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# Hosea

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## Author

Hosea was an 8th century BC prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel. His ministry lasted more than 35 years. He had no formal training to be a prophet. He was a contemporary of Amos, Isaiah, and Micah.

The name Hosea means salvation.

## Book Background and History

The book of Hosea is the first of 12 “Minor Prophets.” During the time portrayed in Hosea, Rome and Carthage were founded.

2Kings 15-17 describes the period of Hosea. Sin was rampant. Jeroboam II was casting a dark cloud over Israel. When he died, there were six kings in quick succession. Four of them were assassinated. About midway in Hosea’s ministry, Assyria carried away a large part of Israel.

## Theme

Hosea called the northern kingdom of Israel to return to God in the face of imminent judgment ([Hos 6:1](#), [Hos 7:10](#), [Hos 12:6](#), [Hos 14:1](#)).

Themes include:

- rebellion and sin
- covenant and redemption
- The Lord is a jealous God.
- judgment vs. restoration

## Key Verse

*Hosea 2:20 I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, And you shall know the Lord. (NKJV)*

## Outline

<a href="#">Hos 1-3</a> unfaithful wife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hosea takes an unfaithful wife, Gomer</li><li>• initial judgment against Gomer, then promise of restoration</li><li>• judgment, restoration</li></ul>
<a href="#">Hos 4-14</a> unfaithful nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• God is Holy. He will not tolerate sin.</li><li>• God is Just. He will punish.</li><li>• God is Love. He shall restore.</li></ul>

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## Personal Reflection and Application

Compared to our Savior, we have no more worth than Hosea’s wife. Christ’s love for us is a case of unmerited favor ([Rom 5:8](#)).

Out of love, God draws Israel toward Him ([Hos 11:4](#)) just as Christ draws us to Him ([John 12:32](#)).

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# Small Group Conversation Guide

Most of us find it difficult to confront others.

According to [Hosea 6:1-3](#):

- When is a good time to confront someone?
- What should be the focus of the conversation when you confront someone?
- What should your goal be in confronting someone?

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## Leadership Principles from Hosea

### Set Your Boundary Stones

Israel used boundary stones to define the borders of a property. In [Hosea 5:10](#), God points out that the leaders of Judah have overstepped their limits by removing a defining landmark.

John Maxwell calls this the Law of Solid Ground. When you step outside the boundaries God sets for you, you are no longer on solid ground. This is like a leader today compromising values. Leaders must establish and keep boundary stones if they want God and others to trust them.

Leader, are you keeping your integrity intact by setting and honoring your boundary stones?

### Clarify and Confront

When team members drift from goals, leaders owe it to them and the mission to clarify and confront. How do you approach confrontation?

For an example of an orderly confrontation method, consider [Hosea 6:1-6](#):

- ▶ Describe the desired behaviors ([Hos 6:1-3](#)).
- ▶ Describe the behaviors that are causing problems ([Hos 6:4-5](#)).
- ▶ Reinforce God's values and priorities ([Hos 6:6](#)).

Think about how you could use this method when you find the need to confront others.

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## Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each chapter.  
Try these:

01. Why God told Hosea to marry a prostitute	02. What God wants for those who are not yet His people
03. What Hosea (picturing God) did for his adulterous wife	04. What three godly qualities were missing in the land
05. Where God's people turned for help instead of God	06. What God desires more than sacrifice and offerings
07. What kinds of sins the people committed against God	08. What Israel did to God their Maker
09. Why Israel should not rejoice as other nations	10. How Israel had two options in sowing and reaping
11. How God had compassion on Israel while they sinned	12. What Israel was supposed to do to return to God
13. How God promised to defeat death and the grave	14. What God told Israel to pray to return to Him