. Hosea’s wife gave birth to three children. The name of each child was significant to the Lord’s message. What was He saying to Israel through the name of:
 - Jezreel (vs. 1:4, 5)
(meaning “God sows”)

 - Lo-Ruhamah (vs. 1:6)
(meaning “without compassion”)

 - Lo-Ammi (vs. 1:9)
(meaning “not my people”)

4. Using this living parable of Hosea's family, how do you think the Lord viewed His relationship with Israel?

5. After the Lord made His point on how Israel was "behaving," what hope does He give? (vs. 1:10-2:1)

The Adultery - Chapter 2

6. Who is Hosea speaking to in Hosea 2:2a?

7. What is he asking and why? (vs. 2)

8. Keeping in mind this is a parable of Israel, what do you think is the implication of verse 3?

9. What is said about the children? (vs. 4, 5)

10. What does he intend to do about his unfaithful wife? (vs. 6, 7a)

11. By doing this, what does he hope to gain? (vs. 7b)

12. From Hosea 2:8, what other problem in the relationship does he point out?

13. What does he say he will do because of that? (vs. 9-12)

14. In verse 13 the Lord makes a declaration to punish her. Why does he say he is about to do this?

15. Having said all those harsh words and given his judgment; what does he say he intends to do? (vs. 14, 15)

- 16. And what will be the outcome of that? (vs. 16, 17)

- 17. The Lord said then He would make a covenant. With whom will the covenant be and what will be the result? (vs. 18)

- 18. Using a dictionary, define the word "betroth."

- 19. How long does God say that the betrothed relationship will last? (vs. 19a)

- 20. He then gives five words that will describe that new relationship. Using verses 19 - 20a and a dictionary, make a list of the words and define what each one means.

Word	Definition

- 21. Who does it say will initiate these? (vs. 19, 20a)

- 22. And how will "you" (Israel) respond? (vs. 20b)

- 23. The result of Israel's response in verse 20 will set off a chain reaction. From verses 21 and 22, describe what will take place.

24. The Lord said, "They will respond to Jezreel. I will plant her for myself in the land...." What do you think He is saying? (Go back to Hosea 1:4,5)
25. What else does He say? (vs. 23)

Reconciliation - Chapter 3

26. In the beginning of chapter 2, the Lord had told Hosea to rebuke (reprimand in a sharp way) his unfaithful wife. From Hosea 3:1:
- What are Hosea's new instructions?

 - Why is he told to do this?
27. What did this cost Hosea? (vs. 2)
28. From that information, what do you think had happened to Hosea's wife?
29. What instructions does Hosea give to Gomer? (vs. 3)
30. Before continuing on with what that will mean to Israel, stop and reflect on what had happened to Gomer. Write down your reflection.
31. Remember that this is a time in history of great peace and prosperity. What does the Lord say will happen to this great kingdom? (vs. 4)

