



THE BOOK OF

# HOSEA

*...a verse by verse study*

# Hosea

- Hosea's call & The rejection of Israel 1:1–9
- The restoration of Israel promised 1:10–2:1
- God's warning against Israel's unfaithfulness and judgment prophesied 2:2–13
- A future of blessing foretold for Israel 2:14–23
- The redemption of Hosea's wife a type of Israel's ultimate return to God Ch 3
- God's controversy with his people Ch 4–10
- In wrath, God remembers mercy Ch 11–13
- Israel urged to repent & enjoy blessing Ch 14

# God's controversy with his people

- A. The Sins of the People (4:1-5)
- B. The Sins of the Priests (4:6-11)
- C. The Idolatry of the People (4:12-14)
- D. A Special Appeal to Judah (4:15-19)
- E. The Evil Behaviour of the Priests, the People, and the Royal Family (5:1-7)
- F. The Promised Judgments of Israel and Judah and God's Intention to Await Their Repentance (5:8-15)
- G. An Appeal to Israel to Repent (6:1-3)
- H. The Sinfulness of Both Israel and Judah (6:4-11)

# God's controversy with his people

- I. The Wickedness of Israel Unveiled (Chap.7)
- J. A Warning to Prepare for Foreign Invasion Because of Idolatry and Foreign Alliances (Chap.8)
- K. The Captivity of Israel Predicted as a Result of Its Iniquity (9:1-10:15)



# Hosea

- Hosea's call & The rejection of Israel 1:1–9
- The restoration of Israel promised 1:10–2:1
- God's warning against Israel's unfaithfulness and judgment prophesied 2:2–13
- A future of blessing foretold for Israel 2:14–23
- The redemption of Hosea's wife a type of Israel's ultimate return to God Ch 3
- God's controversy with his people Ch 4–10
- In wrath, God remembers mercy Ch 11–13
- Israel urged to repent & enjoy blessing Ch 14

# Chapter 9

- Captivity will come because of corruption (9:1-9)
- Fruitful Israel will be unfruitful (9:10-17)

# Chapter 10

- Eighth Discourse: Repent or Perish (10:1-15)
  - Another oracle pronouncing Israel's judgment: (10:1-8)
    - 1. Her sins enumerated (10:1-4)
    - 2. Assyria will destroy her kings and idols (10:5-8)
  - God protests that Israel had sinned from the start (10:9-11)
  - He pleads for them to "break up their fallow ground" and sow righteousness (10:12-15)

# Chapter 9



THE BOOK OF

HOSEA

Captivity is Coming!

<sup>1</sup> Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as other people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor.

Hosea 9:1

- *“The prophet seems to come across the people in the midst of their festivity and mirth, and arrests them abruptly stopping it, telling them, that had no cause for joy”. – Albert Barnes*
- It is amazing how people scoff at the prospect of Divine judgment...



# Prelude to Destruction

- 37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
- 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,
- 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

**Matthew 24:37-39**

# Prelude to Destruction

- 3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,
- 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

**2 Peter 3:3-4**

<sup>1</sup> Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as other people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor.

Hosea 9:1

- Note the contrast the LORD makes between *His people* and '*the world*'

The comparison here made is also of great weight. As other people, says the Prophet. He means, that though God might pardon heathen nations, yet he would punish Israel, for less excusable was his apostasy and rebellion in having committed fornication against his God. That other nations wandered in their errors, was no wonder; but that Israel should have thus cast off the yoke, and then denied his God, that he should have broken and violated the fidelity of sacred marriage, — all this was quite monstrous. It is then no wonder that God here declares, by the mouth of his Prophet, that though he spared other people, he would yet inflict just punishment on Israel.

— Calvin



# A Family Warning

29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

**Hebrews 10:26-29**

# A Family Warning

29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

**Hebrews 10:26-29**

# A Watching World

<sup>1</sup> Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.

**1 Timothy 5:1**

# A Watching World

- <sup>1</sup> Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?
- <sup>2</sup> Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

**2 Corinthians 3:1-2**



<sup>1</sup> Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as other people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor.

**Hosea 9:1**

<sup>2</sup> The floor and the winepress shall not feed them,  
and the new wine shall fail in her.

<sup>3</sup> They shall not dwell in the LORD's land; but  
Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat  
unclean things in Assyria.

**Hosea 9:2-3**

- Israel's time of unfaithfulness was up!
- That which she thought she had would soon be gone
- Egypt and Assyria would soon consume the Northern Kingdom

<sup>2</sup> The floor and the winepress shall not feed them,  
and the new wine shall fail in her.

<sup>3</sup> They shall not dwell in the LORD's land; but  
Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat  
unclean things in Assyria.

**Hosea 9:2-3**

- Israel's time of unfaithfulness was up!
- That which she thought she had would soon be gone
- Egypt and Assyria would soon consume the Northern Kingdom

# The Decent Into Egypt

Many of them did return to Egypt after the conquest [of Israel] by Shalmaneser, and many after the ruin of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar; but they had in effect returned to Egypt by setting up the worship of the golden calves, which were in imitation of the Egyptian Apis.

— Adam Clarke

God had commanded them to return no more to Egypt Deuteronomy 17:16 of their own mind. But He had threatened that, on their disobedience, “the Lord would bring them back to Egypt by the way, whereof He spake unto them, Thou shalt see it no more again” Deuteronomy 28:68. Hosea also foretells to them, that they (i. e., many of them) should go to Egypt and perish there Hosea 9:3, Hosea 9:6..

— Albert Barnes



# The Decent Into Egypt

- Egypt represents the slavery and bondage of Sin
- God had taken them out of Egypt and warned the never to return there
- The calves at Dan and Bethel show that their hearts had returned to slavery & bondage
- Now they would physically follow, first by trying to make alliances to deliver them from Assyria...
- Then finally by being taken captive
  - Predominantly this applied to those in Judah. Yet undoubtedly some in the Northern kingdom had moved south to escape judgment - see Jeremiah 42-43

# The Decent Into Egypt

- Yet it is in the depths of despair that God meets us!
- In Hosea 11:1 we will be told: *“When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt”*.
- Matthew 2:15 links this verse to Jesus
- In Type Jesus went to the place of slavery and bondage and purchased our freedom!
- This is the story of Hosea!

4 They shall not offer wine offerings to the LORD, neither shall they be pleasing unto him: their sacrifices shall be unto them as the bread of mourners; all that eat thereof shall be polluted: for their bread for their soul shall not come into the house of the LORD.

Hosea 9:4

- Previously they had been going through the motions, keeping up the religious pretense
- Soon even the comfort they derived from that would cease

5 What will ye do in the solemn day, and in the day of the feast of the LORD?

6 For, lo, they are gone because of destruction: Egypt shall gather them up, Memphis shall bury them: the pleasant places for their silver, nettles shall possess them: thorns shall be in their tabernacles.

Hosea 9:5-6

- *The fine estates or villas which they had purchased by their money, being now neglected and uninhabited, are covered with nettles; and even in their tabernacles, thorns and brambles of different kinds grow. These are the fullest marks of utter desolation. - Adam Clarke*

7 The days of visitation are come, the days of recompence are come; Israel shall know it: the prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad, for the multitude of thine iniquity, and the great hatred.

Hosea 9:7

- The prophet is a fool
  - Who has pretended to foretell, on Divine authority, peace and plenty; for behold all is desolation.
- The spiritual man
  - ‘haruach’, the man of spirit, who was ever pretending to be under Divine inspiration.
- Is mad
  - He is now enraged to see every thing falling out contrary to his prediction.

8 The watchman of Ephraim was with my God:  
but the prophet is a snare of a fowler in all his  
ways, and hatred in the house of his God.

Hosea 9:8

- The watchman of Ephraim
  - The true prophet, was with (faithful to) God.
- The [false] prophet is the snare of a fowler;
  - is continually deceiving the people, and leading them into snares, and infusing into their hearts deep hatred against God and his worship.



9 They have deeply corrupted themselves, as in the days of Gibeah: therefore he will remember their iniquity, he will visit their sins.

Hosea 9:9

- This is a reference to Judges 19:16 and the horrific rape and murder of the Levite's concubine
- It was arguably the morally darkest period in Israel's history...
- ...until now!
- Note: God is always just in bringing judgment

# Chapter 9

- Captivity will come because of corruption (9:1-9)
- Fruitful Israel will be unfruitful (9:10-17)

# Chapter 10

- Eighth Discourse: Repent or Perish (10:1-15)
  - Another oracle pronouncing Israel's judgment: (10:1-8)
    - 1. Her sins enumerated (10:1-4)
    - 2. Assyria will destroy her kings and idols (10:5-8)
  - God protests that Israel had sinned from the start (10:9-11)
  - He pleads for them to "break up their fallow ground" and sow righteousness (10:12-15)

10 I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstripe in the fig tree at her first time: but they went to Baal-peor, and separated themselves unto that shame; and their abominations were according as they loved.

**Hosea 9:10**

<sup>11</sup> As for Ephraim, their glory shall fly away like a bird, from the birth, and from the womb, and from the conception.

<sup>12</sup> Though they bring up their children, yet will I bereave them, that there shall not be a man left: yea, woe also to them when I depart from them!

Hosea 9:11-12

- *When man parts with the substance, his true honor, God takes away the shadow, lest he should content himself therewith, and not see his shame, and, boasting himself to be something, abide in his nothingness and poverty and shame to which he had reduced himself. - AB*

<sup>13</sup> Ephraim, as I saw Tyrus, is planted in a pleasant place: but Ephraim shall bring forth his children to the murderer.

<sup>14</sup> Give them, O LORD: what wilt thou give? give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.

**Hosea 9:13-14**

- “In my vision I have seen the sons of Israel doomed. The fathers are forced to lead their sons to slaughter. O Lord, what shall I ask for your people? I will ask for wombs that don’t give birth, for breasts that cannot nourish” – **The Living Bible**

<sup>15</sup> All their wickedness is in Gilgal: for there I hated them: for the wickedness of their doings I will drive them out of mine house, I will love them no more: all their princes are revolvers.

**Hosea 9:15**



<sup>16</sup> Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit: yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay even the beloved fruit of their womb.

<sup>17</sup> My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations.

Hosea 9:16-17

- Yet another staggering prophecy of Israel future
  - For 2000+ years the ‘wandering Jew’ has roamed the world

# Chapter 10

THE BOOK OF

HOSEA

Repent or Perish!

# Chapter 9

- Captivity will come because of corruption (9:1-9)
- Fruitful Israel will be unfruitful (9:10-17)

# Chapter 10

- Eighth Discourse: Repent or Perish (10:1-15)
  - Another oracle pronouncing Israel's judgment: (10:1-8)
    - 1. Her sins enumerated (10:1-4)
    - 2. Assyria will destroy her kings and idols (10:5-8)
  - God protests that Israel had sinned from the start (10:9-11)
  - He pleads for them to "break up their fallow ground" and sow righteousness (10:12-15)

# The Three Vines





19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

**Revelation 14:19-20**

# The Vine of the Earth

- Noah had left the Ark with his 3 sons to build a new world
- God's sovereignty and majesty were uncontested
- Satan moved once again in an attempt to thwart God's plan of redemption
- Satan's man of the hour?
- Cush – Noah's grandson



# Vine of Deception

- This 'Babylonian' vine & source of all false religion
  - Began with Cush, founder of Babel
    - Hermes – 'son of Ham'
    - 'Confunder' (Jer 50:2)
  - Established by Nimrod (Bar-Cush)
  - Propagated by Semaramis
- It promises a way to spiritual security...
- ...but leads to destruction & the cup of wrath of God
  - cf. Numbers 5: 'Penalty for Adultery'

# Degenerate Plant

- Israel were to be a witness to the nations, testifying to the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob
- Through this vine, the nations were to come to the knowledge & fear of the One true God
- But... Israel (through disobedience) became a degenerate plant, thus a byword & proverb
- Rather than being a witness they brought God's name into disrepute
- However, the Jewish religious leaders still thought they were the only way to God

# The True Vine

- So... in John 15,
- It is in contrast to these two vines (neither of which can lead anyone to the Father) that Jesus says 'I AM the genuine Vine'
  - A vine produces that which is presented to a king

# The True Vine

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

**John 15:1**

- 'Genuine' as opposed to counterfeit
- Two other vines in scripture: both profess to lead men to the Father
- Psalm 80:8-15 - the Vine of Israel
- Revelation 14:9 – the Vine of the earth

<sup>1</sup> Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images.

**Hosea 10:1**

- Israel were to be a vine that brought refreshing & the knowledge of God to the world
- Satan countered this with 'The Vine of the Earth' **Rev 14:18-19** that began in Babylon
  - The purpose of which was to lead **AWAY** from God
- Jesus then comes as the True Vine **John 15:1**

2 Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images.

Hosea 10:2

- They wish to serve God and Mammon, Jehovah and Baal: but this is impossible.
- Now GOD will do in judgment what they should have done in contrition, "*break down their altars, and spoil their images.*"



<sup>3</sup> For now they shall say, We have no king, because we feared not the LORD; what then should a king do to us?

Hosea 10:3

- Israel had forgotten what a Godly king was like and what blessing comes from Godly leaders
- Eventually, Israel's leaders would declare "we have no king but Caesar!" - John 19:15

4 They have spoken words, swearing falsely in making a covenant: thus judgment springeth up as hemlock in the furrows of the field.

Hosea 10:4

- Lip service is easy
- Commitment is hard!
- Hemlock is bitter and poisonous and springs up ruining a field
- Israel's judgment was likewise as corrupt for society as Hemlock would be to animal life in a field

5 The inhabitants of Samaria shall fear because of the calves of Beth-aven: for the people thereof shall mourn over it, and the priests thereof that rejoiced on it, for the glory thereof, because it is departed from it.

**Hosea 10:5**

- Beth-aven (house of vanity) used as a synonym for Bethel (house of God)
- When the Word of God departs the glory departs!

<sup>6</sup> It shall be also carried unto Assyria for a present to king Jareb: Ephraim shall receive shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his own counsel.

<sup>7</sup> As for Samaria, her king is cut off as the foam upon the water.

Hosea 10:6-7

- *...it is most likely that Pul, king of Assyria, is intended, to whom Menahem, king of Israel, appears to have given one of the golden calves, to insure his assistance. – Adam Clarke*

8 The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us.

**Hosea 10:8**

- See Revelation 6:16!
- In the 404 verses in Revelation there are over 800 allusions to the Old Testament!

9 O Israel, thou hast sinned from the days of Gibeah: there they stood: the battle in Gibeah against the children of iniquity did not overtake them.

**Hosea 10:9**

- Gibeah is synonymous with immorality & injustice,
- It is also the place of a battle between Israel (Jonathan) and the Philistines where God gave Jonathan the victory
- But...

<sup>10</sup> It is in my desire that I should chastise them; and the people shall be gathered against them, when they shall bind themselves in their two furrows.

Hosea 10:10

- God “doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men” Lamentations 3:33. Grievous then must be the cause of punishment, when God not only chastens people, but, so to speak, longs to chasten them, when He chastens them without any let or hindrance from His mercy. Yet so God had said; “It shall come to pass, that as the Lord rejoiced over you to do you good and to multiply you, so the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you and to bring you to nought” Deuteronomy 28:63. - AB



<sup>11</sup> And Ephraim is as an heifer that is taught, and loveth to tread out the corn; [but] I passed over upon her fair neck: I will make Ephraim to ride; Judah shall plow, and Jacob shall break his clods.

Hosea 10:11

- Israel had abandoned this relatively easy task [of threshing] and had insisted on being yoked to sin
- So the Lord would place a different yoke on Israel's neck and force her to engage in the arduous work of plowing

<sup>12</sup> Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

<sup>13</sup> Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men.

**Hosea 10:12-13**

<sup>14</sup> Therefore shall a tumult arise among thy people, and all thy fortresses shall be spoiled, as Shalman spoiled Beth-arbel in the day of battle: the mother was dashed in pieces upon her children.

<sup>15</sup> So shall Bethel do unto you because of your great wickedness: in a morning shall the king of Israel utterly be cut off.

**Hosea 10:14-15**



THE BOOK OF

# HOSEA

*...to be continued*