


Ephraim Is a Senseless Dove:

A Study of Hosea

Quarter 1 2023





Ephraim is like a dove,
silly and without sense,
calling to Egypt, going to Assyria.

Hosea 7:11

Hosea 1:1–2:1

Additional Readings:

1:2 Deut. 9:6–12, 31:26–30

1:4 2 Kings 8:30–37

1:6 Isaiah 49:15

1:7 2 Kings 19:32–35

1:9 Leviticus 26:9

1:10 Genesis 13:16, Isa 10:22

- 1) According to Ezekiel 16:30–34, what makes the whoredom of Israel different from regular prostitution?
- 2) What do the names given to Hosea's children teach us about the nature of God and His relationship with Israel?
- 3) Given the historical context of Hosea, what does the gathering of 1:11 imply must happen first (Isaiah 11:12, Micah 4:6)?
- 4) What does the reversal of the names in 1:10–2:1 teach us about the nature of God and His relationship with Israel?

Key Takeaways

- 5) How was the reunification of Judah and Israel (1:11) accomplished in the Old Testament (2 Chronicles 30, 34:1-10, 1 Chronicles 9:3, Luke 2:36)?

- 6) How is Hosea 1:10 fulfilled in the New Testament (Romans 9:24-27, 1 Peter 1:1, 2:10)?

- 7) Given the New Testament interpretation of 1:10, how should we view the spiritual fulfillment of Hosea 1:11 and other passages like it (Isaiah 11:10-16, Ezekiel 37:15-28, etc)?

Hosea 2-3

Additional Readings:

2:2 Malachi 1:6

2:3 Hosea 8:7

2:5 Hosea 10:1

2:7 Luke 15:17-18

2:8 Ezekiel 16:15-22

2:11 Amos 8:5

2:11, 19 Amos 5:21-24

2:15 Joshua 7:26

2:18 Micah 4:3-4, Leviticus 26:6

- 1) "She is not my wife and I am not her husband" (2:2) is probably a statement of expectation more than a statement of fact (i.e. There is not a divorce taking place. Rather she is not treating Him as she should treat her husband; she is not conducting herself like a married woman). What does that mean for Israel? How can we fall into the same behavior?
- 2) There is a poetic justice to this judgment (2:3). Give another example of God punishing someone with a magnified version of their chosen sin?
- 3) 2:5 and 2:8 show a woeful mis-attribution of blessings. In what ways do we sometimes attribute our wealth and blessings to our idols instead of to God?
- 4) Read Amos 4:6-13, Leviticus 26: 18,21, 23, and Haggai 1:5-7. In what way is Hosea 2:9-13 really a blessing?

Key Takeaways

- 5) Derek Kidner writes of God's wooing in verse 14, "There is a right infatuation as well as a disastrous one, for true love need be no less ravishing than false: only less disappointing." Why does sinful lust feel so much more alluring than our yearning for God? How can we fall more deeply in love with our Lord?

- 6) What does it mean to make the valley of Achor a door of hope (2:15)?

- 7) What does it mean that God will betroth Israel to Himself in faithfulness (2:20)?

- 8) What does it mean that God will betroth Israel to Himself "in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy," (2:19)?

- 9) Who makes the first move in 3:1? What does this teach us about reconciliation and forgiveness in our relationships (Romans 5:6, Mt 18:32-33)?

- 10) What specifically is 3:4-5 prophesying?

Hosea 4–5

Additional Readings:

4:1	Hosea 6:6
4:2	Exodus 20:13–16
4:4–6	Micah 3:11
4:6	Isaiah 5:11–13
4:7	Hosea 10:1
4:9	Isaiah 24:1–3
4:10	Leviticus 26:26
5:5	Amos 6:1–7
5:10	Deut. 27:27, Micah 2:2
5:13	2 Kings 15:16–22

- 1) Who does God primarily blame for the sin in Israel in chapter 4?
- 2) Explain the double meaning of "feeding on the people's sin" in 4:8. Leviticus 6:25–26 might help if you get stuck.
- 3) What does he mean when he says, "their deeds do not permit them to return to their God" (5:4)?
- 4) Why does the "seeking" in 5:6 not satisfy God's request in 5:15?

Hosea 6-7

Recognize that 6:1-3 is not a present, genuine return from Israel. It is either the model return that God hopes for or Israel parroting all the right things with no true repentance.

There is a paragraph break in the middle of 6:11.

Additional Readings:

6:6 Isa 1:14-17, Amos 5:21-24

6:6 Matthew 9:13, 12:7

7:5 Isaiah 5: 22-23, 28:7-8

7:11 2 Kg 15:17, 17:4; Hos. 5:13

7:14 1 Kg 18:28, Micah 6:6-7

- 1) Read Micah 6:6-8 along with Hosea 6:6.
 - a. What methods of appealing to The Lord seem right to us, but are ultimately ineffective?
 - b. What methods of appealing to The Lord seem too simple to us, but are truly what He desires?
- 2) The foreboding message of 7:2 is reversed in other passages (Psalm 32:10, Micah 7:18-20, Jeremiah 31:34, and more). What is present in these other passages that makes God more inclined to forgive and forget?
- 3) Recall that Hosea is prophesying in the final years of Israel. Now read 2 Kings 15:10, 14, 25, 30. How does this explain 7:7?

Key Takeaways

4) A cake not turned (7:8) would be burned on one side and raw on the other. How can our interactions with the world make our church a similarly inedible, inglorious representation of Jesus in our community?

5) The willfully ignorant aging man is like Samson in many ways. How is Judges 16:20 an accurate picture of Israel at this time (Micah 2:6)?

6) In 7:11-12, Hosea describes Israel's rejection of God (7:13-16) with the metaphor of a dove, which is a great picture for pastoral Jews and quite foreign to most of us. Choose a different metaphor to illustrate what Hosea is saying.

7) A treacherous bow (7:16) is worse than useless; it is a hazard to everyone (friend or foe). Give an example of this in the church.

Hosea 8–9

Additional Readings:

8:1 Deuteronomy 28:49

8:2 Matthew 7:22–23

8:7 Hosea 10:13

8:7b Deut. 28:33, Judges 6:4–6

8:8 2 Kings 15:29

8:9 2 Kings 15:19

8:14 Mic.1:13, 5:11, 2 Kg 18:13

9:1–2 Hosea 2:5

9:2 Hosea 2:9

9:3 Deuteronomy 28:68

9:4 Hosea 3:4

9:6b Hosea 10:8

9:9a Judges 19

9:10b Numbers 25

1) Unsanctioned creation is a big theme in chapter 8. List at least 5 things that Israel makes/sets up in chapter 8 that are not from the Lord.

a. Pick one and explain what that looks like in the 21st century.

2) Hosea is clear that Israel will return to Egypt (8:13, 9:3, 9:6). How is this prophecy fulfilled?

Key Takeaways

3) Why is God rejecting the sacrifices in 8:13 and 9:4?

4) The story of Adam and Eve is certainly historical, and yet as Paul makes clear, the fall is a pattern for all sin to follow. How is the story of Hosea 9:10 reminiscent of Genesis 1-3?

5) What does it mean that God will love them no more (9:15)?

Hosea 10–11:11

Additional Readings:

10:1 Hosea 2:8, Deut 8:11–20

10:11b Hosea 4:16

10:12 Hosea 6:1–3, Jer 4:1–5

10:12–13 Hosea 8:7

10:15 Hosea 6:3 (dawn)

11:1 Matthew 2:15

11:2 Hosea 4:7, 10:1

11:3 Deuteronomy 1:31

11:5, 11 Hosea 7:11

11:6 Leviticus 26:31–33

11:7b Hosea 6:4

11:8 Deuteronomy 29:23

11:10–11 Hosea 1:11, 3:5

1) Describe a time you were upset when your idols were taken away (10:5–6). Did you realize at the time how foolish you were being or can you only see it now?

2) What do you think of Jesus' use of Hosea 10:8 in Luke 23:30? What comment is He making about the people of His day?

3) Write about a coming-to-yourself, prodigal son moment where you decided to heed the advice of Hosea 10:12.

Key Takeaways

4) Read Psalm 30:5. How is this concept seen in Hosea 11:5-11?

5) Be prepared to talk about the tenderness and love that is revealed in Hosea 11 so we can all come to a deeper appreciation of what it means to pray to our Heavenly Father.

A vertical rectangular area on the right side of the page, filled with a light brown color and a dark brown border. It contains horizontal lines for writing, corresponding to the 'Key Takeaways' header.

Be aware that 11:12b reads completely differently in the ESV, NKJV, and RSV than it does in the NASB and NIV. The correct interpretation is the subject of much debate.

Hosea 11:12–13:16

Additional Readings:

12:1 Job 15:2

12:8 Deuteronomy 8:17

13:4 Ex 20:2, 2 Kg 17:7–8

13:5 Deuteronomy 8:2–4

13:6 Deuteronomy 8:11–20

13:12 Hosea 7:2

13:13 2 Kg 19:3

13:14 1 Corinthians 15:54

13:16 2 Kings 8:12, 15:16

- 1) In the story of Jacob/Israel, 12:4 is the turning point between strong-armed deceiver and humbled believer. How had the nation of Israel, like their namesake, been attempting to wrestle blessings from God?
 - a. What are they told to hold fast to now (12:6)?
- 2) Given 2:14–15, what is the purpose of God's action in 12:9?
 - a. What are they told to hold fast to now (12:6)?
- 3) Given the context in 12:10–13, and other contemporary statement like 2 Kings 17:13–14, what is the "bitter provocation" mentioned in 12:14?

Key Takeaways

4) At what point in Israel's history would you say the death in 13:1 occurred?

5) Glance back at 2 Kings 14, 15, and 17. What were the kings that were supposed to save Israel (13:10) doing?

6) More than any other single passage, Deuteronomy 8 seems to be in the background of these chapters. What does that chapter teach us? How had Israel failed to learn that lesson?

Hosea 14 & Conclusion

Additional Readings:

14:3 Hosea 2:16, 17, 23

14:7 Psalm 91:1, Lam. 4:20b

14:8 Hosea 11:8

4:8 Hosea 2:8

14:9 1 Cor 1:23, 2 Cor 2:16

- 1) Chapter 14 reverses many of the prior chapters of Hosea. Read Hosea 5:4, 7:10-13, 8:4-10, and 9:15-16. For each of these judgments, note at least one phrase from Hosea 14:1-7 that explicitly reverses it.
 - a. Hosea 5:4
 - b. Hosea 7:10-13
 - c. Hosea 8:4-10
 - d. Hosea 9:15-16

- 2) How is Hosea 14:7-11 a fulfillment of Hosea 2:14-3:5?

Key Takeaways

3) How is Hosea 14:1-7 a fulfillment of Hosea 6:1-3?

4) Hosea 14:9 does not simply conclude this chapter, but the entire book. What are the things that the wise should understand? (the major points from the book of Hosea?)

5) Hosea 11 is one of my favorite chapters in the entire Old Testament. You may not feel that strongly about it, but what verse(s) in Hosea will you take with you after this study? Why?

