

Hosea

Breakdown

- The book of Hosea was written by Hosea as a personal account of his prophetic messages to the children of God and to the world.
- Hosea prophesied for about 60 years, from 785 to 725 B.C., and the book of Hosea was likely written between 755 and 725 B.C.
- Hosea wrote the book to remind the Israelites (and us) that God is a loving God whose loyalty to His covenant people is unwavering and never-ending.

Main Points

- Since the beginning of time, God has been pouring out His overflowing, never-ending love on His creation. Through the symbolism of the marriage of Hosea and Gomer, God's love for the idolatrous nation of Israel (and us) is clearly displayed. In spite of Israel continually turning to false gods, God's steadfast love continues just like Hosea's long-suffering love for his unfaithful wife. Hosea's message is also one of warning about the consequences of those who would turn their backs on God and His love.
- The last part of Hosea shows how God's love once again restores His children as He forgets their misdeeds when they turn back to Him with a repentant heart. The prophetic message of Hosea foretells the coming of the Messiah approximately 700 years later.

Did you know?

- Hosea married a woman that he knew would eventually betray his trust. Even knowing it would end badly, Hosea married her anyway. Why?
- Hosea had three children, and each of their names was chosen by God as a warning to Israel. What were their names, and what did they mean?
- Just as Hosea expected she would, his wife betrayed him and left home. God instructed Hosea to find her and bring her back. How did Hosea get her back?
- Hosea's relationship with his wife was an illustration of Israel's relationship with God. What made the two relationships so similar?
- Hosea prophesied that a neighboring nation was going to overpower Israel and become their king. What nation was Hosea talking about?
- At the end of the book, God describes everything He will do for His chosen people when they return to Him. What does He say?

Further Thought

- Hosea's name means "salvation." What is the significance of the message of salvation proclaimed by the prophet Hosea?
- The consequences of Israel's disobedience to God were severe, but God's grace and mercy were far more extraordinary. What can we learn from God's loving commitment to His chosen people?
- Through Hosea, we see that, more than anything, God longs for an intimate relationship with us, even when we repeatedly reject Him. How should we respond to God?