

Hosea: Love that Saves

The Background and Historical Setting:

1. Religious—much activity but very little knowledge (4:6; 5:4) and much idolatry (8:12). The issue was they were Yahweh worshipers AND... (esp. Baal worship). *Why would they add Baal worship?*
2. Moral—their conduct and character were like the nations around them. The wealthy took advantage of the poor and all people showed little compassion. Injustice in the courts was common.
3. Political—the period of prosperity (800-750 BC) had brought a false sense of security and now Tiglath-Pileser III (Assyrian ruler 745-727 BC) was beginning to become aggressive. The second half of the 8th century saw Israel (the Northern Kingdom) have one weak king after another.

The Book as a Whole:

1. It is the first and longest of the 12 minor prophets in the Hebrew Bible.
2. This book occurs during the 8th century (3 other prophets during this time), probably during the years 753-715 BC.
3. It is one of the most frequently quoted minor prophets in the NT.

The Prophet Himself:

1. Hosea means “Yahweh saves”.
2. Hosea’s occupation may have been a baker, farmer or even priest (unsure).
3. Hosea may have been well-educated since the vocabulary and syntax is fairly eloquent.
4. Hosea’s call was “to marry a prostitute” (1:2).
5. Hosea’s personal life is the basis of God’s message to Israel (even the names of his children were a message from God).

The Outline:

- I. Love and Marriage: The Good and the Bad (1:1-3:5)
 - A. Falling in Love and Fathering Children (1:1-11)
 - B. Falling Away and Finding the Way Back (2:1-23)
 - C. The Faithful Lover (3:1-5)
- II. Exposure, Expulsion and Restoration: Dysfunction at its Deepest Level (4:1-14:9)
 - A. Sin is Brought into the Light: The Exposure of the Ungodly (4:1-7:16)
 - B. Sin must be dealt with in the Unrepentant: The Expulsion of the Unresponsive (8:1-10:15)
 - C. Forgiveness is the Last Word: The Restoration of those who repent and receive the Love of God (11:1-14:9)

The Prophet’s Purpose: To Reveal God’s Unconditional and Covenant Love and Call His Sinful and Rebellious People Back to Himself

Key Verse: “Then the LORD said to me, ‘Go and get your wife again. Bring her back to you and love her, even though she loves adultery. For the LORD still loves Israel even though the people have turned to other gods, offering them choice gifts.’” (3:1; see also 14:1-4)

The Predictable Path Life Takes Us: Rebellion, Righteousness, and the Return Hosea 4:1-19, 5:1-15, 6:1-11

1. _____: The Path away from God brings Calamity. (Hosea 4:1-19)
 - 1) _____ away from God brings severe _____.
Without God there is no _____, no _____, and no _____.
 - 2) Walking away from God creates _____ makers.
 - 3) Walking away from God results in a _____ life because we end up _____ strange ideas, _____ in strange ways, and _____ estranged from all that is _____.

What does your life look like right at this moment?

2. _____: The Purity of God Requires a Response to Rebellion. (Hosea 5:1-15)
 - 1) God cannot be silent because His _____ is _____.
 - 2) God cannot be silent because the _____ are so _____.
 - 3) God cannot be silent because His _____ is _____.

What you believe about God reveals itself in your behavior!

3. _____: The Promise of God is that He will _____ our _____ and _____ us walk in _____ and _____. (Hosea 6:1-11)
 - 1) God’s _____ comes when we choose to return by _____ to _____ Him in His _____.
 - 2) God’s healing comes when we choose to embrace His will to _____ unconditional _____ and steadfast _____.

*Where are you on this journey with God?
Where are those around you?*