

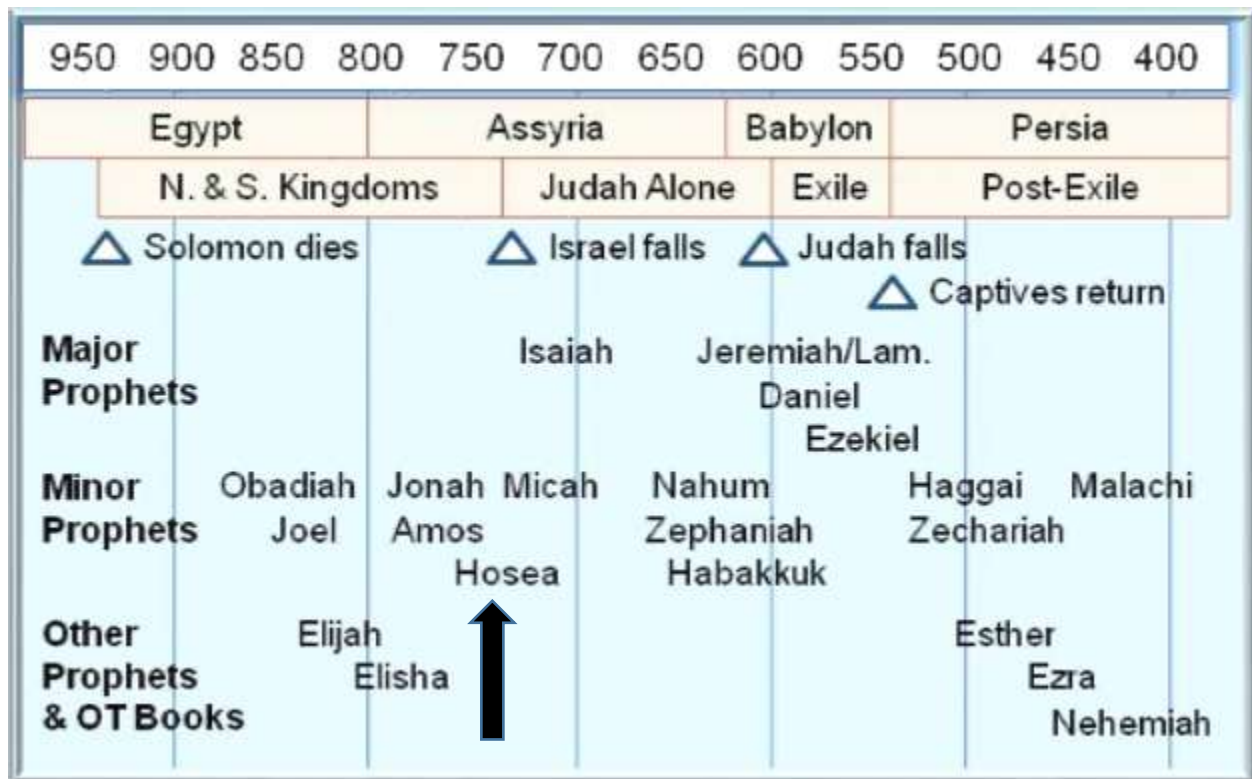
Hosea

Hosea is told to marry a prostitute named Gomer who leaves him, and he must continue to bring her back: a picture of God's relationship with Israel.

Author: Hosea, Hosea and Jonah were the only prophets living in the northern kingdom.

In Hosea – Jesus is the Faithful Spouse

Hosea 6:6 "For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings."



TEACHER: 14 CHAPTERS

Hosea's ministry lasted over the time span of 7 different kings. 5 of them are mentioned in the 1st chapter. His prophesies were delivered just before the Northern Kingdom fell to Assyria. Judah would not fall for over 100 years later. His ministry lasted at least 70 years, and may have lasted for 90 years, as is the Jewish tradition. During the time of this prophesy Israel was prosperous, and complacent. Hosea is ordered by God to marry a prostitute named Gomer, and He is to remain faithful to her. This is intended to visualize to a spiritually numb Israel, God's relationship to Israel.

CH. 1

STUDENT:

²When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the LORD.” ³So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

⁴Then the LORD said to Hosea, “Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel. ⁵In that day I will break Israel’s bow in the Valley of Jezreel.” (NIV)

TEACHER:

They would have 2 more kids. So far so good. It will get worse before it gets better, but God tells them He will redeem them.

STUDENT:

“Call him Lo-Ammi (which means “not my people”), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.

¹⁰“Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘children of the living God.’ ¹¹The people of Judah and the people of Israel will come together; they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel. (NIV)

TEACHER:

Chapters 2-3 captures Hosea’s marriage to his unfaithful wife with Israel relationship with God. We will read excerpts.

CH. 2

STUDENT:

“Rebuke your mother, rebuke her,
for she is not my wife,
and I am not her husband.
Let her remove the adulterous look from her face
and the unfaithfulness from between her breasts.
³Otherwise I will strip her naked
and make her as bare as on the day she was born; (NIV)

TEACHER:

Next he references her temple prostitution.

STUDENT:

Their mother has been unfaithful
and has conceived them in disgrace.
She said, ‘I will go after my lovers,
who give me my food and my water,
my wool and my linen, my olive oil and my drink.’
⁶Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes;
I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way. (NIV)

STUDENT:

⁷ She will chase after her lovers but not catch them;
she will look for them but not find them.
Then she will say,
'I will go back to my husband as at first,
for then I was better off than now.'
⁸ She has not acknowledged that I was the one
who gave her the grain, the new wine and oil,
who lavished on her the silver and gold—
which they used for Baal. (NIV)

TEACHER:

Then God parallels her with Israel.

STUDENT:

"Therefore I will take away my grain when it ripens,
and my new wine when it is ready.
I will take back my wool and my linen,
intended to cover her naked body.
¹⁰ So now I will expose her lewdness
before the eyes of her lovers;
no one will take her out of my hands.
¹¹ I will stop all her celebrations:
her yearly festivals, her New Moons,
her Sabbath days—all her appointed festivals.
¹² I will ruin her vines and her fig trees,
which she said were her pay from her lovers;
I will make them a thicket,
and wild animals will devour them.
¹³ I will punish her for the days
she burned incense to the Baals;
she decked herself with rings and jewelry,
and went after her lovers,
but me she forgot,"
declares the LORD. (NIV)

TEACHER:

The reunion of God and Israel.

STUDENT:

“In that day I will respond,”
declares the LORD—
“I will respond to the skies,
and they will respond to the earth;
²² and the earth will respond to the grain,
the new wine and the olive oil,
and they will respond to Jezreel.
²³ I will plant her for myself in the land;
I will show my love to the one I called ‘Not my loved one.’
I will say to those called ‘Not my people,’ ‘You are my people’;
and they will say, ‘You are my God.’” (NIV)

TEACHER:

God commands Hosea to reconcile with Gomer, and He buys her back.

CH. 3

STUDENT:

The LORD said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.”

² So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. ³ Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.”

⁴ For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. ⁵ Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days. (NIV)

TEACHER:

After Hosea buys back his wife, God charges Israel.

CH. 4

STUDENT:

Hear the word of the LORD, you Israelites,
because the LORD has a charge to bring
against you who live in the land:
“There is no faithfulness, no love,
no acknowledgment of God in the land.
² There is only cursing lying and murder,
stealing and adultery;
they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.
⁶ my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. (NIV)

TEACHER:

The punishment for their sin is passed onto their children, and God will allow them to drown in that sin.

STUDENT:

"I will not punish your daughters
when they turn to prostitution,
nor your daughters-in-law
when they commit adultery,
because the men themselves consort with harlots
and sacrifice with shrine prostitutes—
a people without understanding will come to ruin!
¹⁵ "Though you, Israel, commit adultery,
do not let Judah become guilty.
And do not swear, 'As surely as the LORD lives!'
¹⁶ The Israelites are stubborn,
like a stubborn heifer.
How then can the LORD pasture them
like lambs in a meadow?
¹⁷ Ephraim is joined to idols;
leave him alone!
¹⁸ Even when their drinks are gone,
they continue their prostitution;
their rulers dearly love shameful ways.
¹⁹ A whirlwind will sweep them away,
and their sacrifices will bring them shame. (NIV)

TEACHER:

As we read the continuing judgement on the northern tribes, be advised that Ephraim was the largest of the 12 tribes, and the northern tribes are often called Ephraim, just as in the lower kingdom is often called Judah, whereas it is actually the 2 tribes of Judah and Benjamin.

STUDENT:

CH. 5

"Hear this, you priests!
Pay attention, you Israelites!
Listen, royal house!
This judgment is against you:
You have been a snare at Mizpah, a net spread out on Tabor.
² The rebels are knee-deep in slaughter.
I will discipline all of them.
³ I know all about Ephraim; Israel is not hidden from me.
Ephraim, you have now turned to prostitution; Israel is corrupt.
⁴ "Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God.
A spirit of prostitution is in their heart;
they do not acknowledge the LORD.
⁵ Israel's arrogance testifies against them;
the Israelites, even Ephraim, stumble in their sin;
Judah also stumbles with them. (NIV)

TEACHER:

Why will God do this? Hardship drives the human race to repentance.

STUDENT:

CH. 6

For I will be like a lion to Ephraim,
like a great lion to Judah.
I will tear them to pieces and go away;
I will carry them off, with no one to rescue them.
¹⁵ Then I will return to my lair
until they have borne their guilt
and seek my face—
in their misery
they will earnestly seek me.” (NIV)

TEACHER:

God drives the point home all the way back to the Garden of Eden.

STUDENT:

For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,
and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.
⁷ As at Adam, they have broken the covenant;
they were unfaithful to me there.
“Also for you, Judah,
a harvest is appointed. (NIV)

TEACHER:

A new charge in chapter 7 to add to the list. Insolence.

in·so·lence

/ˈɪnsələns/

noun

1. insultingly contemptuous in speech or conduct : overbearing. 2: exhibiting boldness or effrontery: impudent. Rude and disrespectful behavior.

CH. 7

STUDENT:

I trained them and strengthened their arms, but they plot evil against me.
¹⁶ They do not turn to the Most High;
they are like a faulty bow.
Their leaders will fall by the sword because of their insolent words.
For this they will be ridiculed
in the land of Egypt. (NIV)

TEACHER:

Chapter 8 switches from worshipping false gods, to worshipping God falsely.

CH. 8

STUDENT:

“Though Ephraim built many altars for sin offerings,
these have become altars for sinning.
¹² I wrote for them the many things of my law,
but they regarded them as something foreign.
¹³ Though they offer sacrifices as gifts to me,
and though they eat the meat,
the LORD is not pleased with them.
Now he will remember their wickedness
and punish their sins:
They will return to Egypt.
¹⁴ Israel has forgotten their Maker
and built palaces;
Judah has fortified many towns.
But I will send fire on their cities
that will consume their fortresses.” (NIV)

TEACHER:

The Lord seems to condemn the sin tax that is so popular in America in chapter 9.

CH. 9

STUDENT:

Do not rejoice, Israel;
do not be jubilant like the other nations.
For you have been unfaithful to your God;
you love the wages of a prostitute
at every threshing floor.
² Threshing floors and winepresses will not feed the people;
the new wine will fail them.
³ They will not remain in the LORD’s land;
Ephraim will return to Egypt
and eat unclean food in Assyria.
⁴ They will not pour out wine offerings to the LORD,
nor will their sacrifices please him.
Such sacrifices will be to them like the bread of mourners;
all who eat them will be unclean.
This food will be for themselves;
it will not come into the temple of the LORD. (NIV)

TEACHERS:

The specifics of the coming judgements start to appear. The captivity will be from Assyria.

STUDENT:

CH. 10

The people who live in Samaria fear
for the calf-idol of Beth Aven,
Its people will mourn over it,
and so will its idolatrous priests,
those who had rejoiced over its splendor,
because it is taken from them into exile.
⁶ It will be carried to Assyria
as tribute for the great king.
Ephraim will be disgraced;
Israel will be ashamed of its foreign alliances.
⁷ Samaria's king will be destroyed,
swept away like a twig on the surface of the waters.
⁸ The high places of wickedness will be destroyed—
it is the sin of Israel.
Thorns and thistles will grow up
and cover their altars.
Then they will say to the mountains, "Cover us!"
and to the hills, "Fall on us!" (NIV)

TEACHER:

Chapter 11 after 10 chapters of judgement, we see the broken heart of God.

STUDENT:

CH. 11

"When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.
² But the more they were called,
the more they went away from me.
They sacrificed to the Baals
and they burned incense to images.
³ It was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
taking them by the arms;
but they did not realize
it was I who healed them.
⁴ I led them with cords of human kindness,
with ties of love.
To them I was like one who lifts
a little child to the cheek,
and I bent down to feed them. (NIV)

TEACHER:

He continues, making clear His love lasts longer than His anger.

STUDENT:

“How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, Israel?
How can I treat you like Admah?
How can I make you like Zeboyim?
My heart is changed within me;
all my compassion is aroused.
⁹ I will not carry out my fierce anger,
nor will I devastate Ephraim again.
For I am God, and not a man—
the Holy One among you.
I will not come against their cities.
¹⁰ They will follow the LORD;
he will roar like a lion.
When he roars,
his children will come trembling from the west.
¹¹ They will come from Egypt,
trembling like sparrows,
from Assyria, fluttering like doves.
I will settle them in their homes,”
declares the LORD. (NIV)

TEACHER:

God shows them how their opulence is a stumbling block for them. Thinking wealth is Godliness. He reminds them of their humble beginnings.

CH. 12

STUDENT:

The merchant uses dishonest scales
and loves to defraud.
⁸ Ephraim boasts,
“I am very rich; I have become wealthy.
With all my wealth they will not find in me
any iniquity or sin.”
⁹ “I have been the LORD your God
ever since you came out of Egypt;
I will make you live in tents again,
as in the days of your appointed festivals.
¹⁰ I spoke to the prophets,
gave them many visions
and told parables through them.” (NIV)

TEACHER:

God demands His place in Israel’s heart.

CH. 13

STUDENT:

⁴But I have been the LORD your God
ever since you came out of Egypt.
You shall acknowledge no God but me,
no Savior except me.
⁵I cared for you in the wilderness,
in the land of burning heat.
⁶When I fed them, they were satisfied;
when they were satisfied, they became proud;
then they forgot me.
⁷So I will be like a lion to them,
like a leopard I will lurk by the path.
⁸Like a bear robbed of her cubs,
I will attack them and rip them open;
like a lion I will devour them—
a wild animal will tear them apart. (NIV)

TEACHER:

The prophecy next reveals life after death.

STUDENT:

“I will deliver this people from the power of the grave;
I will redeem them from death.
Where, O death, are your plagues?
Where, O grave, is your destruction? (NIV)

TEACHER:

In closing, God calls Israel, and us I believe, to repentance. And not just that we should repent, but that He will forgive us. Praise the Lord.

CH. 14

STUDENT:

Return, Israel, to the LORD your God. Your sins have been your downfall!
²Take words with you and return to the LORD.
Say to him: “Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously,
that we may offer the fruit of our lips ³Assyria cannot save us; we will not mount warhorses.
We will never again say ‘Our gods’ to what our own hands have made,
for in you the fatherless find compassion.”
⁴“I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them.
Who is wise? Let them realize these things.
Who is discerning? Let them understand.
The ways of the LORD are right;
the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them. (NIV)

NEXT LESSON JOEL

*"Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and
you will reap a crop of my love; plow the
hard ground of your hearts, for now is the
time to seek the Lord, that he may come and
shower salvation upon you."*

Hosea 10:12

THE MINOR PROPHETS

H A B A K K U K H I O H W K O
C I M F H H Y A V T B A E N D
A C W O A A I M B O A C Z B I
P L H G S R N A A P D I H E E
B N G Y A U J O G L I M D H Z
J A G H V Y Y A J D A R J O N
I Q C E C F H X S S H C T I R
M E V I Z R A I A X M M H B N
Z T N K G E I I Y Z L M O A I
A E S O H V N Z U I U X S D I
F T B Y L E A K W H R R S C Y
L C W Z J E H G A G S G E M G
X P H U V G P N F S A B V X X
J O E L O I E U B T A Z Z Z Q
O F L Z J P Z K B S Y F D E V

AMOS
HABAKKUK
HAGGAI
HOSEA
JOEL
JONAH
MALACHAI
MICAH
NAHUM
OBADIAH
ZECHARIAH
ZEPHANIAH



Wrong Gomer,
Shazaam!

