

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 Gentle Grace and Enduring Love of the God of Heaven

Hosea 11:1-11, 14:1-9

1. The _____ God Graciously _____ us to Himself. (Hosea 11:1-11)

God’s Call: Like a loving _____, God loves _____, provides _____, and restores _____.

Our Response: Like a _____ child, we must _____ our failures _____, _____ from our sinful _____, and _____ to loving God _____.

How will you respond to the call of God on your life?

2. The _____ God Longs to _____ Home His _____ Children. (Hosea 14:1-9)

God’s Call: Like a loving parent, God _____ us that we _____ what we _____ (beware of the sin of idolatry and immorality) and we reap _____ than we sow. (Hosea 8:7)

Our Response: Like a repentant child, we must _____ of our sin with _____ of _____ and _____ of _____ and _____ the _____ of the loving God who longs to _____ and _____ us in order to _____ Him.

Will you let God heal you and help you through being honest and humble as you seek to honor Him?