

Hosea: The Stubborn & Holy Love of God

LESSON 1: HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF HOSEA

Intro:

The word of the LORD that came to Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

Hosea 1

- Joel, Micah and Zephaniah begin in the same way.
- This book is a _____ of the word of the Lord that came to Hosea.
- Hosea is a prophet, one who is called by God to speak for God to the people.
- He is the son of Beeri, or “_____” meaning YHWH is my _____.
- Hosea means “_____” or “he has delivered” & is a form of Hoshea, or Joshua (Num. 13:16).
- While there is much about _____ here, the point is the _____ of God’s people.
- The word translated as “prophet” is rooted in that idea of being _____.
- In Israel, the other offices were attained by virtue of your _____.
- They are also called “*seer*” because of the _____ they experience.
- Some are called “*man of God*” recognizing they _____ to God and are intended to be _____.
- Some prophets were men who had other vocations. They were not full-time prophets.

Three Covenant Offices

- The Mosaic Covenant _____ the life of Israel as God’s _____ people.
- All three officers of the covenant _____ w/oil representing the Holy Spirit.
- The priests spoke to _____ for the _____ thru prayer & intercession.
- The priests offered _____ to God for the people to provide pardon & purification.
- He fosters fellowship with God & _____ the law to the people for their benefit.
- Kings were under the law and were to enforce the _____ law (_____ enemies).
- Kings also defended the people from _____ enemies.
- They administrated the _____ of the kingdom for its well-being & growth.

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¹⁴“When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, ‘I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,’ ¹⁵ you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. ¹⁶ Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall never return that way again.’ ¹⁷ And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.

¹⁸“And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. ¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, ²⁰ that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel. **Deuteronomy 17**

- We see that God, not the people, were to choose the king.
- The king was to be an _____, not a _____.
- The army was to be _____ so he and the people will trust in God not in the army.
- The king would also be tempted to come under the _____ of a _____ nation.
- He was not supposed to accumulate _____ or _____.
- Solomon’s heart was led _____ by his wives so he introduced false gods.
- The priests were to give the king a copy of the law for him to copy to _____ & study it.
- It was to keep him _____, and to guide him into wisdom & _____.
- Covenant faithfulness was a condition for _____ & _____ in the land.

Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, ² from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. ³ He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. ⁴ For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. ⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁶ So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done. ⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. ⁸ And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods. **1 Kings 11** (in chapter 10 we see his great wealth!)

- Prophets spoke for God to the people on the basis of the covenant: _____.
- They examined the _____ of the people thru the lens of the _____.

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- As a prophet, Hosea points us to & tells us about _____ the Prophet (Priest & King).
- The covenant, which Hosea applies, also finds its fulfillment in Christ.

“Nothing in Hosea’s life was accidental; Hosea’s ministry served in the progress of God’s redemptive purpose.” **Michael Barrett**¹

Time Frame of Hosea’s Ministry

- He ministered during the days of Uzziah, _____, Ahaz & Hezekiah in Judah (769-698).
- Only mentions _____ (II), the king of Israel (784-748). Died during Jotham’s reign.
- This is a potential time span of over 80 years. That is longer than the life of his ministry.
- What is going on? Jeroboam directly addressed the situation in _____ or _____.
- The _____, however, was addressed to the southern kingdom or _____.
- His ministry may have ended about the time of Samaria’s _____ (722).
- He may have moved to Judah with the _____ invasion, putting it into writing.
- Hezekiah most likely began a _____ - _____ in 728, and _____ rule in 715.
- During this time frame _____ had become the most powerful nation in the world.
- Their kingdom extended all the way to _____ and Samaria was one of many vassals.
- This means that Hosea was a contemporary of _____, a prophet in Judah.

“Hosea lived and ministered during most of that history and, therefore, preached to a nation on the brink of disaster.” **Michael Barrett**²

“It hence appears with how great and with how invincible a courage and perseverance he was endowed by the Holy Spirit.” **John Calvin**³

²³ In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, began to reign in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. ²⁴ And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. ²⁵ He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, which he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher. ²⁶ For the LORD saw that the affliction of Israel was very bitter, for there was none left, bond or free, and there was none to help Israel. ²⁷ But the LORD had not said that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, so he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash. **2 Kings 14**

- He was the 3rd king in the line of _____, who assassinated _____ at _____.

¹ Barrett, Michael. *Love Divine and Unfailing: The Gospel According to Hosea*. Philipsburg, P&R Publishing. 2008, pp. 22.

² Barrett, pp. 35.

³ Calvin, John. *Commentaries on Hosea*, pp. 38.

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- God provided an earthy _____ thru Jeroboam from this affliction.
- He _____ and _____ their borders. He was _____ powerful.
- Under him there was also economic prosperity, and _____.
- Prosperity, as if often does, brought _____ as the people forgot who blessed them.
- But he was an _____ king, continuing the _____ of Jeroboam I (not related).
- Jeroboam I set up _____ & _____ worship sites in _____ & _____.

“The historical setting of Hosea’s ministry, then, was marked by a widespread lack of faith in Yahweh’s all-sufficiency for Israel’s real-life needs and by a consequent failure to observe the exclusive nature of their covenant with Yahweh. A ‘spirit of harlotry’ pervaded the mentality of the times.” **Ray Ortlund Jr.**⁴

Conclusion:

That the original messages were given to Samaria and then _____ to Judah means:

1. God speaks into a _____ context that must be understood.
2. What God says can be applied to those in a _____ historical context.
3. As the _____ Israel (Gal. 3:29), his message about covenant _____ applies to us.

“The very fact that God raised up Hosea to minister to a people living in such a day of “religious mess” should give us hope.” **Michael Barrett**⁵

⁴ Ortlund, Raymond Jr. *Whoredom: God’s Unfaithful Wife in Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans. 1996, pp.49.

⁵ Barrett, pp. 17.