

HOSEA – BE FAITHFUL

HOSEA'S MARRIAGE			HOSEA'S MESSAGE			
CHAPTERS 1-3			CHAPTERS 4-13			CHAPTER 14
Gomer's Unfaithfulness (Prophetic Marriage) (Ho.1)	Gomer's Discipline (Gomer Pictures Israel) (Ho.2)	Gomer's Restoration (Ho.3)	Israel's Sins Portrayed (Ho.4-7)	Israel's Judgment Pronounced (Ho.8-10)	Israel's Restoration Promised (Ho.11-13)	Israel's Ultimate Restoration to God (Ho.14)
PERSONAL TRAGEDY Adulterous wife and a faithful husband. Pictures unfaithful Israel (Gomer) to a faithful loving God (Hosea)			NATIONAL TRANSGRESSION Sermons declaring the sins of the people and the character of God. Israel's ultimate restoration is sure based on God's character.			
"Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms" (Ho.1:2)		"Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress" (Ho.3:1)	GOD'S DESCRIPTION OF ISRAEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "morning cloud" (Ho.6:4) Israel's loyalty quickly evaporates like dew • "cake not turned" (Ho.7:8). Israel's religion was only surface deep (half baked) • "grey hairs" (Ho.7:9). Israel losing her strength, yet unaware • "silly dove" (Ho.7:11). Israel unstable going from one ally to another • "deceitful bow" (Ho.7:16). Israel's unfaithfulness is like a faulty bow 		

Background/Context: The Book of Hosea was written between 755 and 715 B.C.. Hosea started his ministry in a time of prosperity under king Jeroboam II. He preached during a time of national decline of the northern nation of Israel (also called, Ephraim). The nation was rotting away inwardly, and made alliances with foreign nations to protect them instead of trusting God. The nation of Israel turned from Yahweh to worship the Canaanite god of fertility Baal. Israel in 734BC became a puppet nation of the Assyrian Empire (2Ki.15:29). In 722 BC, Israel tried to revolt, but Assyria defeated Samaria (capital of Northern Kingdom). They were deported and went into captivity (2Ki.17:1-6; 18:10-12). Hosea lived to see Israel taken captive by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. (2Ki.15-17).

Message: What makes Hosea so powerful is the fact that he ministered out of his deep personal and painful emotions. Hosea appreciated God's 'pain' from his unfaithful wife (Israel). He had to live it himself before he could preach it to the people. God told Hosea to marry a woman (Gomer) who would prove to be unfaithful to him. He did this so Hosea could appreciate how the Lord saw his wife's (Israel) unfaithfulness to Him. Hosea experienced real heartbreak from his unfaithful wife, not only as an adulteress, but also as an adulteress turned prostitute. Hosea learned the awfulness of sin from his wife's unfaithfulness. And he learned, in his obedience to God's command to seek out and accept his traitorous wife, God's love in spite of sin.

