

The Minor Prophets

Hosea: Love Story of Redemption



The Forum Terrace Church of Christ

Adult Wednesday Night Bible Class Spring Quarter 2023

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Introduction to Hosea

Hosea 1:1

Authorship

The two phrases at the opening of this minor prophet are incontestable proof that Hosea was the author. In verse one it reads, "*The word of the Lord which came to Hosea...*" Again in verse two it says, "*When the Lord first spake through Hosea...*" Therefore, it is with little reason the authorship of this book is among the least questioned by scholars.

Date

The date of Hosea's prophecy is also rarely questioned. In his opening remarks Hosea gives us the date of His prophetic ministry according to the reign of the king of Israel and the kings of Judah (1:1). The King of Israel was Jeroboam II who reigned from 786 to 746 B.C. The kings of Judah reigned as follows: Uzziah from 783 to 743 B.C.; Jotham from 742 to 735 B.C.; Ahaz from 735 to 715 B.C. and Hezekiah from 715 to 686 B.C.

According to Jewish tradition Hosea prophesied nearly fourscore and ten years. He obviously prophesied in the last 40 years of the northern kingdom. His preaching probably took place between 750-725 B.C.

The Man, Hosea

- **His Name**

The name "Hosea" is found elsewhere in the Old Testament. It was first worn by Joshua in Numbers 13:8,16. Ironically, it was the same name with a variation in spelling (Hosehea) which the last king in Israel wore. The name is believed to be a shortened form of the word "Jehoshea", which would mean "the Lord is my help". Thus, the name "Hosea" indicates "salvation" or "deliverance" or "hope".

- **His Residence**

According to ancient Jews Hosea was of Bethshemesh and of the tribe of Issachar. However, there exist no evidence today which would support this claim beyond mere Jewish tradition.

Some evidence can be found from Hosea's prophecy which may indicate that he was a native of Israel. His familiarity with the geography in Israel points to him as a native (5:1; 4:8; 12:11; 14:5-7; 4:15). In chapter one and verse two he calls the Kingdom of Israel "*the land*". He speaks of its king as "*our*" king (7:5). Thus, Hosea has the distinction of being the only writing prophet of the northern kingdom who preached to his own people. Earlier God had sent Jonah a prophet from Galilee to preach to Ninevah. Then He sent Amos a prophet from Judah to call Israel to repentance. Now, God calls a native son of Israel to implore Israel again to return to Him.

- **His Occupation**

Some believe that he was a baker based on his reference to baking in chapter seven. Others believe that his references to agriculture suggest that he had some experience working with soil. Still others associate him with the school of the prophets. They suppose Beer, his father, was a prophet because they held the opinion that when a prophet's father is mentioned by name, that he belongs to the prophetic class. However, beyond these mere conjectures we know nothing of his occupation.

- **His Marriage**

The marriage of Hosea to Gomer plays an important role in this message to Israel. Hosea was to marry "*a woman of whoredom*" according to the direct instructions of God. It is highly unlikely that she

was a prostitute at the time of their marriage. The age in which Hosea lived made it very hard for any woman's character to be untouched by Israel's famed fertility cults. Gomer was of such a background that unchastity and even unfaithfulness in marriage was part of the norm. Gomer's unfaithfulness to Hosea is parallel to Israel's unfaithfulness to God. Hosea's willingness to take Gomer back is illustrative of God's willingness to take Israel back. Even the names of Gomer's children demonstrate God's displeasure with Israel. Hosea named his first child "Jezreel" meaning "*God will scatter*" demonstrating that God will scatter the house of Israel throughout foreign nations. The second child was a daughter whom he named "Loruhamah" which means "*no mercy*". This demonstrates the end of God's mercy for Israel. The last child was called "Loammi" meaning "*not my people*". For God no longer claimed Israel as His people. Hosea had to suffer through one of the most horrifying experiences known to man - adultery. As a result he came to know God better. He knew now just how God felt when Israel played the whore before Him.

- **His Contemporaries**

A reason exists behind Hosea being selected as the first of the minor prophets. Centuries ago Jewish scholars interpreted the phrase, "*When the Lord first spake to Hosea*" to mean that he had first priority compared to the other prophets. The Word "first" refers to his prophecy from God and not to the prophet himself or to the date of this prophecy.

The nearest contemporary of Hosea would be Amos. Amos also prophesied in Israel, just prior to Hosea's prophetic mission.

The nearest contemporary to Hosea in the southern kingdom would be Isaiah who prophesied during the reign of Hezekiah.

Historical Setting

- **Political Situation**

Under the reign of Jeroboam II Israel had acquired great material prosperity. The nation had expanded over neighboring kingdoms, until it reached her greatest extent in all her history. During the swift economic expansion a large gap between the upper and lower classes became more and more evident. As already seen in Amos' prophecy this led to many abuses. Two things often go hand in hand: abundant affluence and great depravity.

Immediately following the Indian summer of Jeroboam II's reign, chaos and anarchy enveloped the nation. In just twenty-five cruel and bloody years Israel would go through six kings and then be utterly destroyed by Assyria. Up until this time Assyria had been a sleeping giant. In 735, Tiglath Pileaser III took the throne of Assyria. The empire awoke with an insatiable appetite for enlarging the empire. During this time Jeroboam II died and left the northern Kingdom in the hands of his son, Zechariah. After reigning six months Zechariah was assassinated by Shallum. Shallum reigned for a month before one of his generals, Menahem, murdered him. Under Menahem, Israel became a tributary to Assyria. His son, Pekahiah, reigned for two years before being slain by Pekah. Pekah led Israel in an alliance with Rezin of Damascus against Judah. Judah called upon Assyrian aid. The Assyrians came down on both Damascus and Samaria killing Pekah and setting up Hoshea as king. When Shalmaneser IV discovered Hoshea's plot to procure the aid of Egypt against the Assyrians, he had him captured and sent into exile. After a three year siege Samaria fell to the Assyrians under Sargon.

- **Moral Situation**

Israel was a nation on the brink of destruction, because of its low moral standards. Hosea aptly called Israel's immorality "whoredoms". Literal fornication actually abounded at this time. "*The widespread prevalence of cultic prostitution is evident from the fact that in Jeremiah's day, a century after the time of Hosea's prostitution, it flourished in the temple precincts (II Ki. 23:7)*" (ed. Merrill C. Tenny, Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary, p. 362). They freely practiced lying, stealing, swearing, murder, deceit, adultery, trickery, drunkenness, dishonesty both in their personal life and in business (4:12).

The people could repent. They had repented to some extent in the past. Yet their repentance was spasmodic, and as vaporizable as the dissipating mist of a fog.

- **The State of Religion**

Before the Israelites had entered Canaan they had been a nomadic people. Therefore, they had to learn farming from the local Canaanites which remained in the land. However, Canaanite farming was inter-connected with pagan religious customs. Thus, Israel began early to adopt these customs.

The leading Canaanite gods were El, Baal, and Dagon with their female counterparts Asherah, Astarte, and Anath. These pagan religions were predominantly concerned with the fertility of land, man, and beast. Israel became so engrossed in Baal worship that they made names compounded with Baal, such as, Ishbaal, Baaljada, Meribbaal, etc.

Not only were the people offering homage to Baal, but they were paying some homage to Jehovah, though only outwardly. They represented Jehovah by the symbol of a bull. The system of worship set up by Jeroboam I was still flourishing at Dan and Bethel as people flocked to worship the calves, he had set up. Truly, the people were without genuine knowledge of God (4:6).

Content

The style of Hosea's writing is most difficult at times to comprehend. However, a detailed study of this prophecy will bring the parts of his message together into a lesson that can even apply to modern man.

This prophecy is beyond a shadow of a doubt a message intended for the ten northern tribes. However, there are fourteen references of Judah in which ten of them are unfavorable. This fact has been a cause of trouble with some scholars. As we have already seen in our studies of the minor prophets, no prophet has been restricted to one kingdom. Each one has occasionally cast a few words in the direction of the sister kingdom as if to call their attention to some of the same warnings.

Special Themes

- **Love**

Divine love is undoubtedly a special theme of Hosea. His ever enduring love for Gomer is a remarkable demonstration of Divine Love for Israel. Some have referred to Hosea as a love story that went bad. Though things didn't work out as hoped, the never-ending love for God's people is seen from beginning to end. The idea of covenant love (hesed) is prominent. "'Hesed' translated 'steadfast love, kindness, mercy' is choice-love, involving strength, gentleness, zeal, and perseverance to carry out the obligations of a contractual relationship" (ed. Guthrie, Motyer, Stibbs, and Wiseman, New Bible Commentary: Revised, p. 703). It isn't a wonder that Hosea is called by some "the St. John of the Old Testament".

- **Knowledge**

Hosea emphasizes knowledge of God. The word for "*knowledge*" here does not refer to mere intellectual knowledge. It is a knowledge that leads a man to do something. The word in the Hebrew text is "*yada*". It is used in Genesis 4:1 describing a man's relationship to his wife. Thus, true knowledge of God involves an intimate relationship with God. Although Israel knew of God's existence she did not know Him intimately. Instead, Israel had relationship with paganism, materialism, the military strength of Egypt and Assyria, etc. Thus, Hosea warns the people of impending destruction because of their lack of knowledge.

- **Redemption**

Sometime after Hosea's wife, Gomer, had given into a life of prostitution, God told Hosea to redeem her back to himself. Hosea responded, "*So I bought her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver, and one and one-half homers of barley*" (3:2). Concerning Hosea's third child God said, "*Call his name Lo-Ammi, For you are not My people, And I will not be your God*" (1:9). Later, God would show mercy, "*And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' and they shall say, 'You are my God!'*" (2:23). This is alluded to in Romans 9:25 and applied to the Jews of his day.

The theme of redemption is brought up later in the book where God mentions having redeemed Israel in the past and pronounces *“Woe to them, for they have fled from Me! Destruction to them, Because they have transgressed against Me! Though I redeemed them, Yet they have spoken lies against Me”* (7:13). Before the prophecy ends God promises a time when *“I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death”* (13:14a). Interestingly, Peter makes a similar comment reminding readers of the book of Hosea: *“who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy”* (1 Peter 2:10)

Questions:

1. T F A great deal of uncertainty exists concerning the authorship of Hosea.
2. Hosea prophesied during the reigns of the following kings of Judah a) Uzziah b) Jotham c) Ahaz d) Hezekiah e) Jeroboam II.
3. Hosea prophesied while Jeroboam II reigned from a) 735 to 715 B.C. b) 786 to 746 B.C. c) 746 to 786 A.D.
4. The name "Hosea" means a) salvation b) Jehovah is kind c) dove.
5. T F An abundance of evidence can be found to indicate that Hosea was a baker by trade.
6. Gomer's unfaithfulness to Hosea is parallel to a) Israel's unfaithfulness to Assyria b) God's neglect and rejection of Israel c) Israel's unfaithfulness to God.
7. a) Jeremiah b) Amos c) Hezekiah would be the nearest contemporary prophet to Hosea.
8. T F During the reign of Jeroboam II Israel acquired great material prosperity.
9. T F The end of Jeroboam II's reign marked a new beginning of peace and stability for the northern kingdom.
10. T F Hosea aptly called Israel's immorality "whoredoms".

Application & Discussion:

1. From what has God redeemed us? What is the price of our redemption? What are the conditions?

Homework: Read the book of Hosea.

Spiritual Adultery

Hosea 1:2-2:13

Hosea's Wife & Children, 1:2-9

1. Who was Hosea commanded to marry and why?
2. Who did Hosea marry?
3. What was his child's name? What is the meaning of this name? What prophecy is uttered in connection with it?
4. What is the symbolic meaning of the Lord's statement in verse 5: *"I will break the bow of Israel"*?
5. Where is the valley of Jezreel located? What are some of the events which have taken place there?
6. What was his daughter's name? What does this name mean? What is the prophecy uttered in connection with it?
7. Upon whom would God have compassion?
8. When during the history of Judah did God deliver them without the bow, sword, battle, horses, or horsemen?
9. Why did God have Hosea name his third child Loammi? What does this name mean?

Promise of Future Restoration, 1:10-21

10. What will be the size of Israel in the future?
11. At what place did God say to Israel *"You are not my people"*? What will be said to them there at a future date?
12. What will take place in the day of Jezreel?
13. What were they to say to their brothers and sisters? What do these words mean?

God Threatens Israel With Punishment, 2:2-13

14. Who represents the wife? Who represents the husband?
15. Who would the *"mother"* represent?
16. Why has the relationship between God and Israel been destroyed?
17. When was she (Israel) born?
18. Why will God not have compassion on her children? Who do the *"children"* represent?
19. Who are represented by Israel's *"lovers"*?
20. Why does Israel go after her *"lovers"*?
21. Why can't Israel find her lovers?

22. Why would Israel go back to her first husband?
23. Who had given them their material blessings?
24. What would God take back?
25. What would God uncover?
26. To what would God put an end?
27. How did Israel view her vines and fig trees?
28. What did Israel do in the "*days of the Baals*"?

Application & Discussion:

1. In your own words define "spiritual adultery" and what it involves (2:3,5,8,13)
2. List some of the consequences of spiritual adultery? (1:2,5,6,9; 2:9,10,11)
3. List the blessings of redemption and restoration from spiritual adultery? (1:10,11)

Homework: Flee from Spiritual adultery into the forgiving embrace of God.

The Hope of Redemption

Hosea 2:14-3:5

God Converts Israel, 2:14-20

1. What is the valley of Achor? Where is it? What are some of the historical events which have taken place there?
2. In the future what will they call God?
3. What did they call God in the past?
4. What will God remove?
5. What will God make for them?
6. What does it mean that God will "*abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land*" in the future?
7. In what will God betroth them?

God Restores Israel, 2:21-23

8. Who will respond (answer)?
9. To whom will the earth respond?

10. What will God sow in the land?

11. Who will be His people?

Hosea Redeems His Wife, 3:1-3

12. Hosea was to love a woman, who was it to be?

13. Of what was she guilty?

14. Who did God love in this same manner? Of what was she guilty?

15. What price did Hosea pay for this woman?

16. What were the conditions which Hosea set upon acquiring this woman?

Parallel: God's Plan To Redeem Israel, 3:4,5

17. To what period of time does the "*many days*" refer?

18. What is an "*ephod*"?

19. What is a "*teraphim*" or household idol?

20. What will the children of Israel do after their return?

21. What does "*David their King*" represent?

Application & Discussion:

1. What are some of the motivators to restore the unfaithful (2:15,18,19,20,21)?

2. What are the conditions of redemption (3:1-5)?

Homework: Since you have been redeemed by God through Christ remain faithful.

God's Legal Charges Against Israel

Hosea 4:1-19

Israel's Moral Corruption, 4:1-5

1. What was lacking among the inhabitants of the land?
2. Of what sins were they guilty?
3. Who mourns and languishes?
4. What does it mean to "*contend with the priests*"? What was the consequences of doing such?
5. Who does their "*mother*" represent?

Ignorance And the Failure Of the Priests, 4:6-10

6. What is the consequence of their lack of knowledge?
7. What is the consequence for their rejection of knowledge?
8. What is the consequence of their forgetting the Law of God?
9. What will God do to their glory?
10. What does it mean "*like people, like priests*"?

11. Why won't they be satisfied or increased?

Adultery Through Their Idolatry, 4:11-19

12. What takes away understanding?

13. Who do they consult for understanding?

14. Why do they worship under the trees?

15. Why will God not punish the daughters and wives who commit fornication?

16. Why does God warn Judah?

17. What is Judah warned not to do?

18. What is Ephraim? Why should Ephraim be left alone?

19. What do their rulers love?

20. What is the meaning of the phrase: *"the wind wraps them in its wings"*?

21. Why will they be ashamed?

Application & Discussion:

1. List some sins listed with Israel's lack of knowledge (4:1,2,11,12,16)?

2. What are some of the causes of Israel's ignorance (4:11,12,15)?

3. Identify some of the consequences of spiritual ignorance from this chapter (4:3,6,10,19)?

Homework: Work on improving your spiritual literacy.

Warnings to Israel

Hosea 5:1-15

Warning Of Their Guilt, 5:1-7

1. To whom are these warnings addressed?
2. Where is Mizpah? What did they do there?
3. Where is Tabor? What did they do there?
4. What have the revolters done?
5. Why won't they return to God?
6. Who will stumble and why?
7. Why will they take their flocks and herds to seek the Lord? Why will they not find Him?
8. What was the problem with the children they bore?

Warning of Judgment, 5:8-15

9. Where are Gibeah, Ramah, and Bethaven located?
10. When will Ephraim be a desolation?

11. What is the meaning of the phrase "*like those who move a boundary*"?
12. What commandment is Ephraim being condemned for following?
13. What was the Divine Judge going to be like to Ephraim and to the house of Judah in verses 12 and 14?
14. To whom would they go for help? What would be the result?
15. Upon what conditions would God return to them?

Application & Discussion:

1. What are some of the warnings God gave to Israel (5:1,3,4,7,10,11,13)? Does God send these same warnings to man today?
2. What means or methods has God employed to warn man of guilt and coming judgment (5:1,2,3,10,12,13)? Does God use these today?
3. What is the proper reactions to God's warnings (5:15)? How should Christians react to God's warnings?

Homework: Heed the warnings of God.

Insincere Repentance

Hosea 6:1-7:7

Israel Is Urged To Turn To The Lord To Receive His Blessings, 6:1-3

1. To what is God's abilities being compared to in verse one?
2. What will God do to them after two days and on the third day?
3. To what is God's going forth and coming compared?

God Considers Their Insincerity An Abomination, 6:4-11

4. Why did God condemn their goodness or loyalty?
5. How has God hewn and slain them?
6. Is verse 6 condemning the sacrifices and burnt offerings of the Law as non-essential? Explain.
7. How did Adam transgress his covenant with God? What comparisons are there between what Adam did and what the Israelites are doing?
8. Where is Gilead? What is the problems associated with it?
9. Where is Shechem? What important events have taken place there in the past? What were the priests doing there?

10. What did God see in the house of Israel?

11. Why is the harvest appointed for Judah?

Moral Corruption Affects Israel's Rulers, 7:1-7

12. What was discovered when God attempted to heal Israel?

13. What do they fail to consider?

14. How do they fail to consider?

15. How did they become sick?

16. What are they planning to do?

17. What have they done to their rulers?

18. List the names of the four kings that they killed during the final years of Israel's existence. (See 2 Kings 15).

Application & Discussion:

1. What motivates true repentance (6:1-3,11)?

2. List some of the characteristics of insincere repentance (6:8,9)?

3. What are the consequences of insincere repentance (6:5f)?

4. List of the symptoms of insincere repentance (7:1-7)?

Homework: Practice godly sorrow leading to true repentance.

Cake not Turned, Silly Dove, Calf Rejected

Hosea 7:8-8:6

Israel's Corrupt and Destructive Foreign Policy, 7:8-16

1. How is Ephraim "like a cake not turned"?

2. Of what two things are happening which is Israel is unaware?

3. What will God do to Israel as she goes about like a silly dove?

4. According to what would God chastise them?

5. Why won't God redeem them?

6. Why do they wail upon their beds?

7. How did they respond to the strength of the Lord?

8. Why will the princes fall by the sword?

Israel's Idols Are Broken As They Broke The Covenant, 8:1-7

9. Why is the trumpet sounded?

10. Who is represented by the eagle?
11. What will Israel cry out to God? Is their statement true? What motivated them to say this?
12. What is the consequence of their rejecting good?
13. What two things are they condemned for in verse 4?
14. Of what are they incapable?
15. How does verse 8 show that idol worship is futile?
16. What have they sowed and what will they reap? What does this mean?

Application & Discussion:

1. What complications will Israel suffer (7:9,16)?
2. Does a nation's foreign policies have moral implications? Explain.

Homework: Examine your motives on how you treat others to make sure it is motivated by a love for God's will and not out of selfish ambition.

Reaping the Whirlwind

Hosea 8:7-9:6

Israel's Sowing Among The Nations, 8:8-10

1. How is Israel swallowed up?
2. How is Israel like a wild donkey?
3. Why has Israel "hired lovers"?
4. What are the consequences of having "hired lovers"?
5. Who is represented by the "king of princes"?

Increased Idolatry Increases Their Painful Harvest, 8:11-14

6. How have they regarded God's Law?
7. How did God regard their sacrifices?
8. Will they literally return to Egypt? Explain.
9. How does building palaces and multiplying their fortified cities relate to forgetting their Maker?

Loss Of Material Blessings Through Exile, 9:1-6

10. Why shouldn't Israel rejoice?

11. What will they do in Assyria?
12. Why can't they make offerings to the Lord?
13. Why can't they observe their feast days?
14. Where is Memphis?
15. What does it mean that "*thorns will be in their tents*"?

Application & Discussion:

1. What bad seed has Israel sown (8:9,10,12,14)?
2. What will be Israel's harvest (8:11,13,15; 9:2-6)?

Homework: Remember you will reap as you have sown (Gal. 6:7-8).

Coming Days of Punishment

Hosea 9:7-10:2

Time For Punishment, 9:7-9

1. What days have come upon them?
2. Is the prophet mentioned in verse 7 a true or false prophet? Explain.
3. To what is Ephraim compared?
4. To what historical event is the phrase "*in the days of Gibeah*" referring?

Ephraim Rendered Barren, 9:10-17

5. How had God viewed Israel in earlier days?
6. Describe what had taken place at Baal-peor?
7. What does the word "*ephrain*" mean?
8. What would become of their children?
9. For what does the prophet call upon the Lord to give?
10. Where is Gilgal located? What had taken place there?

11. What are their princes called?

12. Why will God cast them away?

Israel's Idols Of Prosperity Destroyed, 10:1,2

13. To what is Israel compared?

14. What did Israel's prosperity lead them to do?

15. What is the condition of their heart?

16. What will God do to their altars and pillars?

Application & Discussion:

1. What things happened to Israel causing her a loss of joy (9:7,11,12,15).

2. List some of the sins causing Israel's loss of joy (9:1,7,10,17; 10:1,2).

Homework: Do not let bad choices cost you your joy in Christ Jesus?

Guilty as Charged

Hosea 10:3-15

Destruction Of Their Kings, Idols, and People, 10:3-10

1. Why did they say "we have no King"?
2. Why is their king condemned?
3. What will the people and the priests cry over? Why?
4. Where would the calf be taken?
5. Why would the people be ashamed?
6. To what is Samaria's king compared?
7. What are the high places of Aven?
8. What will become of the altars?
9. Why do they cry unto the mountains?
10. When will God chastise them?

11. What does "double guilt" mean in verse 10?

Israel To Plow Righteousness Instead of Wickedness, 10:11-15

12. To what is Ephraim, Judah, and Jacob compared?

13. What does Ephraim love to do? What will God have her do in the future?

14. What are they called upon to sow and reap? Why?

15. How have they eaten the fruit of lies?

16. What happened at Betharbel?

17. What will be done at Bethel?

18. When will their king be completely cut off?

Application & Discussion:

1. Of what was Israel guilty (10:1-13)?

2. What are the consequences of these sins (10:3,5,6,8,14,15)?

3. What is the cure for Israel's guilt (10:12)?

Homework: Bear the consequences of our sin with grace.

Loving-kindness Met With Ingratitude

Hosea 11:1-12:6

God's Early Loving Care Met With Ingratitude, 11:1-4

1. When was Israel considered a youth?
2. How did they respond to God's prophets?
3. Who taught Ephraim to walk and who healed them? How did they react?
4. With what did the Lord lead them? Explain what this means?
5. To what characteristic of God does the phrase "*as one who lifts the yoke from their jaws*" refer?

Punishment of Israel For Rejecting God's Lovingkindness, 11:5-7

6. Who will be their masters in the future? Why?
7. Why will the sword come against them?
8. What are the people of Israel determined to do?

God's Reluctance To Continually Vent His Wrath Also Mercy For A Remnant, 11:8-11

9. What were Admah and Zeboiim? What happened to them?

10. What is happening to the heart and compassion of God? Why?
11. Why won't God destroy Ephraim again?
12. From where will God's sons come trembling? What does this mean?
13. After they return what will God do for them?

Israel Needs To Be Like Jacob, 11:12-12:6

14. How are Ephraim, Israel, Judah, and God described in 11:12? (Note King James Version in contrast to other translations).
15. What does it mean that "*Ephraim feeds on the wind*"?
16. What was the "*east wind*" like in the middle east?
17. What is going on politically between Israel, Assyria, and Egypt?
18. Is Judah in good standing with Jehovah?
19. What is God going to do with present day Jacob?
20. List the separate events eluded to in the life of Jacob from verses 3 and 4. List the passages where these events are found.
21. What response to the example of Jacob does the Lord desire of them?

Application & Discussion:

1. List some of the characteristics of God's loving-kindness shown to Israel (11:1-4,8,11).

2. List the ways Israel rejected the loving-kindness of God (11:2,5,6,7).

3. What are the proper responses to God's loving-kindness (12:1-6)?

Homework: Make of list of the loving-kindness God has shown you and show gratitude in a prayer of Thanksgiving.

Reasons for Discipline

Hosea 12:7-13:8

Ephraim's wickedness condemned, 12:7-11

1. Like who has Israel become?
2. Concerning their wealth what lie were the Israelites claiming?
3. What will God make them do?
4. What festival is under consideration?
5. What has God given to the prophets in verse 10?
6. How is Gilead described?
7. Explain the meaning of the last half of verse 11.

Contrast between Jacob's Deliverance and Ephraim's Punishment, 12:12-14

8. Why did Jacob flee to the land of Aram?
9. How long was Jacob in Aram?
10. Through which prophet did the Lord bring Israel from Egypt?

11. Why will God leave Ephraim's blood guilt on him?

Idolatry, The Basis of Israel's Destruction, 13:1-8

12. Why was there trembling when Ephraim spoke?

13. What was the consequence of Ephraim worshiping Baal?

14. What were the worshipers to do before the calves?

15. To what four things are the idolaters compared? Why?

16. How long have they known God?

17. What reason is given for only knowing God and none other?

18. What had God done for them?

19. What steps led to their forgetting God?

20. What animals are used to describe God's reaction in judgment?

Application & Discussion:

1. What are the consequences of leaving for Ephriam's bad example (12:9f. - 13:3)?

2. List the causes of Ephriam's ruin (12:7,8; 13:1-6).

Homework: Remember God's discipline is a demonstration of His love (Heb. 12:5f).

Retribution Leads to Restoration

Hosea 13:9-14:9

Distrust Leads To Their Destruction, 13:9-16

1. Who is Israel against? What is the consequence of such?
2. Would any of their kings be able to save them?
3. Explain the meaning of verse 11.
4. For what is their sins stored or bound up?
5. Why is Israel compared to a child that delays at birth? What is the consequences of such?
6. How would God redeem Israel?
7. Where is verse 14 quoted in the New Testament?
8. What was an "east wind" in the middle east called and what was it like?
9. What will become of Israel's treasury?
10. What are the consequences of Samaria's rebellion against God?

Call To Return To God, 14:1-3

11. What were they to request of God?
12. What were they to promise to God?
13. Use other passages which demonstrate God's mercy toward orphans.

God's Mercy On Israel, 14:4-8

14. Why is God able to heal and love them?
15. How would God be like dew to Israel?
16. What does Israel's "*taking root like the cedars of Lebanon*" indicate?
17. How will they be like an olive tree?
18. To what two blessing does verse 7 allude?
19. Why won't Ephraim have any need for idols?
20. From where will Israel's blessings come?

14:9 - Epilogue

21. Whose attention is called upon to heed this final exhortation?

22. How do the righteous and how do the transgressors react to the ways of the Lord? Explain their different reactions.

Application & Discussion:

1. Who did Israel turn from help? Who do sinners turn to today for help?

2. What are the fruits of repentance (14:1-8)?

Homework: Be wise and prudent to know that God's Way is right and the righteous will walk in them and others will stumble over them.