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# THE BOOK OF HOSEA: AN AMAZING LOVE STORY

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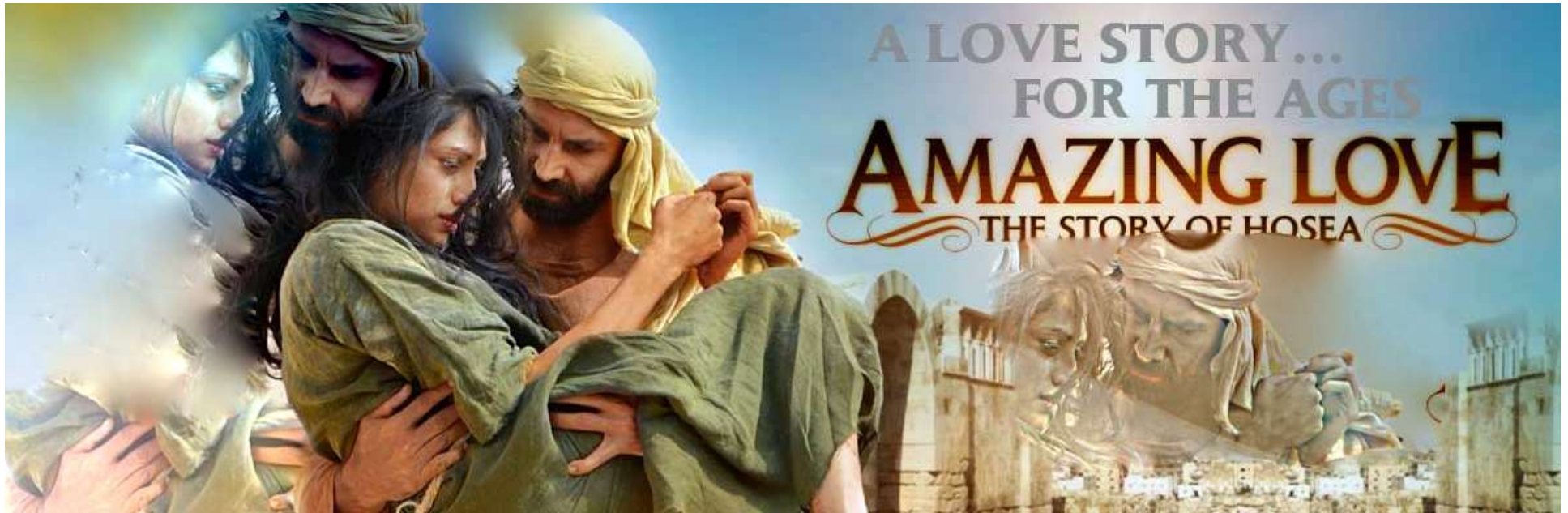
*Unless otherwise noted, all verses cited from the English Standard Version (ESV)*

# United Flight 250: Washington, D.C. to Portland July 26, 2018



**Passenger to Bill Yake: “I’m a teacher of religious studies at Georgetown Prep...”**

**“I’m not really familiar with either with the Old Testament or the Book of Hosea. I’m interested in this. Please tell me about the book and its themes....can you wrap this up in 1 minute?”**



**Class 1:** Marriages of Hosea and Yahweh to Unfaithful Spouses (Hosea 1-3)

**Class 2:** Spiritual and Physical Adultery of Israel (Hosea 4-5)

**Class 3:** Refusal of Israel to Repent of Her Adultery (Hosea 6-7)

**Class 4:** Judgment of Israel by God (Hosea 8-10)

**Class 5:** Restoration of Israel to God (Hosea 11-14)

# Class 1:

Marriage of Hosea to Gomer  
and Marriage of Yahweh to Israel (Hosea 1-3)

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# HOSEA

## Structure

### *Marriage of Hosea to Gomer*

- Faithful Husband and Adulterous Wife
- Prophetic Marriage
- Application of Gomer to Israel
- Restoration of Gomer

### *Marriage of God to Israel*

- Faithful God and Adulterous Israel
- Spiritual Adultery of Israel
- Refusal of Israel to Repent
- Judgment of Israel by God
- Restoration of Israel to God



# What's In A Name?

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*Hosea*

The prophet **Hosea** (Heb. *חֹשֶׁעַ*, Hošēā', 'salvation,' Gr., Ὡσηέ, Ōsēe - see Romans 9:25), whose name is identical with the original name of **Joshua** (Numbers 13:6), and **Hoshea**, the last king of Israel (2 Kings 15:30).

The names *Hosea*, *Joshua*, *Hoshea*, and **Jesus** are all from the same Hebrew root word. "Hosea" translates as "salvation" but "Joshua" and "Jesus" carry an additional idea: "**Yahweh Is Salvation.**"

# The Difficulties of the Book of Hosea

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**“Scarcely any book in the Old Testament is more difficult of exposition than the Book of Hosea....It is his heart that speaks...the sentences fall from him like the sobs of a broken heart.”**

James Robertson, “Hosea” in James Orr, ed., *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1939/1994), Vol. 3, p. 1426.

# The Book of Hosea: The Challenge

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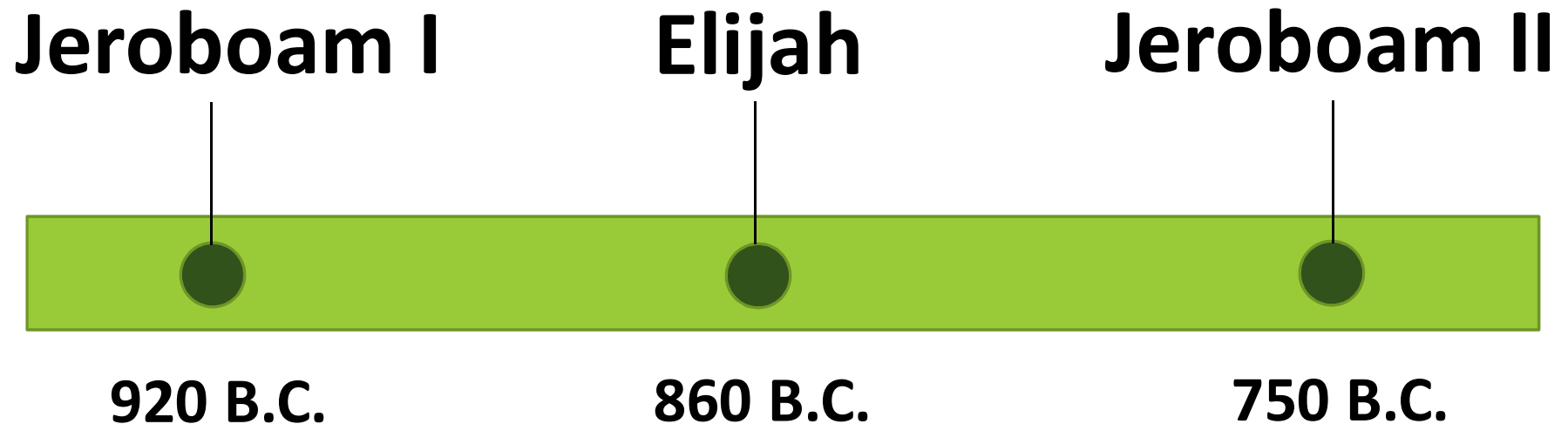
“The book of Hosea is one of the most turgid, confused, difficult parts of the Bible....**Few can pick up the book and read it with much intelligent understanding**, unless they have a **background of knowledge of the man and his times**, against which to set the strangely confused sentences.”

William Pierson Merrill, *Prophets of the Dawn: Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah: The Beginnings of the Religion of the Spirit* (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1927), p. 74.



# Timeline: From Jeroboam I to Jeroboam II

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**“Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.” - 1 Kings 19:18 (NASB)**

Israel's population in 800 B.C. was estimated to be about 450,000.  
<http://bibleissues.atspace.com/israel/finalpop.htm>

# Eighth Century B.C. Prophets

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## Amos

“Yahweh is furious with all of the nations. Everyone will be destroyed.”

## Hosea

“Yahweh has rejected Israel. Judah will get a little more time to repent.”

## Micah

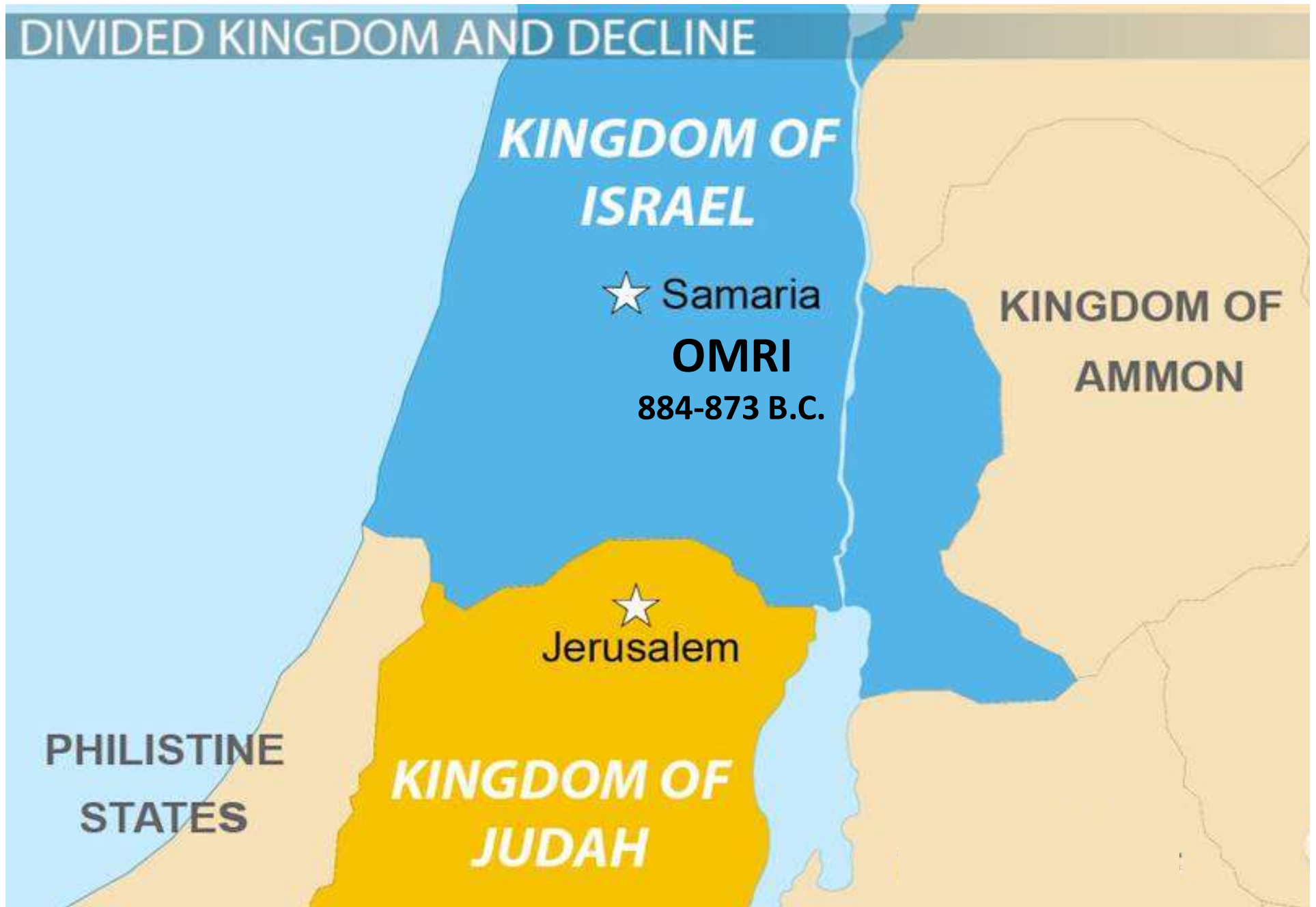
“Both Samaria and Jerusalem are about to be destroyed.”

## Isaiah

“Judah is going to be destroyed. Assyria will be destroyed. A new King will be raised up in Jerusalem.”

***“of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.” - Hebrews 11:38***

## DIVIDED KINGDOM AND DECLINE



# The Book of Hosea: Perspectives

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## Personal

- Hosea 1-3

## Prophetic

- Hosea 4-14

# Gross Darkness During The Time of Prophet Hosea

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**“The time during which Hosea prophesied was the darkest period in the history of the kingdom of Israel....Politically all was anarchy or misrule; kings made their way to the throne through the murder of their predecessors, and made way for their successors through their own...The whole kingdom of Israel was a military despotism...”**



E.B. Pusey, “Introduction to the Minor Prophets, and Chiefly to Hosea” in E.B. Pusey, ed., *Barnes’ Notes: The Minor Prophets: A Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1885/1996), Vol. 8, pp. 10-11.

# Message of 8<sup>th</sup> Century Prophets

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**Amos**

- Focus on justice for the poor, needy, and disenfranchised (e.g., children, widows, orphans, foreigners, poor, etc.)

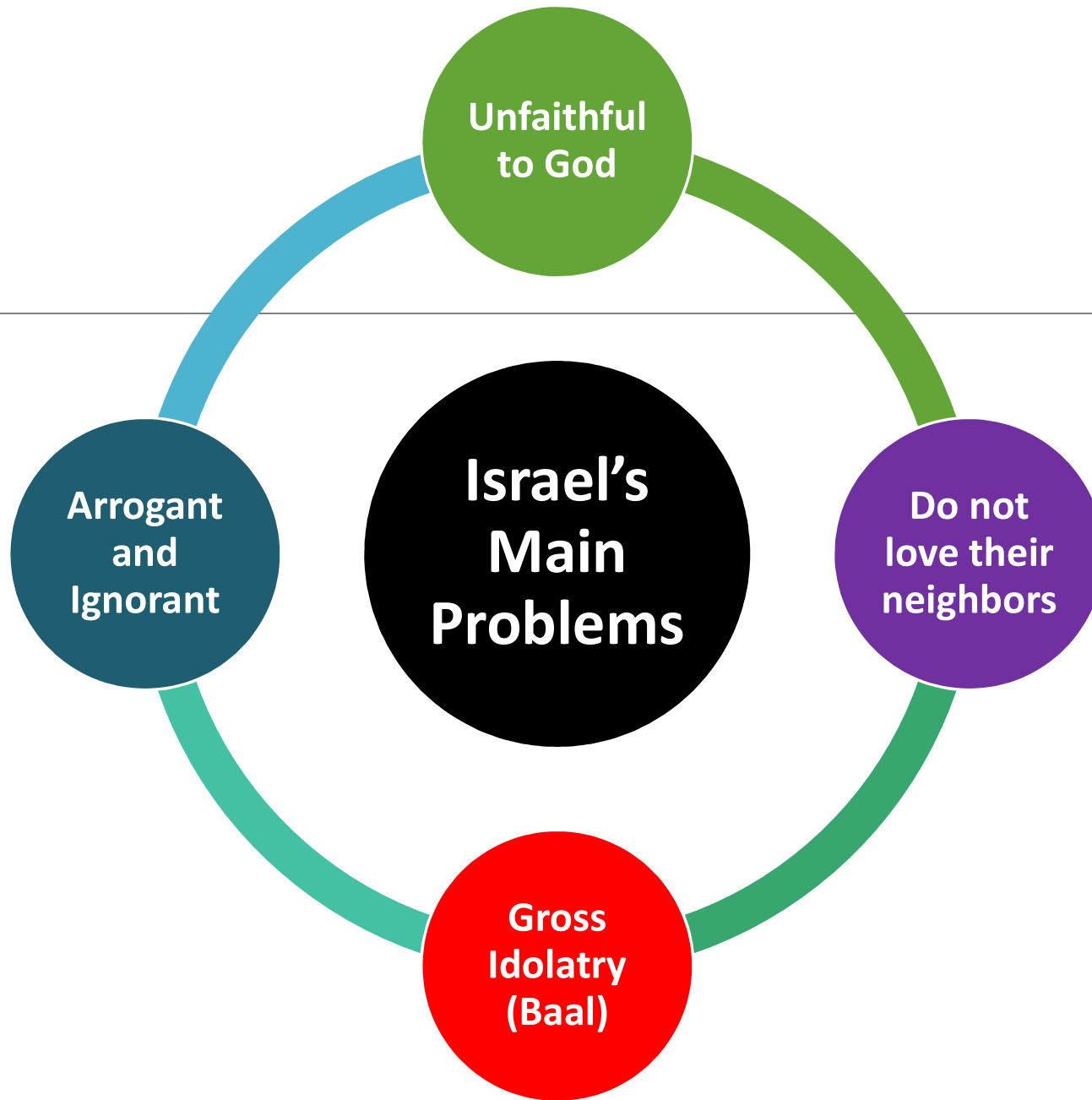
**Hosea**

- Justice is essential, but is also subordinate to mercy
- Focus on faithfulness, love and mercy

# Book of Hosea: Main Themes

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<b>Book of Hosea</b>	<b>The Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 23:23)</b>
<b>a. Love</b>	<b>a. Love</b>
<b>b. Faithfulness</b>	<b>b. Faithfulness</b>
<b>c. Justice</b>	<b>c. Justice</b>
<b>d. Mercy</b>	<b>d. Mercy</b>





# Israel's Worship of Baal

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“They forsook the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them.

**They aroused the LORD's anger because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.”**

- Judges 2:12-13 (NIV)

“He [Ahaziah] served and **worshiped Baal** and aroused the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, just as his father had done.”

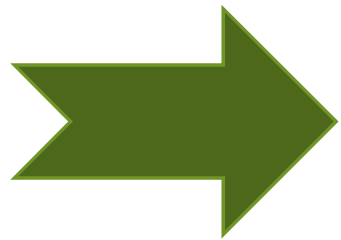
- 1 Kings 22:53 (NIV)

“And Elijah came near to all the people and said, ‘How long will you go limping between two different opinions? **If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.**’ And the people did not answer him a word.”

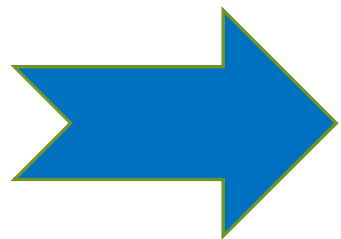
1 Kings 18:21

# Israel in the Eighth Century: Ideas on Safety and Security

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**Israel relied strictly on their military strength and political alliances**



**Prophets exhorted Israel to rely on God and seek first His righteousness**

# Not Unlike Our Own Day



A seal dating to the time of Jeroboam II

“The days of...Jeroboam II [who reigned from about 782 to 741 B.C.] in Israel were marked by **great prosperity**, in fact, the most prosperous for the Northern Kingdom. Israel was at the height of her power under this king. **The period was one of great wealth, luxury, arrogance, carnal security, oppression of the poor, moral decay, and formal worship. The moral declension and spiritual degeneration of the people was appalling.**”



Charles Lee Feinberg, *The Minor Prophets* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1976), p. 86.

See 2 Kings 14:23-29 for detailed account of the reign of Jeroboam II.

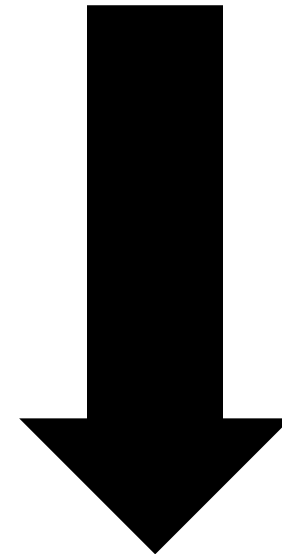
# Between Hosea and Today: The More Things Change the More They Stay the Same

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The parallels between the Israel that Hosea knew and the world in which we live are remarkably close:

- Peace and Prosperity
- Material Affluence
- Moral Decay and Corruption
- Religious Syncretism

**753 B.C.**



**A.D. 2018**

# “It Was The Best of Times, It Was the Worst of Times”



**“It was a situation which in many ways is closely paralleled by the contemporary affluent society of the twentieth century, a society, which like that of Israel, is characterised by selfishness, a lack of moral sense, and a general indifference towards the needs of others... The lesson of Israel needs to be remembered in this day and age.”**

J.K. Howard, *Amos Among The Prophets* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1967), p. 93.

**Politically and economically**, it was **a time of peace and prosperity** under the long and secure reign of Jeroboam II who reigned 41 years, and he significantly “restored the territory of Israel” (2 Kings 14:25).

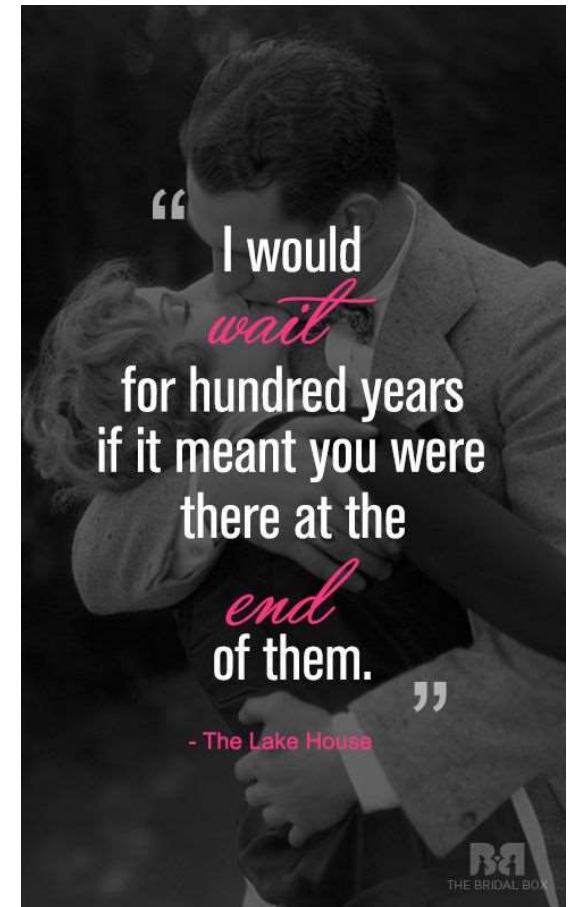
**Spiritually**, however, it was **a time of rampant corruption and moral decay** (2 Kings 14:24).

# “Now I Know What You Mean”

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**“The message of hope in Hosea’s book reveals that the harsh punishment was not an end in itself, but rather paved the way for a rekindled romance.** After all, one cannot build a true relationship on the basis of punishment.”

-Zdravko Stefanovic, *Thus Says the Lord: Messages From the Minor Prophets* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2012), p. 18.



# Style in the Book of Hosea



“An interesting characteristic of Hosea’s literary style is a rare skill in using **graphic metaphors** and **opposite epigrams [fitting, clever sayings]**, which convey his message most arrestingly. These **parables in miniature** undoubtedly made considerable impact upon the minds of his hearers; and they would linger in their memories, for such vivid word-pictures are not soon forgotten.”

Herbert F. Stevenson, *Three Prophetic Voices: Studies in Joel, Amos and Hosea* (Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1969), p. 126.

# Flora and Fauna Similes in The Book of Hosea

## FAUNA

Israel: “heifer” and “lamb” - Hosea 4:16

God: “moth” and “dry rot” - Hosea 5:12

God: “lion” and “young lion” - Hosea 5:14

Israel: “dove” - Hosea 7:11

Assyria: “eagle” or “vulture” – Hosea 8:1

Israel: “wild ass” - Hosea 8:9

Israel: “bird” - Hosea 9:11

Israel: “calf” - Hosea 10:11

God: “lion” - Hosea 11:10

Israel: “birds” and “doves” - Hosea 11:11

God: “lion” and “leopard” - Hosea 13:7

God: “bear,” “lion” and “wild beast” - Hosea 13:8

## FLORA

Israel: “grapes” - Hosea 9:10

Ephraim: “palm” – Hosea 9:13

Israel: “root” and “fruit” - Hosea 9:16

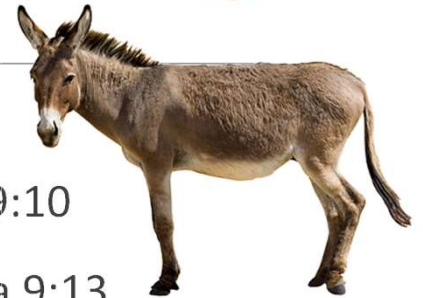
Israel: “vine” - Hosea 10:1

Israel: “chaff” - Hosea 13:3

Israel: “lily,” “trees of Lebanon”  
and “olive” – Hosea 14:5-6

God: “evergreen Cyprus” - Hosea 14:8

**About 40 similes  
in Book of Hosea**





# Metaphors of People in The Book of Hosea

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## PEOPLE

“Guilty Mother” – Hosea 2:2

“Wife” – Hosea 2:2

“Harlot” – Hosea 2:4, 7

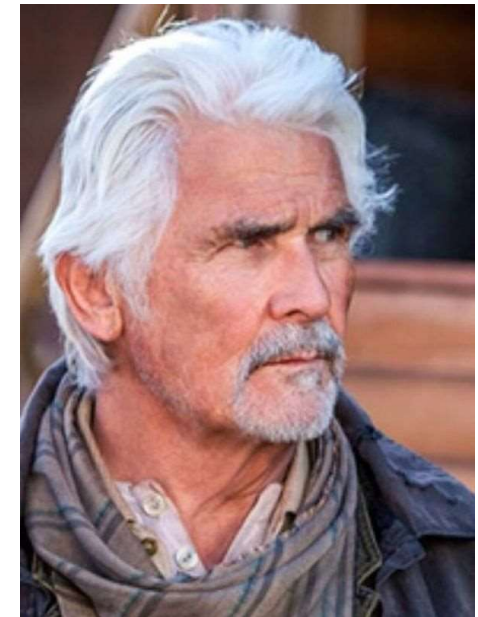
“Sick Person” – Hosea 5:13

“Gray Haired Man” – Hosea 7:9

“A Young Child” – Hosea 11:1

“Dishonest Merchant” – Hosea 12:7

“Unborn Son” – Hosea 13:13



# Viewpoints: God's vs. Ours

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**Micah**

- Many people view religion as “transactional” (business)

**Hosea**

- God views religion as “relational”, e.g., LORD, husband and parent

# Hosea 1-3: Perplexing Problem

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**"The first three chapters of the Book of Hosea have furnished one of the very interesting and one of the most perplexing problems** in the interpretation of Israelitish prophecy, from the earliest commentators to the present day."

Hosea 1

Hosea 2

Hosea 3

Leroy Waterman, "The Marriage of Hosea," *Journal of Biblical Literature* 37 (3-4) 1918, p. 193.

# Breakdown of Hosea 1-3

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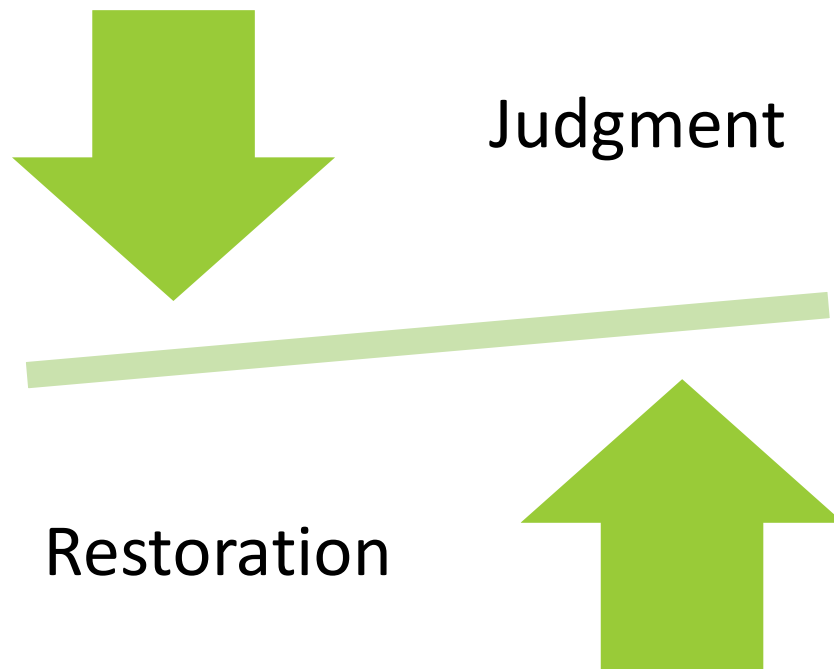
1. **REJECTION**: Symbolized in Hosea's marriage (Hosea 1:2-9)
2. **RESTORATION**: On the basis of the covenant (Hosea 1:10-2:1)
3. **REBUKE**: Due to Israel's infidelity (Hosea 2:2-13)
4. **RENEWAL**: Based on the covenant (2:14-23)
5. **RECONCILIATION**: Symbolized by Hosea's marriage (3:1-5)

# The Book of Hosea: Its Three Main Sections

Section	Chapters	Section Beginning: The Accusation	Section Ending: The Return
Section 1	Hosea 1-3	"... <b>the land commits great harlotry by forsaking the Lord</b> " (Hosea 1:2)	"Afterward the <b>children of Israel shall return</b> and seek the Lord their God, and David their king" (Hosea 3:5)
Section 2	Hosea 4-11	"Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the <b>LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land</b> . There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land" (Hosea 4:1)	"they shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria, and <b>I will return them to their homes</b> , declares the LORD." (Hosea 11:11)
Section 3	Hosea 12-14	"...they multiply falsehood and violence...The <b>Lord has an indictment against Judah</b> , and will punish Jacob according to his ways" (Hosea 12:1-2)	" <b>Those who live under its protection will surely return</b> . Their grain will flourish; they will blossom like a vine, and Israel's scent will be like wine from Lebanon." (Hosea 14:7, ISV)

# Book of Hosea: 5 Cycles of Judgment and Restoration

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## Cycle 1

**Judgment:** Hosea 1:2-9

**Restoration:** Hosea 1:10 – Hosea 2:1

## Cycle 2

**Judgment:** Hosea 2: 2-13

**Restoration:** Hosea 2:14 – Hosea 3:5

## Cycle 3

**Judgment:** Hosea 4:1 – Hosea 5:14

**Restoration:** Hosea 5:15 – Hosea 6:3

## Cycle 4

**Judgment:** Hosea 6:4 – Hosea 11:7

**Restoration:** Hosea 11:8-11

## Cycle 5

**Judgment:** Hosea 11:12 – Hosea 13:16

**Restoration:** Hosea 14:1-9

# Hosea 3:1

## Gomer: The Adulterous Wife

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“But the wife of the prophet became an adulteress. **What shame, what public disgrace, what burning anguish to the sensitive heart of the prophet! Ah, but no worse than the wife of Jehovah consorting with other gods and loving cakes of raisins...**What shame and open scandal this was in the eyes of God can be gleaned only faintly from the counterpart on the human scale in the life of the prophet.”



Charles Lee Feinberg, *The Minor Prophets* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1976), p. 24.

# Hosea 1 - The Marriage of Faithful Hosea and Adulterous Gomer

**“For centuries, Biblical readers and scholars have wrestled with what has rightly been called ‘the vexed question of Hosea’s marriage.’** It would seem that every possible theory has already been advanced, with regard both to the actual nature of the event and the two accounts of the incident, **A (chapters 1-2)** and **B (chapter 3).**”

Robert Gordis, “Hosea’s Marriage and Message: A New Approach,” *Hebrew Union College Annual*, Vol. 25 (1954), p. 9.





# Divine Direction

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**“When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, ‘Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD.’”**

- Hosea 1:2



# Hosea 1-3: Sequences of Events in Hosea's Marriage to Gomer

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“The story of the marriage is told in Hosea 1-3. Unfortunately for us moderns, Scripture is more concerned with the message that arose from the marriage than with the human interest in it. **As a result there is hardly a feature in it that can be interpreted with certainty.**”

Henry Leopold Ellison, *The Prophets of Israel: From Ahijah to Hosea* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1969), p. 97.

# Messenger and Message Alike

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“Hosea was not a mere messenger for God. **He was also the message and the sign.** His own life filled with pain and hope was a powerful sermon preached day by day to all who would listen and see....**The story of Hosea’s marriage and family life served as the platform for the prophetic message that the Israelites needed to hear.**”

-Zdravko Stefanovic, *Thus Says the Lord: Messages From the Minor Prophets* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2012), pp. 20-21.

# The Marriage at Mt. Sinai

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“not like the **covenant** that I made with their fathers on the day **when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke,** though **I was their husband,** declares the LORD.”

- Jeremiah 31:32

God is the Bridegroom (Exodus 6:7)

Israel is the Bride (Exodus 6:7)

Moses is the “Best Man”  
(Exodus 19:17)

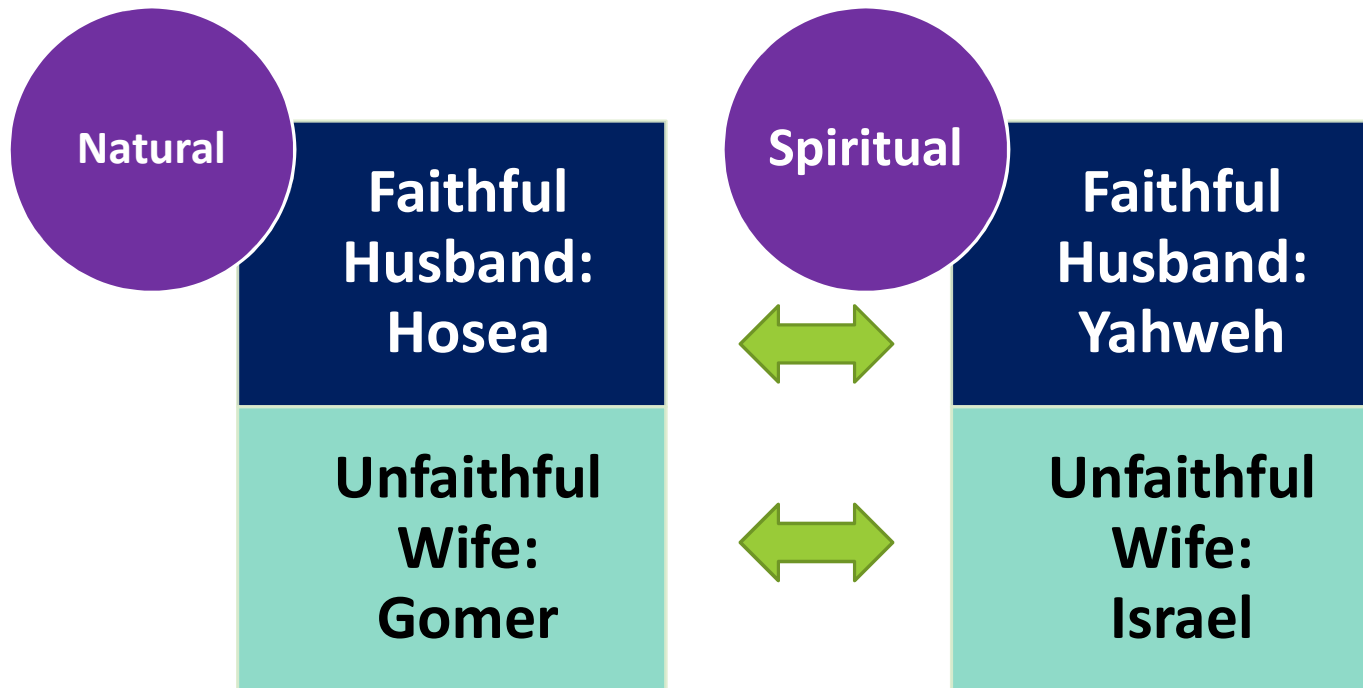
Married Under a Chuppah  
(Exodus 19:17)

God Makes an Oath (Ketubah) to Israel  
(Exodus 19:5)

Israel Agrees to the Ketubah  
(Exodus 24:7)

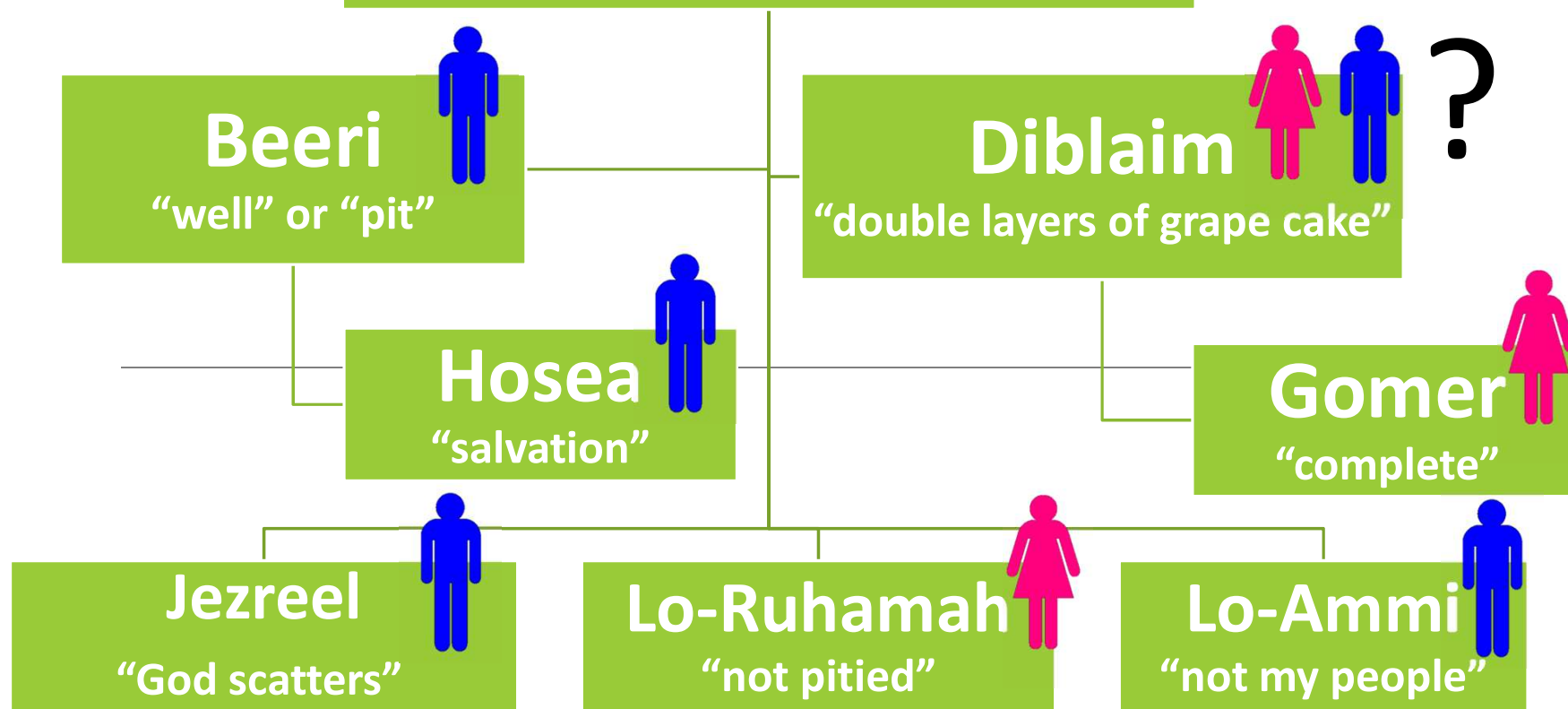
God gives copy of Ketubah to Israel  
(Exodus 20:1-17)

Marriage is consummated at Mt. Sinai  
(Exodus 24:15-16)





# HOSEA'S FAMILY TREE



# Hosea 2 and Gomer's Children

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## Hosea 1: 4-8

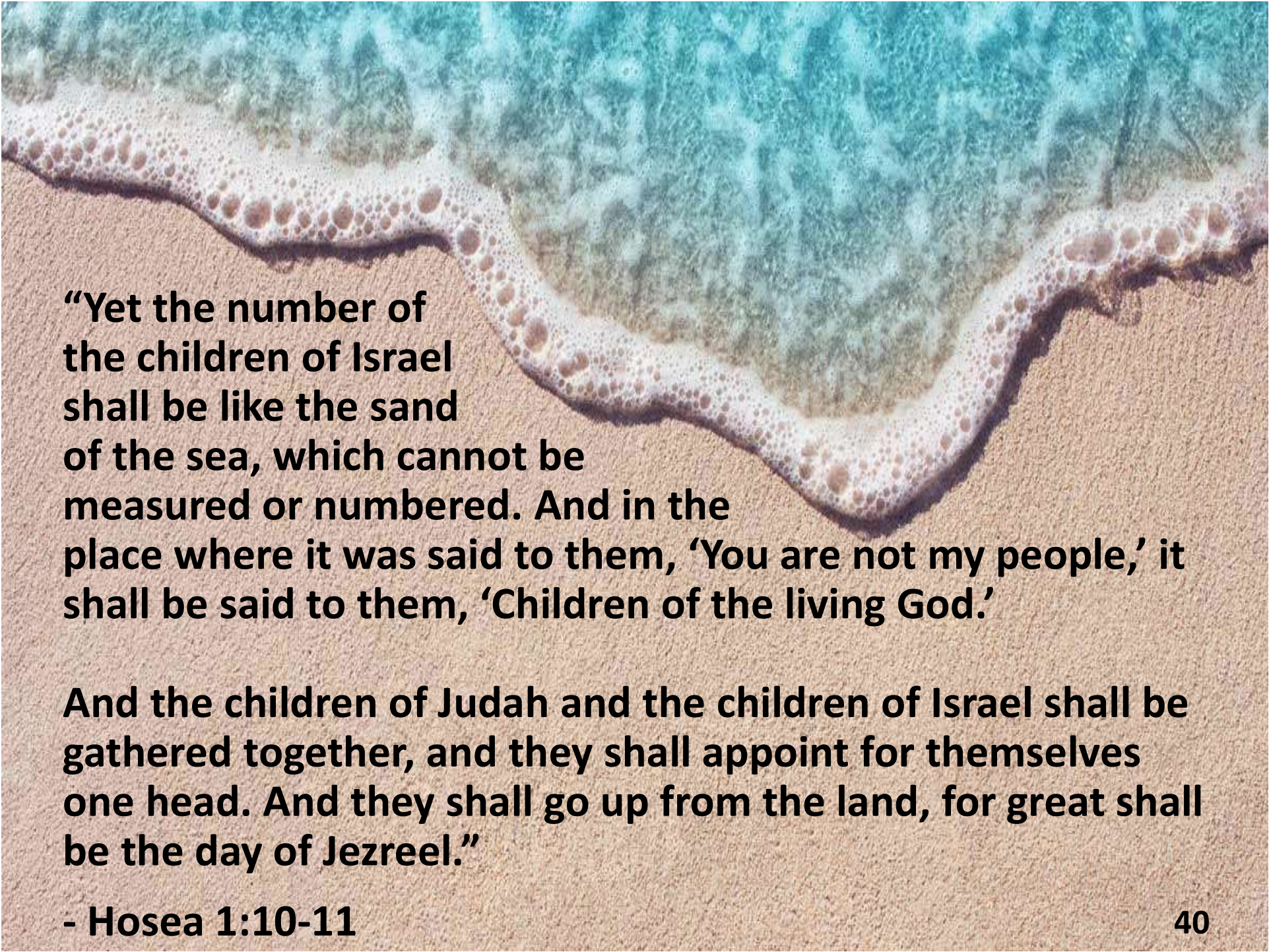
Jezreel  
"God scatters"

Lo-Ruhamah  
"No Mercy"

Lo-Ammi  
"Not my people"

## Hosea 2:23

**"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.'"**



**“Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ it shall be said to them, ‘Children of the living God.’**

**And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.”**

**- Hosea 1:10-11**



# A Promise is a Promise: From Abraham to Hosea to Us

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“I will surely bless you, and **I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.** And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

- Genesis 22:17-18

**“Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered.** And in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ it shall be said to them, ‘Children of the living God.’”

- Hosea 1:10

# Spiritual Harlotry in Time of Hosea

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**“This period of Hosea’s ministry, from about 740 to 725 BC, was probably the most idolatrous period in all of Israel’s history.** Hosea speaks out against this idolatry in the strongest terms. **He brands it *spiritual harlotry*, and the entire first three chapters are dedicated to this theme....**Because **they believed that they were gaining material benefits from this Baal-worship, it became a kind of spiritual prostitution, practiced through lust and for material gain.”**

David Allan Hubbard, *With Bands of Love: Lessons From the Book of Hosea* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1968), pp. 42-43.

# A Biblical Paradigm Shift Towards Reconciliation

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“In this setting, God has the right to divorce an adulterous wife. Some interpreters understand it to refer to the legal action of divorce proceedings. **Others, however, point out that God as husband seeks to avoid divorce and to find some means of reconciliation.** In Hosea 2:7, for example, God as husband intervenes between his wife and her lovers in the hope that she will return to him.”

Christina Bucher, *The Prophecy of Amos and Hosea* (Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 1997), pp. 34-35.

“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.'**”

- Hosea 2:7 (NIV)

# HOSEA

## Baal

*"And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgat me, saith the LORD."*

*- Hosea 2:13*

*The Book of Hosea: An Amazing Love Story*



# Fundamental Biblical Principle: We Can't Serve Two Masters

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“And Elijah came near to all the people and said, ‘How long will you go limping between two different opinions? **If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.**’ And the people did not answer him a word.”

1 Kings 18:21

“**No man can serve two masters:** for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. **Ye cannot serve God and mammon.**”

- Matthew 6:24 (KJV)

# The Genesis of the Samaritan Problem of Worship

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“Even while **these people were worshiping the LORD, they were serving their idols**. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their ancestors did.”

- 2 Kings 17:41

# Loss of Moral and Material Perspective

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“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**.'”

- Hosea 2:5 (NIV)

“**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.**”

- Hosea 2:8 (NIV)

# Hosea 2:13-14

## Paradox of Divine Grace

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“I will punish her for the days of the Baals when she used to offer sacrifices to them and adorn herself with her earrings and jewelry, and follow her lovers, so that she forgot Me,’ declares the LORD.

Therefore, behold, **I will allure her, Bring her into the wilderness and speak kindly to her.** Then I will give her vineyards from there, **And the valley of Achor as a door of hope.** And she will sing there as in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.”

- Hosea 2:13-15 (NASB)

Regarding Hosea 2:14, “This is one of the most arresting verses in the book. Surely it will pronounce a third judgment; a final stroke; a decisive hammer blow! Not so, **instead of a climax in chastisement is something startlingly unexpected – the paradox of divine grace.** At the revealing of the extremity of sin, deserving severest judgment, is the pronouncement of mercy, ‘I will allure her...and speak comfortably (literally, ‘*to the heart*’) unto her.”

Herbert F. Stevenson, *Three Prophetic Voices: Studies in Joel, Amos and Hosea* (Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1969), p. 108.



# Forget About Baal

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“And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me ‘My Husband,’ and **no longer will you call me ‘My Baal.’**”

- Hosea 2:16

“And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, ‘As the LORD lives,’ **even as they taught my people to swear by Baal**, then they shall be built up in the midst of my people.”

- Jeremiah 12:16

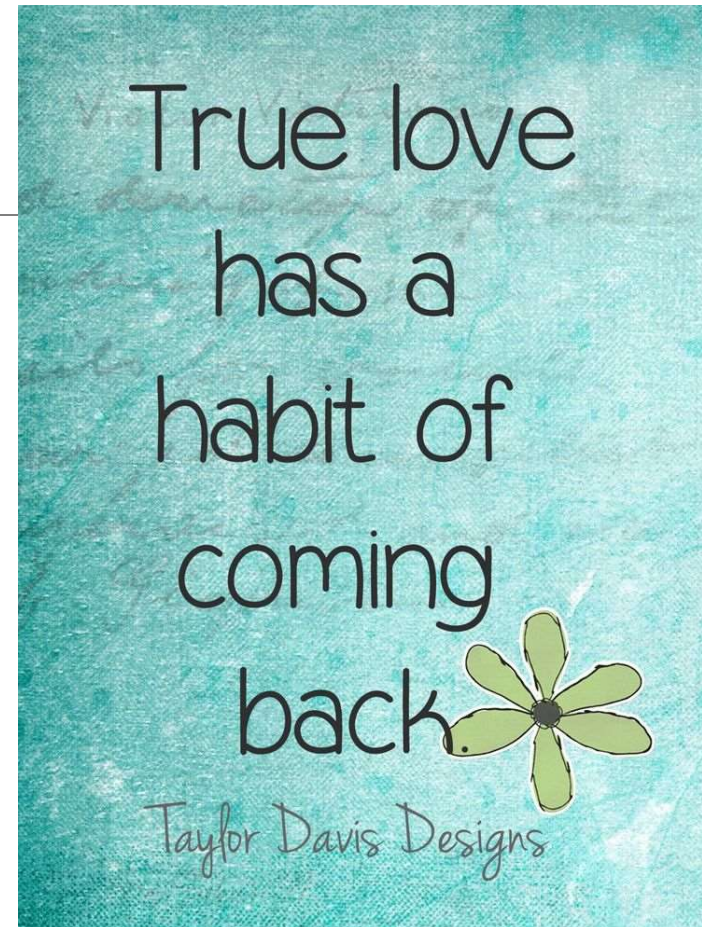
“How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, **even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal?**”

- Jeremiah 23:26-27

# True Love Always Wins Out

**“We all have wilderness experiences** in which, even if we aren’t being punished we feel abandoned, or at least distant from God. **Hosea says that God comes to that wilderness to win us back.”**

Charles L. Aaron, Jr., *Preaching Hosea, Amos, and Micah* (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2005), p. 26.



# The Promises of Hosea 2

**“Only the Groom promises,**  
but what promises they  
are!....**they are weighted**  
**with some of the greatest**  
**themes in Scripture,**  
**themes that belong to the**  
**very essence of God.”**

H.D. Beeby, *Grace Abounding: A Commentary on the Book of Hosea* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1989), p. 30.



*I will*

***betroth***


*you to me forever;*



*I will **betroth** you in righteousness and justice,  
in love and compassion.*

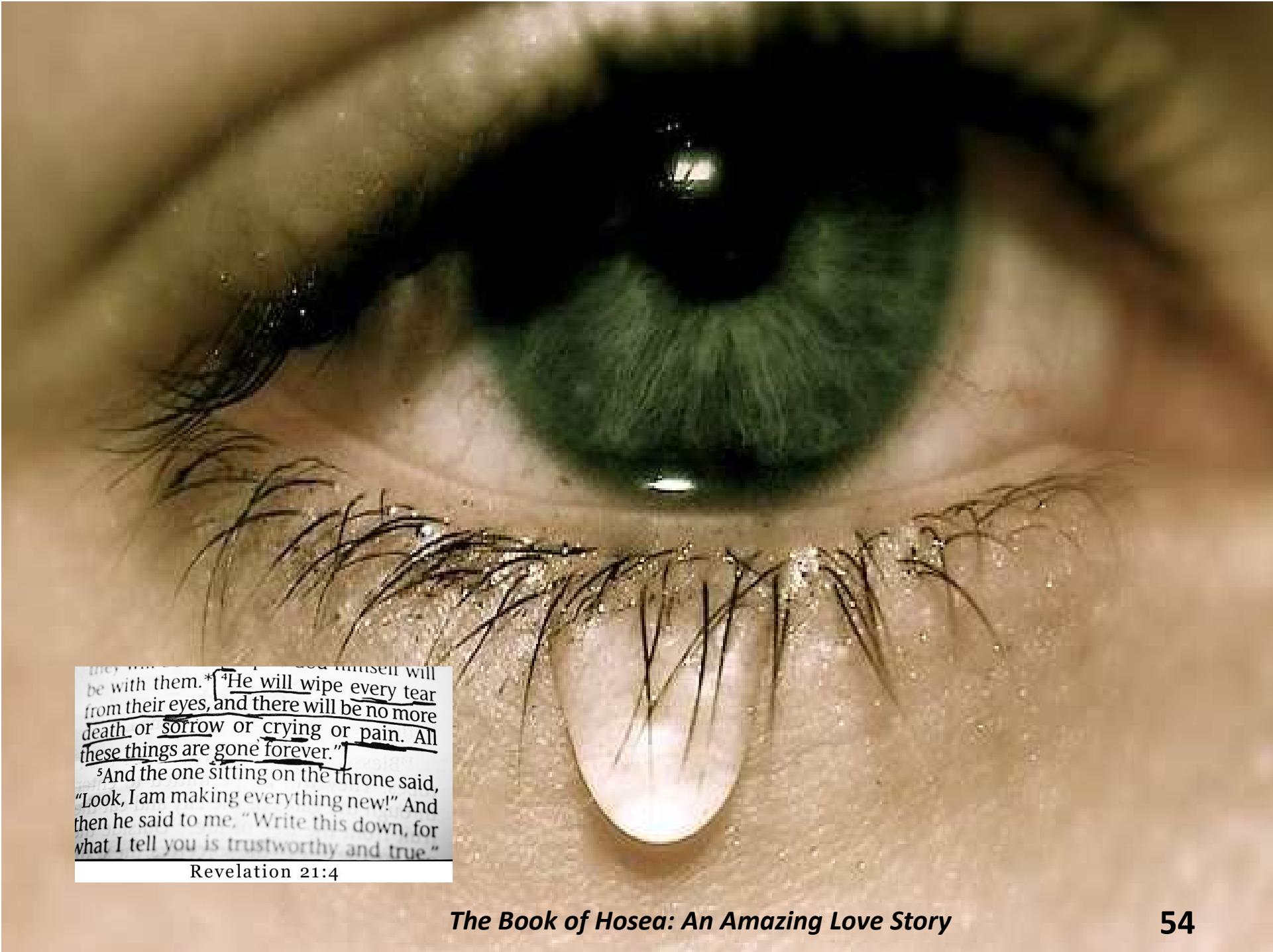
*I will **betroth** you in faithfulness,  
and you will acknowledge the LORD.*

*Hosea 2:19-20*



**BY WHICH HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO US  
EXCEEDINGLY GREAT  
& PRECIOUS PROMISES,  
THAT THROUGH THESE YOU MAY BE PARTAKERS OF THE  
DIVINE NATURE, HAVING ESCAPED THE CORRUPTION  
THAT IS IN THE WORLD THROUGH LUST.**

2 PETER 1:4



they will be with them.\* “He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”  
<sup>5</sup>And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!” And then he said to me, “Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.”

Revelation 21:4

# Hosea in the New Testament

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“and I will sow her for myself in the land. And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, ‘**You are my people**’; and they shall say, ‘**You are my God.**’”

- Hosea 2:23

“As he says in Hosea: ‘**I will call them 'my people' who are not my people**; and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one, and, ‘In the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called '**children of the living God.**’”

- Romans 9:25-26 (NIV)

“Once you were not a people, but **now you are God's people**; once you had not received mercy, but **now you have received mercy.**”

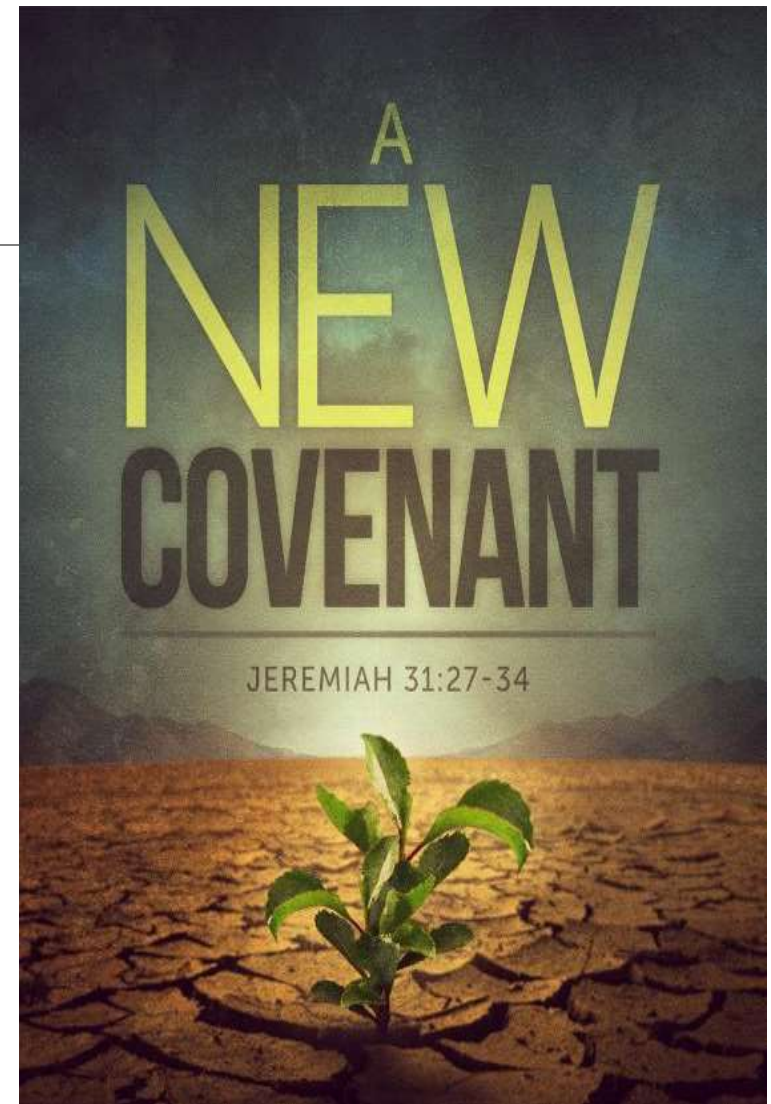
- 1 Peter 2:10

# New Covenant and New Names

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"She receives back her ancient vineyards and olive orchards. **The blessings of the new covenant extend to nature.** The wild beasts forget their fierceness and the earth is wonderful in her productiveness. The names of the children are changed. **Jezreel becomes the symbol of productiveness.** **Lo-ruhamah becomes Mercy** and **Lo-ammi becomes My people.**"

L.F. Badger, "Israel in Hosea," *The Old and New Testament Student* 13 (2) August 1891, p. 78.





# HOSEA

## Kingdom of God in Hosea



*"And I will sow her unto me in the earth;  
and I will have mercy upon her that had not  
obtained mercy; and I will say to them  
which were not my people, Thou art my  
people; and they shall say, Thou art my God."*

*- Hosea 2:23*

# Hosea 3: The Process of Redemption and Restoration

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Adultery

Estrangement

Desertion

Slavery

Reconciliation

Restoration

“But Gomer proved **faithless** to her marriage vow. **Ensnared** perhaps by the wild orgies of Baal and Ashtoreth, she **deserted** her husband. She fell at last into **slavery**. **But in this her lowest degradation her husband does not abandon her. By divine command he redeems her from bondage, and brings her home again....**A touching picture, is it not, of the prophet watching with unabated love over the guilty wife of his youth; **waiting patiently, if peradventure tears of penitence might cleanse her sin-stained soul, and her heart again respond to his untiring love.**”

Alexander Francis Kirkpatrick, *The Doctrine of the Prophets: The Warburtonian Lectures for 1886-1890* (London: Macmillan, 1892), pp. 118-119.

# HOSEA

*"For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim. Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days."*

*- Hosea 3:4-5*

*The Book of Hosea: An Amazing Love Story*



# Hosea 3: 81 Words of Succinct Beauty

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“Though the third chapter of Hosea consists of but eighty-one words in the original Hebrew, **it rightfully takes its place among the greatest prophetic pronouncements in the whole revelation of God.** The expression, ‘*multum in parvo*’ (much in little space), is certainly true of this passage. **With skillful and quick lines, the prophet, through the Spirit of God, paints for us the complete picture of Israel’s national history.** **The fourth verse of the chapter is one of the surest proofs of the divine origin of prophecy and the Bible in general.”**

Charles Lee Feinberg, *The Minor Prophets* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1976), p. 23.

# Barley: “Food Fit For Beasts”

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“So I bought her for **15 shekels of silver** and **five bushels of barley**. 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.’”

- Hosea 3:2-3 (HCSB and NIV)

Pliny and some of the Jewish writers describe barley  
“*as food fit for beasts.*”

Compare to Exodus 21:32 and cost of a slave gored to death by a bull.

# Hosea 3:

## The Model of Forgiveness and Reconciliation

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“Hosea is the locus classicus for the restoration of an erring wife guilty of *porneia* – she was a whore and **yet the grieving prophet took her back into his home. Was that not how God treated his adulterous people Israel?**

And should not the pious Israelite, therefore, model his own marriage relationship on the same accepting compassion and forgiveness as the Bridegroom of Israel?”

Hugh Dickinson, “Bound or Free?,” *Theology* 89 (727) January 1986, p. 106.



# Hosea 3:1: It's Interesting What's Not Said

- “When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, **‘Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom** and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD.’” (Hosea 1:2)
- “And the LORD said to me, **“Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress**, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.” (Hosea 3:1)
- **No where is Hosea told to “Go, divorce your wife who has been unfaithful to you and deserted you for other men.”**



# Amazing Grace

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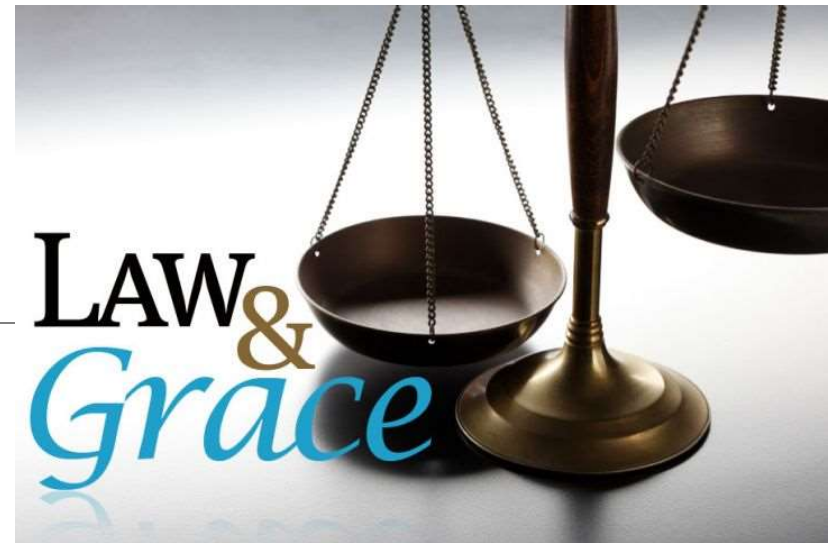
“Gomer had merited a sentence of death

(Deut. 22:22, Lev. 20:10):

that was the law. But God (Hosea) will not be bound by law, not even his own law. He will show mercy...that extends beyond law....

**Grace is a vastly different thing” than law.**

*Bruce Vawter, Amos, Hosea, Micah, With An Introduction to Classical Prophecy (Wilmington, DE: Michael Glazier, Inc., 1981), p. 89.*







1 PETER 1:18-19

**YOU WERE NOT  
REDEEMED  
WITH CORRUPTIBLE  
THINGS, AS SILVER  
AND GOLD.**

**BUT WITH THE  
PRECIOUS  
BLOOD OF  
CHRIST.**

