

# The Minor Prophets

## Hosea – Chapter One

# Class Business

1. Come between 7:30 and 7:45
2. Bring your Bible
3. Supporting Materials
  - A. References
  - B. Handouts
  - C. Notes, Videos ... and other things

On the Web Site!  
[www.BibleTalk.jp](http://www.BibleTalk.jp)

# Review Questions

1. OT vs NT – What's the difference?
2. Compare the Jewish & Christian Bibles
3. Name the 3 parts of the Jewish Bible & explain the organization of Prophets
4. What are the Minor Prophets?
5. What part of history do they examine?

# Assigned Reading / Study Questions

1. What is the central message of Hosea 1 – 3?
2. How do the three chapters relate to one another?
3. Do you think Hosea really did marry a whore?

# Verse 1

This is “the word of the Lord”

Regarding the man, Hosea, we know little

This prophetic word came during a  
certain period in history

To understand this word, we must know  
some of this history (handouts)

# Key Points

The United Kingdom – Eternal Promise

The Divided Kingdom

House of Jehu was endorsed by Elisha

Last great King in the North = Jeroboam II

From Shallum to Hoshea, the Northern Kingdom was weak and illegitimate

# Implications

God's word first began to come to Hosea during the reign of Jeroboam II when the Northern Kingdom was strong.

Hosea's prophetic career (60-70 years!) ended after the Northern Kingdom fell

# Common Questions

God's word to Hosea was predominately about the Northern Kingdom

Why does the inscription mention only one of the Northern Kings?

Why does the inscription mention all of the Southern Kings?

# Verses 2-11 (An Overview)

The Lord spoke to Hosea for a long time.

First we are told what God spoke first:

i.e. words about a wife and children,  
some of whom had special names

In explaining these names, God revealed  
his purposes for mankind.

# Implications

Because this naming happened at first, during the reign of Jeroboam II, the prediction of the downfall of the Northern Kingdom happened when such a downfall seemed least likely.

By the end of Hosea's career, this had actually happened.

# Gomer (vv. 2-3)

The children whose names are given and explained by God are born to Gomer.

She is named once in the Bible where she is seen doing one thing: giving birth.

Like her children she is an object of scorn and possible redemption.

# Common Questions

Was Gomer a real person?

If so, was she a whore before Hosea married her?

If so, did she already have the children described in v. 2 when she married.

Is Gomer the woman described in Ch. 3?

# Jezreel (vv. 4-5)

To the first child of Hosea and Gomer,  
God gives the name Jezreel.

He explains why: he will soon put an  
end to the Northern Kingdom (v.4)

He describes this as “breaking the bow of  
Israel in the Valley of Jezreel. (Map)

# Lo-ruhma (“No Mercy”) (v. 6)

To the second child of Hosea and Gomer,  
God gives a name meaning no mercy.

He explains why: this time he will have  
no mercy on the Northern Kingdom

He describes this as “breaking the bow of  
Israel in the Valley of Jezreel. (Map)

# Judah by Comparison (v. 7)

Removal of God's characteristic mercy from the Northern Kingdom is made more shocking by the mercy he will continue to show in the South.

God himself will preserve them and not by military might such the North then still had and drew confidence from.

# Lo-ammi (“Not My People”) (v. 8-9)

To the third child of Hosea and Gomer,  
God gives a name meaning “not my  
people.”

All ties between God and the Northern  
Kingdom, as such, have been cut.

# The Problem...is no Problem (v. 10)

What about God's promise to Abraham?

God says that his covenant is fully intact.

God has just said (v. 9) to the Northern Kingdom, "you are not my people."

But in that place, it shall be said to them, "children of the living God!"

# Implications

To make children for Abraham, God does not need the Northern Kingdom.

Yet where once stood the Northern Kingdom there will be those who are called, not merely God's people, but children of the living God!

# Who are God's Children? (v. 11a)

Through Hosea God affirms that these include children of Judah and Israel, gathered together under one head whom they appoint for themselves!

The Apostle Paul reads Hosea to be speaking of gentiles as well.  
(Romans 9:22-26)

# Who is the One Head? (v. 11b)

Most Christians and Jews will, I believe, understand this to be the Messiah, foreseen in God's promise to David

Most Christians will understand this to be Jesus Christ, now and at the time of his second coming.

# The last sentence (v. 11c)

I think “going up from the land” connotes a move toward Jerusalem where their head, the Messiah, reigns.

This cannot happen until the northern Kingdom is removed, therefore the day of Jezreel is said to be great.