

# HOSEA

Introduction:

## 1. Overview of the Book

Chapter 1 is focused upon Hosea and his marriage to Gomer

God will use the story of Hosea / Gomer / their children to reveal His relationship with Israel

Chapter 2 applies the picture in chapter 1 to God and Israel

The first half of the chapter contains God's judgment of Israel for her unfaithfulness

The second half of the chapter speaks of God's mercy toward Israel

Chapter 3 returns to the story of Hosea and Gomer – Hosea is commanded by God to go buy his adulteress wife out of slavery to be his wife again

Chapters 4-10 contain God's charges against Israel vindicating Him for putting Israel away (4:1)

Chapter 11 reveals God's love for Israel / Ephraim

Chapter 12-13 speak of God's judgment on Israel intent on stopping her from her sinful ways

Chapter 14 focuses upon God's future restoration of Israel

## 2. The Wonder of God's Relationship with Israel

A) Illustrated in the story of Hosea and Gomer

> His marriage, children, and restoration (Hosea 1,3)

B) It is amazing to hear God revealing His heart through such a story?

> We might imagine that He is untouched by feelings and so holy as to not be touched by the sin of His people

But He uses the marriage relationship to reveal His love and frustration

The sins of God's Bride (Hosea 2:1-7)

God's case against His bride is compelling (Hosea 4:1; Jeremiah 2:9-13)

God's intention of pursuing His bride (Hosea 2:14-23; 11:8-11)

God is not a mechanical force who functions under some external hard drive

He is a Person who created man in His image to dwell with them

He is a Lover who redeemed His people to dwell with them

### 3. The Warnings God Gives to His People in order that They Might Repent

A) God isn't obligated to warn Israel

> The terms of the covenant were clear

> The voice of the prophets had been loud and consistent

B) Yet God, for His purposes, calls Hosea to a difficult life – his marriage and his message, in order to give Israel another chance. (Hosea 6:1-3; 10:12; 12:6; 14:1-2)

> Israel didn't repent and God brought the Assyrians to decimate His people and remove them from the land

C) Don't ever confuse God's patience with apathy or inability (2 Peter 3:3-9)

> Therefore, take heed of His warnings and prepare for His coming (2 Peter 3:10-14)

### 4. God's Future Plan for Israel

A) You may think that Israel / Ephraim's sin made their covenant with God null and void

> That God finally gave up on them and sent them into captivity

B) If you read this book you can't miss a strand of hope that ties it together

> Illustrated by Hosea's pursuit of Gomer in chapter 3

> Found in clear windows of hope found throughout the book

Hosea 1:10-11; 3:4-5; 13:14; 14:4-9

> God's commitment to Israel goes back to His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

And His commitment to Israel is that He will be glorified through them

It's no wonder then that we find the northern 10 tribes in the book of Revelation (Revelation 7:5-8)

C) It is this unbelievable covenantal love of God that gives us assurance of His love and loyalty to us (John 10:26-30; Romans 8:31-39)