

20220515 LOVE THAT NEVER ENDS
LIVING IN THE LAND OF GRACE SERIES PART 1

Hosea 1:1-11

¹ The word of the Lord that came to Hosea son of Beeri during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the reign of Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel:

² When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, “Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the Lord.”

³ So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

⁴ Then the Lord said to Hosea, “Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel.

⁵ In that day I will break Israel’s bow in the Valley of Jezreel.”

⁶ Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the Lord said to Hosea, “Call her Lo-Ruhamah, for I will no longer show love to the house of Israel, that I should at all forgive them.

⁷ Yet I will show love to the house of Judah; and I will save them—not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but by the Lord their God.”

⁸ After she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, Gomer had another son.

⁹ Then the Lord said, “Call him Lo-Ammi, for you are not my people, and I am not your God.

¹⁰ “Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’

¹¹ The people of Judah and the people of Israel will be reunited, and they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel.

Hosea is one of the Minor Prophets in the Bible.

WHAT ARE THE MINOR PROPHETS?

The Bible is a diverse collection of different writings. It contains sixty-six books written by about forty human authors over nearly 2,000 years.

1. The Old Testament (39 books) – Hebrews
2. The New Testament (27 books) – Greek

The Old Testament divisions in English Bibles:

1. History: There are 17 books, from Genesis to Esther.
2. Poetry: There are 5 books, from Job to Song of Songs.
3. Prophecy: There are 17 books, from Isaiah to Malachi.

*The original Hebrew Bible arranges the books in a different order: Law, Prophets, and Writings.

1. Law: 5 books, from Genesis to Deuteronomy. (Often called as ‘Pentateuch’)
2. Prophets: This section is divided to two subsections - former prophets and latter prophets. (Former prophets: 7 books, from Joshua to 2 Kings; Latter prophets: 17 books, from Isaiah to Malachi)
3. Writings: Psalms, wisdom literature, and history of the exile and beyond (10 books in this section, from 1 Chronicles to Song of Songs)

Prophets in English Bibles

1. Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel
2. Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi (Minor Prophets are also sometimes called The Twelve.)

WHAT IS THE BOOK OF HOSEA ABOUT?

Hosea is primarily a love story, specifically one of redemptive love.

Hosea paints Israel's spiritual adultery with vivid images, calling God's people with both warnings and heartfelt appeals to turn back to the Lord.

THE DIVISION OF ISRAEL AS TWO KINGDOMS IN ITS HISTORY

(Southern kingdom of Judah and Northern kingdom of Israel)

1. Southern kingdom of Judah: 2 tribes of Judah and Benjamin (First king – Rehoboam)
2. Northern kingdom of Israel (Ephraim): 10 tribes of Reuben, Simeon, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Manasseh, and Ephraim (First king – Jeroboam)

1 Kings 12:9

¹⁹ "So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day" (1 Kings 12:19).

**The northern kingdom is often called "Israel" (or sometimes "Ephraim") in Scripture, and the southern kingdom is called "Judah."*

IMPORTANT SPIRITUAL LESSON - SIN BRINGS DIVISION.

James 4:1

¹ What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? (James 4:1)

GOD'S PROMISE FOR THE NATION ISRAEL

Reuniting of the northern and southern kingdoms in the future

Isaiah 11:12-13

¹² He will raise a banner for the nations

and gather the exiles of Israel;
he will assemble the scattered people of Judah
from the four quarters of the earth.
¹³ Ephraim's jealousy will vanish,
and Judah's enemies will be cut off;
Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah,
nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim.

AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE OF THE BOOK, HOSEA

Audience: Hosea's primary audience was Ephraim (another name for the northern kingdom, Israel).

Purpose: God calls the people of Israel through Hosea to leave their sin and to return to the One (God) who first loved them and who can provide what is best for them.

TAKE HOME POINT IN TODAY'S MESSAGE

There's an overflowing joy and satisfaction in the heart of those who love Jesus Christ with all of their beings. Just like true marriage relationship in our life, Christians' deep devotion to Christ is all about love that automatically produces a joyous obedience to His calling.