

## **Hosea**

### **Summary**

Hosea exercised his prophetic ministry during the reigns of several kings. His career spanned about 40 years. Of all the prophetic books, Hosea is perhaps the most autobiographical. His own marriage and family form a vital part of his unique message. God would use Assyria to punish Israel for their sins against him, as Hosea made clear. God told Hosea to marry a prostitute and revealed to him ahead of time that she would be unfaithful. Her name was Gomer. His marriage was an example of God's relationship with Israel (Gomer)- who cheated and was unfaithful, and had babies with other men. God loved them still. Their actions broke God's heart. Gomer left Hosea to pursue lusts, but Hosea (whose name means salvation) found her, redeemed her, and brought her home again fully reconciled. Gomer had a daughter named "No Mercy" and a son named "not my people" to share messages with Israel about consequences of Israel's sin.

### **Author and Date:**

Hosea, son of Beeri. 715 BC

### **Audience/ Setting:**

People of Israel (the northern kingdom). During the end of a prosperous but morally declining reign of Jeroboam II of Israel. He prophesied in Israel and later Judah.

### **Purpose:**

Illustrate God's love for his sinful people. Provide a picture of God's relationship with Israel. God loved His people but they continued to worship idols and betray their covenant relationship with God. Hosea is a book of six cycles that involve sin, salvation, judgement, and restoration. God will not allow his people to become unfaithful to him without consequences. Just as a husband and wife expect faithfulness from one another in marriage, God expects the full time commitment of his people.

### **Key People:**

Hosea, Gomer, their children

### **Key Places:**

Northern kingdom (Israel, Samaria, Ephraim)

## **References**

NLT Life Application Study Bible  
Tony Evans Study Bible