

Did I sign up for this?

# The first book of the Twelve: Hosea



## *"Linked in" with other Biblical prophets resumes?*

*Abraham: God, you want me to leave home  
and go where?*

*Moses: God, you want me to tell Pharoah what?*

*Noah: God, you want me to build what?*

*Joshua: Are You sending us to spy on these nations?*

*Daniel: What will happen if we don't eat this food?*

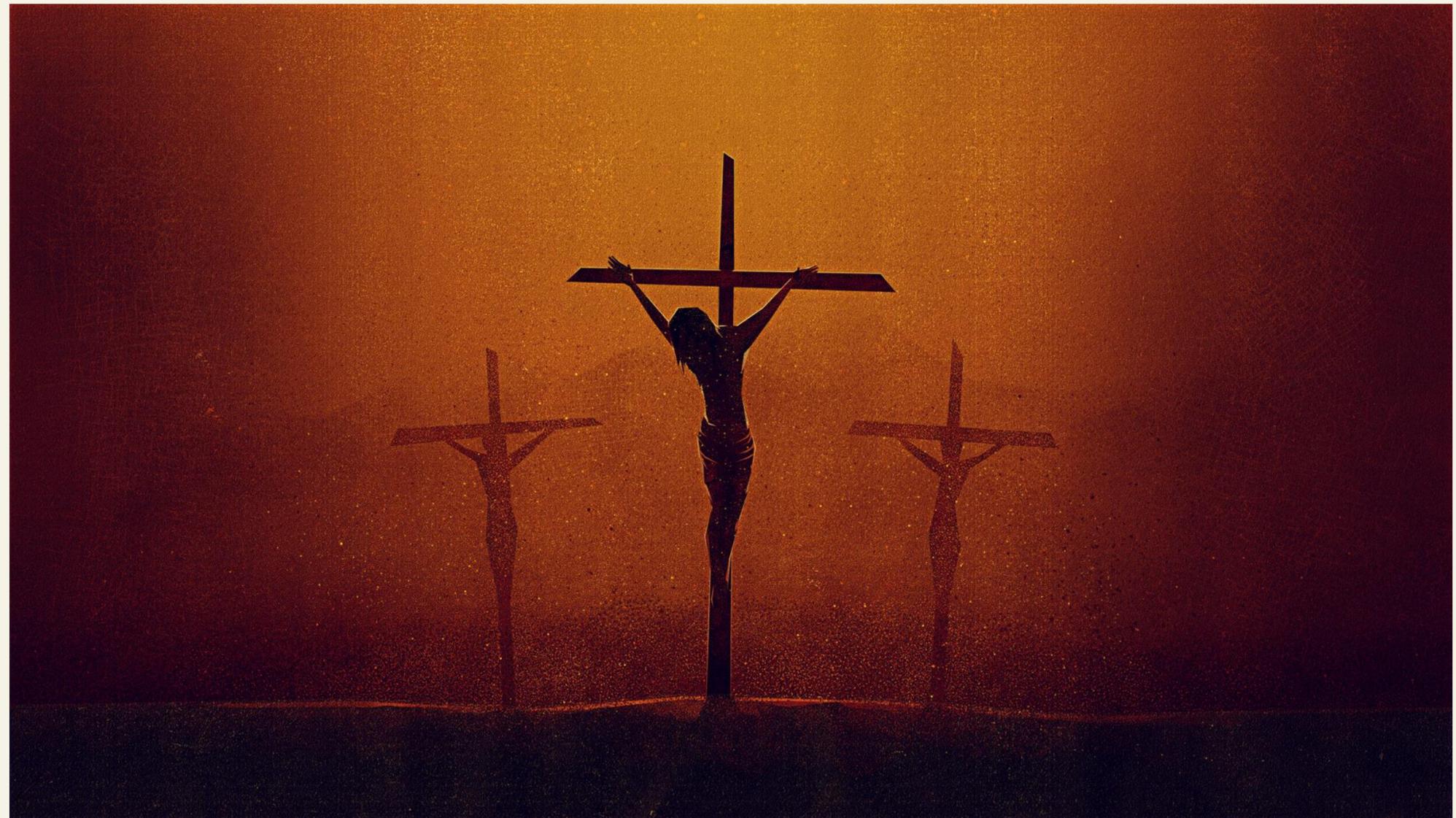
*Isaiah: Say what? You want me to speak w/o clothes?*

*Hosea: God, You want me to marry who?*

*Isaiah 20:1-4*

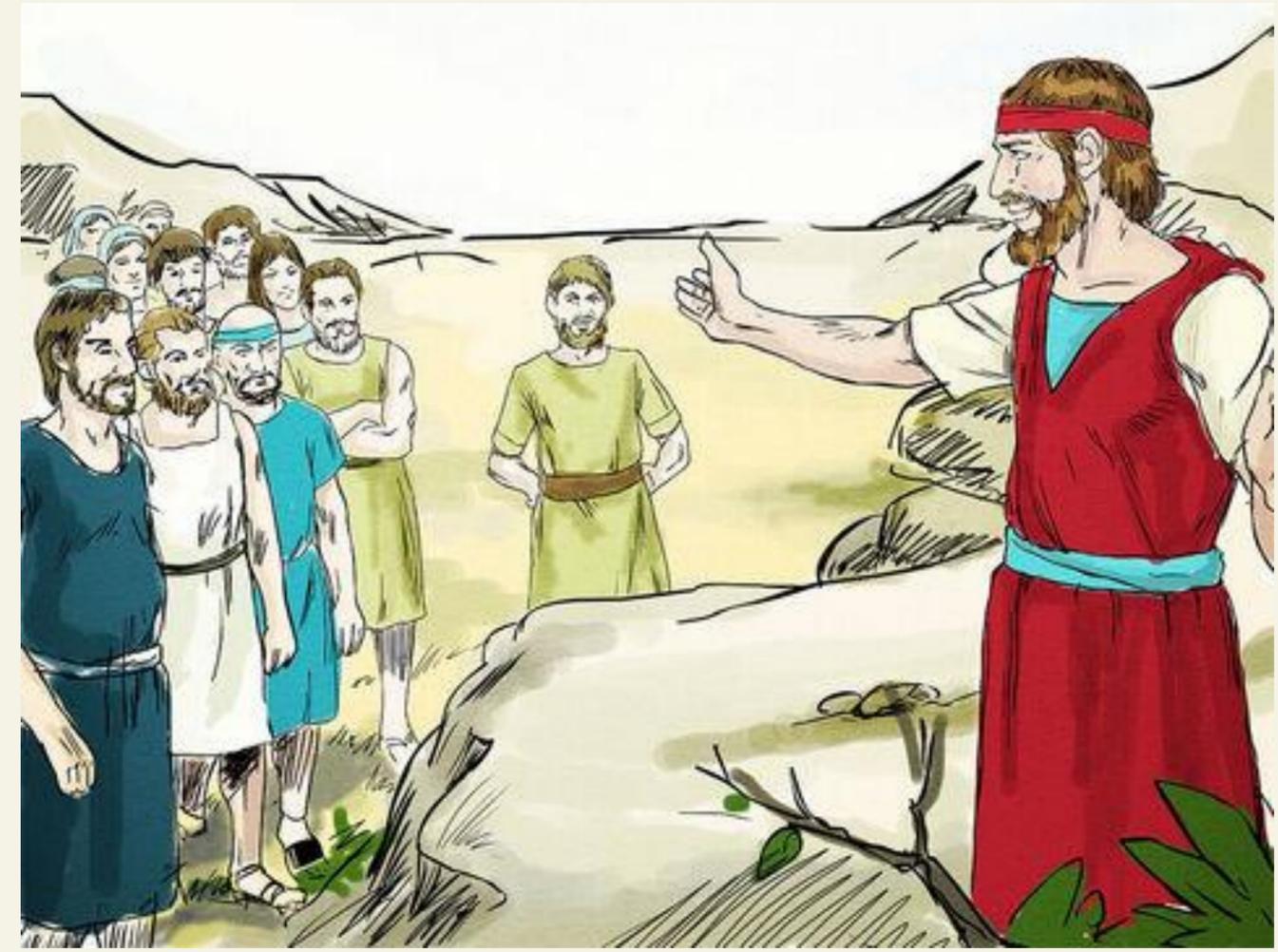
# *The Greatest Prophet and His Work at Calvary*

*Jesus: My Father, why have You forsaken me?*



# Backgrounder

- *Who wrote the book?*
- *What was the historical context for its writing?*
- *Who was he writing to?*
- *What was he facing around him?*
  - *Political*
  - *Religious*
  - *Cultural*



## Who wrote the book?

- **"Hoshea"**
- **Hebrew Meaning: salvation**
- **Derivation from verb 'to save'**
  - **Akin to Joshua**
- **Others with the same name OT**
- **NT**
- **Ancestry**
  - **Son of Beer**
  - **Called**
    - **Not by lineage**
    - **By God's sovereign choice**

*Hosea 1:1*

*Numbers 13:16*

*Romans 9:25,26*

## *What style is the book?*

- *Poetry*
  - *Metaphor, Parallelism, Imagery, Allusion, Rhetorical Questions, Lament, Repentance*
- *Word Plays*
- *Prophecy*



## What style is the book?

- **Metaphors**

- *Marriage of God to His People to Gomer's unfaithfulness*

- **Poetry**

- *Parallelism, Imagery, Allusion, Rhetorical Questions, Lament, Repentance*

- **Word Plays (Beth Aven for Bethel)**

- *Ho 4:15 "Though you commit adultery, O Israel, let not Judah become guilty. "Do not go to Gilgal; do not go up to Beth Aven. And do not swear, 'As surely as the LORD lives!"*

- **Prophecy (Forthtelling, Foretelling)**

Parallelism  
*Hosea 6:6*

Imagery  
*Hosea 10:1*

Allusion  
*Hosea 11:1,5*  
*Memphis for Egypt*

Rhetorical Question  
*Hosea 6:4*

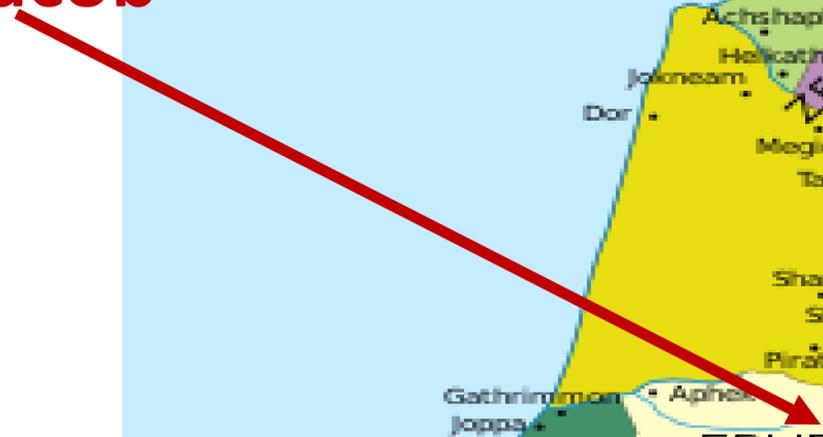
Lament  
*Hosea 14:8*

# Word Count and Themes Summary

<b>word</b>	<b>count</b>
<b>Lord</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>God</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Ephraim</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Israel</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>King</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>child, children etc</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Judah</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Man</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Egypt</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Land</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Love</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Assyria</b>	<b>4</b>



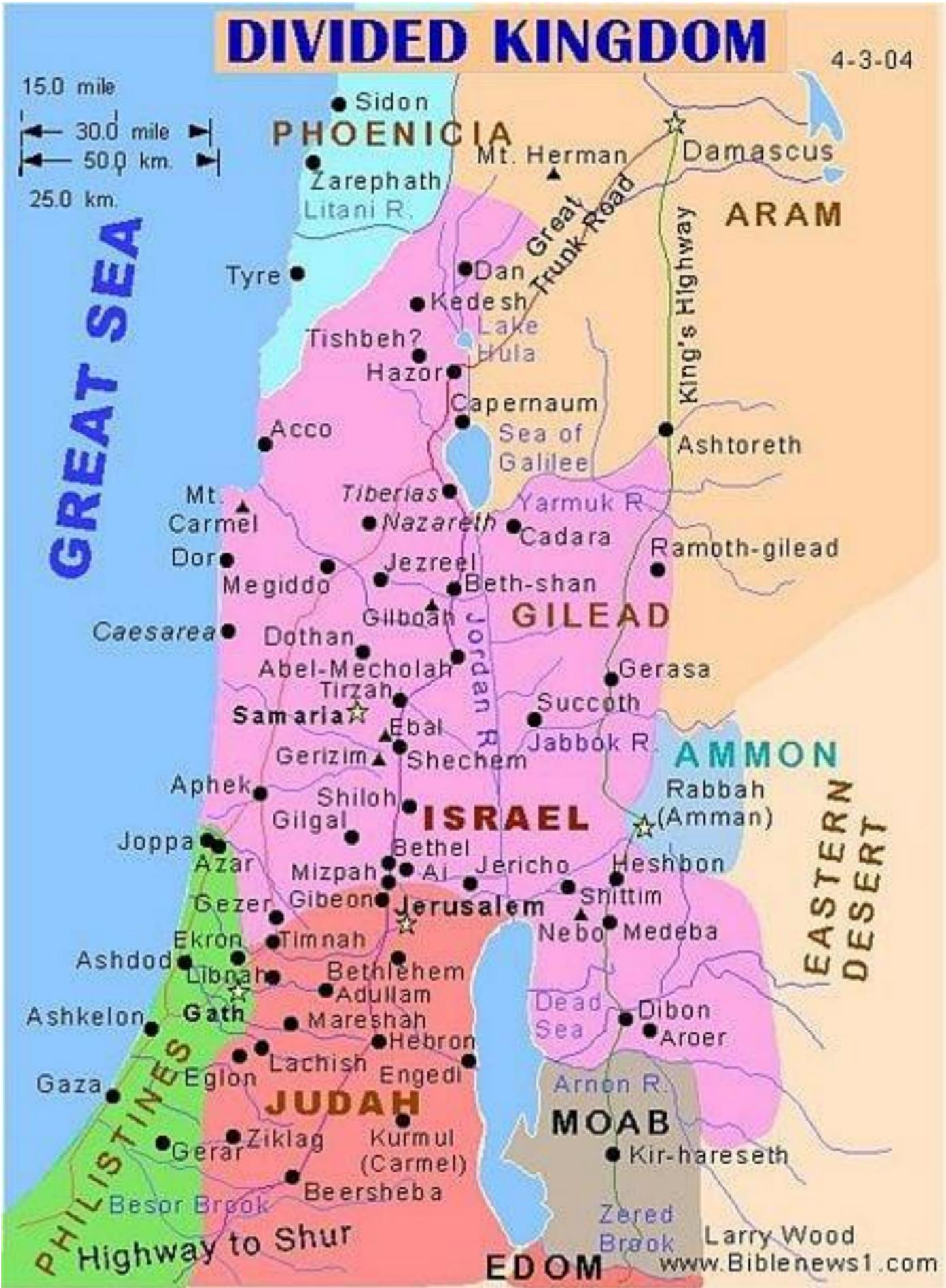
**Northern Kingdom**  
**Israel (10 tribes)**  
**AKA Ephraim (also the city)**  
**AKA Jacob**



**(SYRIANS)**

*Locating Hosea in history*

**Southern Kingdom (2 tribes)**  
**Judah**





950 900 850 800 750 700 650 600 550 500 450 400

Egypt

Assyria

Babylon

Persia

N. & S. Kingdoms

Judah Alone

Exile

Post-Exile

△ Solomon dies

△ Israel falls

△ Judah falls

△ Captives return

**Major  
Prophets**

Isaiah

Jeremiah/Lam.

Daniel

Ezekiel

**Minor  
Prophets**

Obadiah

Jonah Micah

Nahum

Haggai

Malachi

Joel

Amos

Zephaniah

Zechariah

Hosea

Habakkuk

**Other  
Prophets  
& OT Books**

Elijah

Elisha

Esther

Ezra

Nehemiah

*What was Hosea facing around him?*

- *Political*
  - *2 great powers: Syria (Aram) and Assyria*
  - *Assyria the greatest threat*
  - *Israel aligned with Syria for protection*
    - *God told them not to but they did*
- *Religious*
- *Cultural*

## *What was Hosea facing around him?*

- *Religion In Israel/Judah*
  - *Rejection of Yahweh worship and service*
    - *Catalogue of sins in the book. In existence in Israel.*
    - *Moral and spiritual deterioration*
  
- *The Religion of Baal*
  - *Idolatry*
  - *Baal worship*
  - *Nature worship*
  - *Worship of animals.*
  - *"Sacred" prostitution*
  - *Live children on altar*



*Hosea 8:5, 11-14*

*Who was Hosea writing to?*

- *Israel/Judah*
- *His family*
- *Kings, princes, leaders*
- *Priests, teachers*



## *The Upper Story of Sovereign Jehovah*

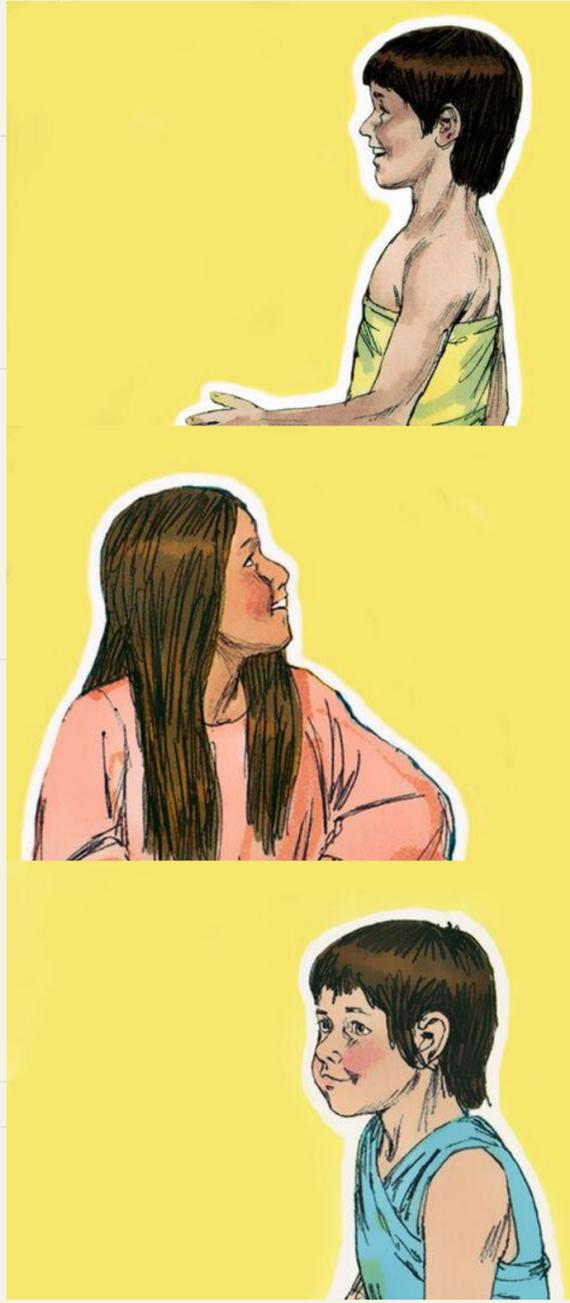
- *Overarching themes*
  - *God wants His People to Know Him and Live With Him*
  - *His People Are Choosing to Reject Him (Baal worship)*
  - *The Consequences of Rejection are Fatal!*
  - *Opportunity to repent and turn from idolatry is available now*
  - *God's Love and seeking their return will not cease*
  - *Authentication of the Prophet*

*Hosea's Calling*  
*Lord, You Want Me to Marry Who?*

- *God Calls Hosea As His Prophet to Northern Kingdom (Israel AKA Ephraim)*
- *Go and speak My Word to My People*
- *Take to yourself an adulterous wife and have/adopt? children of idolatry*
- *Your marriage will be a picture of My Love for My People even though they have rejected Me for a life of idolatry and prostitution*

*Hosea Ch 1*

Hosea's Life	God's Message	His People's Rejection	God's Restoration
Marriage to a prostitute	Your marriage will also be a message to my people	..the land....is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD.	
Gomer likely means "completion" or "fulfillment." (Daughter of Diblaim)	Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness..	As Hosea's unfaithful wife she represents Israel breaking its covenant vows by idolatry	
First child: Jezreel (God scatters)	I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel.	I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel.	
Second child: Lo-Ruhamah (to be pitied)	I will no longer show love to the house of Israel	...that I should at all forgive them.	Yet I will show love to the house of Judah; and I will save them — not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but by the LORD their God."
Third child: Lo-Ammi (not my people)	for you are not my people,	and I am not your God.	Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people', they will be called 'sons of the living God'. 11 The people of Judah and the people of Israel will be reunited, and they will appoint

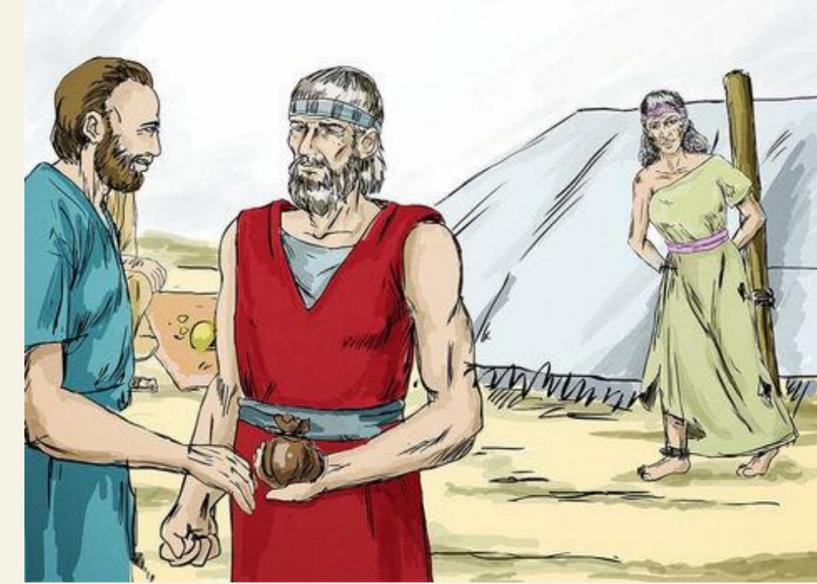


*Hosea's Calling*  
*Lord, You want me to say this?*

- **Go and speak My message of judgment**
  - *Verse 13: I will punish her for the days she burned incense to the Baals; she decked herself with rings and jewellery, and went after her lovers, but me she forgot," declares the LORD.*
- **Go and speak My message of love**
  - *Verse 14 "Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her.*
  - *Verse 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.'"*

*Hosea Ch 2*

*Hosea's Calling*  
*Lord, You really want me to*  
*forgive her?*



- The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes." So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley.*

*Then I told her, "You are to live with me for many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will live with you."*

*For the Israelites will live for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol. Afterwards the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.*

*Hosea Ch 3*

## Lord what are your charges against Your People?

- Reproof-the LORD has charges to bring against you
- "There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land. There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed."
- No knowledge of God
- The Priesthood
- Idolatry
- Prostitution
- Drunkenness
- Arrogance
- Insolence
- Sin

Hosea Ch 4-8

# Lord how shall I warn Your People?

## • Retribution

- *9:1 Do not rejoice, O Israel; do not be jubilant like the other nations. For you have been unfaithful to your God; you love the wages of a prostitute at every threshing-floor.*
- *3 They will not remain in the LORD's land; Ephraim will return to Egypt and eat unclean food in Assyria.*
- *9:6 Even if they escape from destruction, Egypt will gather them, and Memphis will bury them. Their treasures of silver will be taken over by briars, and thorns will overrun their tents.*
- *7 The days of punishment are coming, the days of reckoning are at hand. Let Israel know this. Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired man a maniac.*
- *8 The prophet, along with my God, is the watchman over Ephraim, yet snares await him on all his paths, and hostility in the house of his God.*
- *9 God will remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins.*

*Hosea Ch 9-10*

## Lord how shall I warn Your People?

### Hosea Ch 9-10

- **Retribution**
- *10:5 The people who live in Samaria fear for the calf-idol of Beth Aven. Its people will mourn over it, and so will its idolatrous priests, those who had rejoiced over its splendour, because it is taken from them into exile.*
- *6 It will be carried to Assyria as tribute for the great king. Ephraim will be disgraced; Israel will be ashamed of its wooden idols.*
- *7 Samaria and its king will float away like a twig on the surface of the waters.*
- *8 The high places of wickedness will be destroyed — it is the sin of Israel. Thorns and thistles will grow up and cover their altars. Then they will say to the mountains, "Cover us!" and to the hills, "Fall on us!"*

*Dear God, is there no hope for us?*

- **Restoration**
- **11:1** *"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. But the more I called Israel, the further they went from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realise it was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love; I lifted the yoke from their neck and bent down to feed them. "Will they not return to Egypt and will not Assyria rule over them because they refuse to repent?"*

*Hosea Ch 11-14*

*Dear God, is there no hope for us?*

- **Restoration**
- **11:8** *"How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboiim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I turn and devastate Ephraim. For I am God, and not man — the Holy One among you. I will not come in wrath. They will follow the LORD; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west. They will come trembling like birds from Egypt, like doves from Assyria. I will settle them in their homes," declares the LORD.*

*Hosea Ch 11-14*

*Dear God, is there no hope for us?*

- **Restoration**
- **12:12** *Jacob fled to the country of Aram; Israel served to get a wife, and to pay for her he tended sheep. The LORD used a prophet to bring Israel up from Egypt, by a prophet he cared for him.*
- **14:2** *Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to him: "Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips. Assyria cannot save us; we will not mount war-horses. We will never again say 'Our gods' to what our own hands have made, for in you the fatherless find compassion." "I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily.*

*Hosea Ch 11-14*

## Prophet's Summary

- *14:8 O Ephraim, what more have I to do with idols? I will answer him and care for him. I am like a green pine tree; your fruitfulness comes from me." Who is wise? He will realise these things. Who is discerning? He will understand them. The ways of the LORD are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.*

*Hosea Ch 14:  
Last two verses*

*What does this mean for me/us?*

- *God loves and calls all to Himself*
- *God is the only Saviour from the sin that separates all from God*
- *The Father has made that possible through His sending His Son to die for our sin*
- *Once we return to God, we are His with all of His promises and blessings*
  - *Even when we turn away from Him*
  - *Even when we don't know the why, or the next steps*
  - *Even when the complexity of the fallen world is allowed to happen*
  - *Keep following Jesus through it all!*

