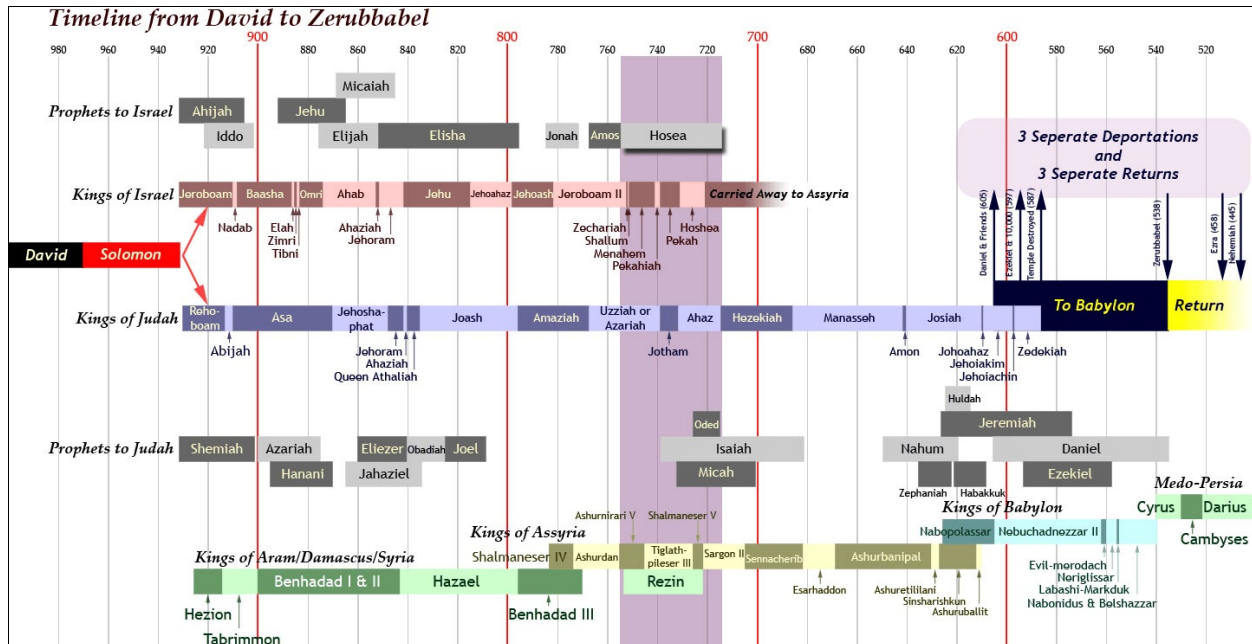


I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The man Hosea¹
1. His name means Salvation
 2. He is the son of Beeri (Hos 1:1), but we know nothing about this man.
 3. He belonged to the kingdom of Israel
 - a. His Israelitish origin is attested by the peculiar, rough, Aramaizing diction, pointing to the northern part of Palestine
 - b. Also by the intimate acquaintance he evinces with the localities of Ephraim (see Hos 5:1, Hos 6:8,9, Hos 12:12)
 - c. Also by passages like Hos 1:2 where the kingdom is styled 'the land', and Hos 7:5 where the king is designated as 'our' king.
 4. The period of his ministry (extending to some sixty years) is indicated in the superscription Hos 1:1,2
 5. He is the only prophet of Israel who has left any written prophecy
- B. The audience
1. He writes to the Northern Kingdom, also known as Israel, the Ten Northern Tribes, and a part of which is Ephraim.
 2. He refers to Judah about a dozen times, most frequently in Chapter 5.
- C. The situation
1. Israel, under Jeroboam (son of Joash) was at the zenith of its power.
 2. Contemporary prophets (with Hosea) would have been:
 - a. Amos
 - b. Isaiah
 - c. Micah
 3. Worldwide
 - a. Rome and Carthage were founded during Hosea's days
 - b. Gautama, in India, instituted a religious reformation which resulted in Buddhism.
- D. The date – Hosea wrote during the time just prior to the Northern captivity which began in 722 B.C. The span of his writing included Jeroboam, whose reign ended in about 750 B.C. It is suspected that Hosea started prophesying in about 760 B.C.
- E. The primary message is that Israel will be destroyed because of its sin.
- F. The theme or lesson – Judgement of Israel for its refusal to return to the LORD
- G. Famous illustrations
1. Hosea is commanded to marry a woman who is a prostitute (1:2)
 2. Chapter 7 includes the illustration of the baker, and the unturned cake



¹ Easton's Bible Dictionary



- H. Scenes
 1. Chapter 1 to 3 – Israel’s unfaithfulness
 2. Chapter 4 to 10 – Israel’s National sin and chastening
 3. Chapter 11 to 14 – Israel’s birth, death, and hope of resurrection and restoration
- I. Terms and words
 1. Israel - this is not the twelve tribes, but the ten northern tribes that divided with Jeroboam in about 935 B.C. after Solomon’s death.
 2. Ephraim - the descendants of the second son of Joseph, and the region to the farthest South in the Northern Kingdom.
 3. Jezreel - the valley North of Megiddo, and a place of slaughter in battle. It is also a town in the region of Issachar. It was the location of Naboth’s vineyard which was seized by Ahab
 4. Judah - the two southern tribes of Benjamin and Judah.
 5. Samaria – a reference to the ten Northern tribes
- J. Messianic prophecy
 1. Ho 11:1 When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

II. THE ILLUSTRATIVE IMMORAL FAMILY OF HOSEA (Chapter 1 & 3)

- A. The Family members (chapter one)
 1. HIS WIFE: In chapter one, Hosea begins with God’s command that he marry a woman who sold herself for money. (Hosea 1:2)
 - a. Gomer is a picture of Israel, which the LORD took to himself but who sold herself to anyone and anything that pleased her.
 - b. Gomer’s name means “complete.”
 - c. Gomer has no character or morals, as with Israel.
 - d. Hosea would have experienced shame at being married to such a woman, as the LORD was ashamed of Israel.
 2. HIS SON: He had a son who God named “Jezreel” because God planned to avenge the sins of Jehu and sins of Israel

The Book of Hosea					
Focus	Harlotry & Hope in Hosea's Day				
Divisions	Moral Sins of Gomer	National Sins of Israel	International Sins of Israel	Promise of Israel's Ruin	Promise of Israel's Renewal
	1 3	4 6	7 8 9	11	12 14
Topics	Physical Adultery	Spiritual Adultery			
	Personal Tragedy	National Transgression			
Place	The Northern Kingdom of Israel				
Time	About 45 Years (755-710 B.C.)				
Author	The Prophet Hosea				

3. HIS DAUGHTER: Her name is "not pitied" (Loruhamah) - regarding God's refusal to pity Israel
4. HIS OTHER SON: Loammi - meaning, "not my people" - referring to Israel

- B. The plea and warning (chapter 2)
 1. Call for repentance (2:2) – "put away"
 2. Consequences of rejection (2:6-13)
 3. Covenant of a return (14-23)
 - a. She will call me "husband" (Ishi) (16)
 - b. Promise of a return (2:23)
- C. The prophet's wife is obtained (chapter 3)
 1. The purchase of a common slave (3:2)
 2. Prophecy of Israel set aside (3:4-5)

III. THE NATIONAL SINS OF ISRAEL – GOD'S CONTROVERSY (Chapter 4, 5, 6)

- A. The sins declared (chapter 4)
 1. Rejecting knowledge (4:6)
 2. Idolatry (4:12-13)
 3. Sliding back (4:16)
- B. The judgment foreseen (Chapter 5)
 1. Invasion (8)
 2. Desolation (9)
 3. God's chastening (12)
- C. The frustration of the LORD (Chapter 6)
 1. A picture of what repentance looks like (6:1-3)
 2. The frustration expressed (6:4) – "What shall I do?"

- a. God desires to be merciful (6)
3. It is not God's desire to destroy, but there is no other path left available.

IV. THE ILLUSTRATIONS OF EPHRAIM'S SIN (Chapter 7)

- A. Unrepentant: They are hot towards (ready to) sin like a baker's oven (4)
- B. Inconsistent: "Ephraim is a cake not turned" (7:8)
 1. Two sides - two faced
 2. Forgotten (as when a cook forgets to turn the cake)
 3. Inedible: Burned on one side - raw on the other
- C. Flighty: "Ephraim is a silly dove" – fluttering this way and that (11)

V. THE PROPHETIC VIEW OF ISRAEL'S JUDGMENT (Chapter 8, 9, 10)

- A. The Assyrian is seen ("He shall come" - 8:1)
- B. Israel will call for help and claim to know God (2)
- C. They will be swallowed up (8) by Assyria (9)
- D. Dark days are ahead (9:1); captivity awaits (9:3)
- E. Ephraim's glory will fly away (9:11)
- F. They will wander among the nations (9:17)
 1. The ten Northern tribes never returned in mass like those from Babylon
- G. Judgment elaborated upon (Chapter 10)

VI. BIRTH, DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION (Chapters 11-14)

- A. God remembers Israel as a child is remembered (11:1-4)
- B. A sad lament of a loving God
 1. (How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? how shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? how shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together." (11:8)
 - a. Admah was a city destroyed with Sodom and Gomorrah
 - b. Zeboim was also
- C. Ephraim is doomed - will die (12:14)
- D. A vision of restoration begins in Chapter 13, verse 9
 1. Resurrection (13:14)
- E. Backsliding healed (14:4)
- F. Return from Idolatry (14:8)

VII. CONCLUSION

- A. Hosea is the last prophet sent to Israel before their captivity and destruction
- B. His message is a detail of their sins, a call for repentance, a remarkable display of the heart of God, and a promise of restoration in the later days.
- C. The conclusion that Israel will not repent is evident, and much time is spent describing the LORD's frustration and decision to judge Israel.
- D. While many sins are evident, idolatry looms large.
- E. At the conclusion of the book, the LORD describes the restoration of Israel in no uncertain terms.

ILLUSTRATIONS & FIGURES OF SIN IN HOSEA

• An adulterous wife.	3:1
• A wine-inflamed drunkard.	4:11
• A backsliding heifer.	4:16
• A troop of robbers.	6:9
• A hot oven.	7:7
• An unturned cake.	7:8
• A silly dove.	7:11
• A wild ass.	8:9

H O M E W O R K

Name: _____

1. Give two reasons that we believe that Hosea was a citizen of the Northern Kingdom.
 - a.
 - b.
2. What other prophets lived and served during the time of Hosea's prophecy?
3. What is "Ephraim" and where is it located?
4. What is the approximate date of the writing of Hosea, and how do we know?
5. Where is Jezreel, and what is its historical significance in the Bible?
6. Who was Jehu?
7. How does Hosea's family picture the LORD's relationship with Israel? List three ways:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
8. What sin of Ephraim will cease according to Hosea 14:8?
9. Summarize the book of Hosea in one brief statement, in your own words.