



Hosea

Spiritual Adultery

The Minor Prophets

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28. Hosea

29. Joel

30. Amos

31. Obadiah

32. Jonah

33. Micah

34. Nahum

35. Habakkuk

36. Zephaniah

37. Haggai

38. Zechariah

39. Malachi

Hosea Spiritual Adultery

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- **Hosea** is the first of two writing prophets to come from the northern kingdom. The other is **Jonah**.
- Based on **Hosea 1:1**, his ministry must have lasted **30 years** or longer.

Hosea Spiritual Adultery

- **Hosea** prophesied in the northern kingdom about the same time as **Amos**, another of the **Minor Prophets**.
- **Isaiah** and **Micah** would have spoken to the southern kingdom of Judah about this time.
- Hosea lived to see the fall of Israel, much as **Jeremiah** lived to see the fall of Judah.

Hosea Spiritual Adultery

- The name **Hosea** means **salvation**.
- It is the same name that **Joshua** had before Moses changed it for him (See **Numbers 13:16**).
- **Hosea, Joshua** and **Jesus** all have related names.

Hosea Spiritual Adultery

The two most frequently used words in the book are 'return' and 'know'. These words summarize Hosea's message: 'return to the Lord' and 'know the Lord'. This return must be genuine, for God is not interested in superficial, ceremonial repentance (6:1-6). He desires repentance that leads to a life characterized by integrity of heart, mind and action.

*– Moses Douglas Carew (1956 – 2012)
Africa International University, Kenya*



Hosea Spiritual Adultery

- Hosea makes about **150 statements** against the sins of Israel, and more than half of them deal with **Israel's idolatry**.
- The words “**whore**” and “**whoredom**” appear some **17 times** in the ESV version of the book.

Hosea Spiritual Adultery

- Hosea's life perfectly illustrated his message.
- The book begins by recording God's instructions to the prophet, that he should marry a prostitute named Gomer.
- Despite the name Gomer, there is no record of her ever singing "Back Home Again in Indiana" at the 500.

Hosea Spiritual Adultery

- After having several children, Gomer left Hosea to return to a life of harlotry, and eventually **sold herself into slavery**.
- At that point God called him **to buy her back**, to forgive her and love her despite her unfaithfulness.
- This illustrates **God's love for Israel**, His nation, who left Him to serve idols – the Baals and the golden calves.

Hosea Spiritual Adultery

- Hosea was very qualified to preach a message against unfaithful Israel.
- He knew better than anyone how God felt.
- In the end, however, God gave him a beautiful message for Israel of revival and restoration.

Hosea Spiritual Adultery

The major themes of Hosea's message can be summarized in three words: sin, judgment, and salvation. In exposing Israel's sin, Hosea emphasized its idolatry. He compared Israel's covenant relationship to the Lord with marriage and accused Israel (the Lord's "wife") of spiritual adultery.

*– Robert B. Chisholm,
Dallas Theological Seminary*



Hosea Spiritual Adultery

Though Hosea's prophecy contains some calls to repentance, he did not expect a positive response. Judgment was inescapable.

*– Robert B. Chisholm,
Dallas Theological Seminary*



Hosea Spiritual Adultery

However, the Lord would not abandon Israel totally. Despite its severity, each judgment was disciplinary and was intended to turn Israel back to God. Hosea's own reconciliation with his wayward wife illustrated Israel's ultimate restoration.

*– Robert B. Chisholm,
Dallas Theological Seminary*



Hosea Introduction

- **Chapter 1:** The Story of Hosea's Family
- **Chapter 3:** Hosea Buys His Wife Back
- **Chapter 4:** A Sample of Hosea's Preaching
- **Chapter 14:** A Promise of Restoration

Hosea Conclusions

Hosea Conclusions

- Gomer's sin parallels Israel's rejection of the LORD.
- Israel, however, serves to illustrate all of humanity.
- Our rejection of God parallels Israel's.

Hosea Conclusions

- Then, when we were in bondage to sin, God sent **Jesus**, our “**salvation**” to buy us out of our slavery.
- We don't deserve His faithful love, but Jesus calls us, the church, His “**bride**”.

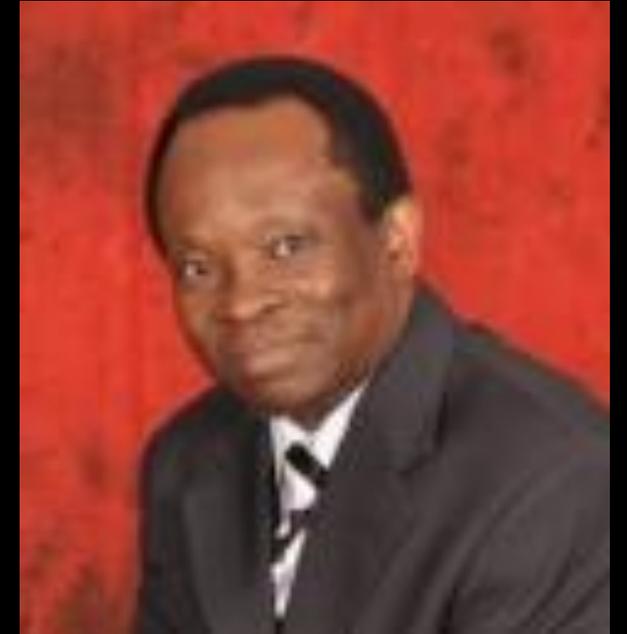
Hosea Conclusions

- Once we are in a **covenant relationship** with God, we need to carefully consider what is required by that covenant.
- What does it truly mean **to know God** – and thus to stay firmly connect to him.

Hosea Conclusions

Knowledge of the Lord is first and foremost relational. It means having an active, vital, healthy and wholesome spiritual relationship with God, knowing God with one's heart. But knowledge of God is not simply an emotional relationship It also has a mental or cognitive dimension, ...

*– Moses Douglas Carew (1956 – 2012)
Africa International University, Kenya*



Hosea Conclusions

... for it involves studying and remembering God's law, as well as remembering the stories and traditions that tell of God's faithfulness in the past. Finally, knowledge of God also results in integrity in one's actions and leads to healthy relationships between people. There is a social and ethical component to knowing God.

*– Moses Douglas Carew (1956 – 2012)
Africa International University, Kenya*



Hosea Conclusions

- Complete faithfulness is required, but for most of us that has not been the complete story of our walk with the Lord.
- Therefore, Hosea's message is reassuring.

Hosea Conclusions

- In the same way that Hosea took back Gomer, we can always be sure that God will receive us back to himself.
- We must also remember that our faithfulness cannot be accomplished without the Holy Spirit's empowering.
- The Christian life is not something we can do on our own.