

A Study of the Prophets

OT Survey Lesson 111--Hosea 1:1-3:5

Introduction: Hosea addressed his prophecies to the northern kingdom during the same period as Amos. God used Hosea's marriage to his unfaithful wife, Gomer, to illustrate the way Israel had dealt with God. Just as Hosea continued to love and seek the restoration of his wife, so God declares in this book his love for his people and his desire for their restoration to Him.

Lesson aim: To show how God continues to love his faithless people and seeks their restoration.

Hosea's wife, Gomer, bears three children--Hosea 1:1-11

1. What was Hosea first instructed by God to do? (v. 2) Why?
2. Who did Hosea choose to marry? (v. 3)
3. What symbolic name was given the first child born to Hosea and Gomer? (v. 4) Why was this name given to the child?
4. What symbolic name was given to the second child? (v. 6) What message did this name suggest? (v. 6-7)
5. What symbolic name was given to the third child? (v. 8-9) What message did this name suggest?
6. What promise did God make at the end of chapter one concerning Israel's future? (v. 10-11) Who are the people who fulfill this promise? (See 1 Pet. 2:10; Romans 9:22-26)

Hosea puts Gomer away for her harlotry--Hosea 2:1-23

1. In this section God speaks to Israel as if Hosea would speak to Gomer, his unfaithful wife. What does God say Israel should do? (v. 2)
2. Read v. 3-7. What is God saying He would do to Israel?
3. Since Israel thought her blessings came from her "lovers" (idols), what did God say He would do? (v. 9-10). Why did God say He would do these things? (v. 13)
4. Read 2:14-23. What is God promised to do in these verses?
5. What did God say Israel would call him after their repentance? (v. 16)
6. What did God say He would abolish from the land? (v. 18)
7. For how long would Israel be married to God? (v. 19) Israel would be betrothed to God in what? (v. 19)
8. What would God say to the Israelites after their restoration? (v. 23)

Hosea redeems Gomer and makes her his wife again--Hosea 3:1-5

1. What command did God give to Hosea? (v. 1) What did Hosea do? (v. 2)
2. Hosea made Gomer live in seclusion for a time. In a similar way, Israel would be without what things? (v. 4)
3. What did God say would happen to Israel after their period of seclusion or captivity? (v. 5) Who would be king over them? (v. 5) What did God say they would do "in the last days"?
4. Thought question: Do you know how these prophecies are fulfilled? Who is "David"? When are the "last days"? Who are those who come to the Lord?