

Introduction to Hosea (2021)

I. The book divides into three parts:

- A. Historical account (chs.1-3)
- B. God's complaints (chs.4-13)
- C. Messianic Age (ch.14)

In a sense, the first section is a microcosm of the whole book—each chapter corresponding to one of the segments.

II. The story of the prophet's domestic unhappiness

- A. A wife of harlotry and children of harlotry (1:2; 2:4-5; John 8:41)
- B. "Jezreel" = "God scatters" — the city where Jehu (755 BC) killed Ahab and Jezebel, along with many innocent people. Jehu was promised a dynasty of four generations (Jeroboam was the fourth)
- C. "Lo-Ruhamah" = "Not shown mercy", or "Not loved" (1:6; 2:23)
- D. "Lo-Ammi" = "Not my people" (or "No kin of mine!") (1:9-10; 2:23)
- E. Redemption portrays restoration to one kingdom under "David" (3:1-5; Jer.30:9; Ezek.34:24; 37:24-25)

III. God's charges (2:2; 4:1; 12:2)

- A. Harlotry (1:2; 2:2; "harlot" or "harlotry" altogether 16x). 8:5-6
- B. No truth or mercy (4:1)
- C. Treachery against the covenant (5:7; 8:1, 12)
- D. Rejection of true prophets (6:5; 9:7; 12:10, 13)
- E. Chief culprits: Priests (4:6-9; 5:1; 6:9), compromised prophets (4:5; 9:8), princes (5:1, 10)
- F. No knowledge of God (4:1, 6; 5:4; 6:3, 6) —because they have forsaken God (4:10) and his Law (4:6)

IV. Judah

- A. But not entirely clean, nonetheless. (5:5, 10, 12-14; 6:4; 8:14; 10:11; 12:2)
- B. Not in the same condition as Ephraim/Israel. (1:7; 4:15, 17; 6:11; 11:12?)

V. God's appeals (6:1-3?; 10:12-13; 13:4; 14:1-3)

VI. Places and people's names

- A. Ephraim (32x)
- B. Jezreel "God scatters" or " God sows" (1:4-5, 11; 2:22, 23)
- C. Beth-Aven (House of Wickedness) = pejorative nickname for Bethel (House of God)?
Mentioned as separate but in the vicinity of Bethel and Ai (Josh.7:2; 18:12-13)
- D. Gilgal (4:15; 9:15; 12:11). Where Saul was made king (1 Sam/11:14-15)
- E. Gibeah (5:8; 9:9; 10:9). The city in Benjamin where a man's concubine was gang raped, resulting in a war of near annihilation against Benjamin (Jud.19, 20)
- F. King Jareb (5:13; 10:6). "Great King" (NIV, ESV, NLT, NET, HCSB, NRSV); NASB says "King Jareb" with a footnote that reads: another reading is *the great king*; or *the contentious king*
Tribute was paid, to Tiglath Pileser III, by Israel's kings Menahem and Hoshea

VII. Historical references

- A. Jacob's flight from Esau (12:12)
- B. Jacob's wrestling with God (12:3-4)
- C. Deliverance from Egypt and rebellion in the wilderness (11:1-4; 12:13-14; 13:4-6)
- D. Their choice of kings (8:4; 9:15; 13:10-11)

VIII. Assyria the new Egypt (7:16; 8:13; 9:3, 6; 11:5)

IX. Significantly cited in New Testament

- 1:10; 2:23 (Romans 9:25-26; 1 Peter 2:10)
- 11:1 (Matthew 2:15)
- 6:6 (Matthew 9:13; 12:7)
- 2:23 (Romans 9:25-26; 1 Peter 2:9-10)

X. The Messianic Age

- 1:10-11
- 2:14-23
- 3:4-5
- 14:1-9