

Directions:

This is a booklet to aid you in your personal study of this book. Read through the text first, discovering God's precious truths for yourself. Write down the main point of each section of text in the space provided. Use the margins on each side of the text and the backside of the page to make notations of the truths you discover and passages you do not understand. When you believe you have seen all there is in text, read and answer the questions in the booklet pertaining to that section of text. The questions are not an exhaustive list of things to look for in the text. The questions are to help you consider the points that the author was trying to convey to his audience. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Introduction:

Hosea prophesied around 750 B.C. and is in many ways unlike Amos before him. While Amos came as an outsider to Samaria, expressing the severe judgment of God, Hosea is a resident of the northern kingdom and preaches to the people from a different perspective. After marrying a woman who typified the character and influence of the age, he experiences the heartache of an unfaithful spouse. From this perspective, he is able to understand the betrayal God felt as a result of the unfaithfulness of Israel. Thus, while Amos revealed stern judgment, Hosea revealed the feelings of God and the love that demanded such judgment.

Hosea summed up Israel's sin by the word "whoredom" or "harlotry." Israel had become a prostitute, selling herself before the baalim of the land, serving calf worship erected by Jeroboam, and making alliances with certain nations in exchange for protection instead of relying on God.

Read through Hosea in one sitting, noticing the themes and headers in your Bible. Write down some of the key themes and words you see:

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. Was Gomer already a harlot when Hosea married her? Explain the reason for your answer.

Revealing Fact:

Jezreel is the site where Jezebel had Naboth murdered in order to take his vineyard and give it to her husband Ahab. Jehu was appointed by God to fulfill the prophecy of Elijah that dogs would lick Jezebel's blood in Jezreel and all the house of Ahab would die. Jehu obeyed the Lord by killing all the house of Ahab, even ordered the heads of the seventy sons of Ahab sent to him at Jezreel. "Jezreel" means "God will scatter" or "God will sow." God would first scatter Israel from Him and then in the kingdom, sow them back to Himself.

2. Since Jehu obeyed the Lord in the matter of killing all the house of Ahab, why is God promising to avenge this bloodshed on the house of Jehu?
3. How would naming each of the children prophetic names have made a greater impact on the people Hosea preached to?
4. How would God save Judah from Assyria, "but not by bow, sword, or battle?"
5. By naming his third child Lo-ammi, what has Hosea finally realized about Gomer and this child?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. How would God “strip Israel naked and expose her as in the day she was born?”
2. Why does God use such graphic language to describe Israel’s sin and his punishment of her? What is God trying to teach us?
3. What did Israel believe its gods did for her?
4. Describe what God is going to do against Israel (2:9-13).
5. The “Valley of Achor” comes from Joshua 7:24-26. Understanding the meaning of “Achor” how does it become a door of hope for Israel?
6. Notice in verse 16 the phrase “My husband” in the Hebrew is *ishi*, while “My master” is *baali*. God was obviously not happy with Israel referring to him as *baali*. Why?
7. What will God do in the future (2:16-23)? Write down these glorious blessings and consider how these promises are fulfilled in Christ.

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What are Hosea's conditions for Gomer after he buys her back (apparently out of slavery)? How does this parallel what God will do for Israel?
2. What period of time in Israel's history is being spoken of in verse 4?
3. What will happen afterward (3:5)?
4. What lessons do we learn from this chapter?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What sins are the people condemned for (4:1-3)?
2. In verse 4, why does the prophet say that there is no need for anyone to contend the people for their sins?
3. Who does God blame for the people's lack of knowledge (4:4-6)? What lessons do we learn from this?

— Why is lack of knowledge so destructive to a people?
4. According to verse 8 the priests were happy about the sins of the people. How did the priests benefit from the people's sins?
5. What is a "ritual harlot" or "cult prostitute" (4:14)? Why are the women not be held as accountable for adultery as the men?

Revealing Fact:

Noting verse 16, when one brings a heifer off the range and places a halter on her and tries to lead her, the word backsliding is very appropriate. She digs her rear heels in to the point that she begins to slide back until she will even fall on her rear in the mud. For this, God would leave them to feed like a lamb in an open country—that is, without protection.

6. What sad statements are made in verses 17-19? What lessons do we learn?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. Why can't the people return to God (5:1-4)? What needs to happen first? What lessons do we learn?
2. What sin is keeping them from God (5:5)? What lessons do we learn?
3. What is going to happen to Israel (Ephraim) (5:8-12)?
4. What sin does Israel commit (5:13-14)?
5. What does God want the people to do (5:15)? What lessons do we learn?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What is the problem with the people calling to return to the Lord (6:1-4)? What lessons do we learn?
2. Jesus quotes verse 6 twice in the New Testament and complains that if the people understood this verse they would be better servants of the Lord. What does the verse mean? Where is this quoted in the New Testament?
3. Describe the sins of the people (6:7-11). What lessons do we learn?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What errors are the people committing (7:1-3)?
2. Verses 4-7 apparently make a parallel between a baker preparing his bread and heating the oven to conspirators who make preparations and heat their heart to kill the king. See 2 Kings 15 to understand the condition of Israel at this time:
3. The picture of verse 8 is of a people who had mixed themselves with the heathen and adopted their ways. Because of this they were a cake unturned. How does this figure describe their condition before God and how are we warned by it?
4. Why is Israel (Ephraim) like a dove (7:11)? What lessons do we learn?
5. What will God do because of their sins (7:12-13)?
6. Why are the people wailing (7:14-16)? How is it for the wrong reason? What lessons do we learn?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. Why is the trumpet being blown in verse 1?
2. What do the people say in their suffering (8:2)? But how are these words untrue?
3. Explain the figure of verse 7. What application can we make today? See Galatians 6:7.
4. In verse 9, why would God have preferred Israel remaining like a wild donkey instead of going to Assyria?
5. What sins are described in 8:11-14? What lessons do we learn?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What is meant in verse 3 that Israel would return to Egypt?
2. Verses 4-5 are similar to 3:3-4 and refer to Israel's days in captivity. According to these verses, why will it not be possible for them to offer sacrifices pleasing to the Lord?
3. Instead of the prophets of Israel being watchmen with God, what had they become (8:8)?
4. What were the days of Gibeah?
5. How was Ephraim like Tyre?

The name Ephraim meant "double fruit," but now what have they become?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. Explain the image of 10:1.
2. What is the problem (10:2)? What lessons do we learn?
3. Explain verses 5-6.
4. What is being referenced in verse 9?
5. What should have Ephraim sown and reaped (11:11-12)? What have they sown and reaped instead (11:13-15)?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. How is verse 1 used of Jesus in the New Testament? How could this prophecy be used to speak of when Christ will come?
2. How did the people insult the graciousness of God (11:2-4)?
3. What hope is expressed by God in verses 8-9?
4. What is "Admah" and "Zeboim" and therefore the point of this text (11:8)?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. Explain verse 1. What lessons do we learn?
2. Why does God reference Jacob wrestling an angel (12:4)? What is the point?
3. What false thinking are the people exhibiting (12:8)? What lessons do we learn?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What sins are the people committing (13:1-3)? What will be the judgment for this? What lessons do we learn?
2. Who cared for Israel (13:4-8)? Did Israel respond with obedience and gratefulness? What will God do?
3. Explain verses 9-11.
4. What is God going to do (13:14-16)?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What is God's call to the people (14:1-3)?
2. What will God do if they will return to him (14:4-7)? What lessons do we learn?
3. What lessons do we learn from verses 8-9?

HOSEA



A SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

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