

# Hosea

## An Introduction

# Minor vs. Major Prophets

- The minor prophets from Hosea to Malachi are sometimes called “The Twelve.”
- The five books of the major prophets are Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel.
- The major prophets are longer & broader in scope.
- The minor prophets are shorter and sometimes narrower in focus.

# The Divided Kingdoms



# The Book of Hosea

- Has nothing minor about its message
- Is almost as long as the book of Daniel
- Is a love story
- Warns about coming judgment
- Anticipates the coming of the Messiah (Jesus) to set up His earthly kingdom.

# Hosea, the Prophet

- Prophesied during the reigns of
  - Four kings of Judah: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah
  - And one named king of Israel: Jeroboam II
- Based on the dates of those kings, his ministry lasted from c. 755 to 717 BC.
- His ministry overlapped the earlier ministry of Amos (c. 764-750 BC).

# Kings of Israel & Judah with Prophets

Israel	Judah
Jeroboam II (793-753)	Uzziah (792-740 BC)
Zechariah (753)	Amos (c.764-750)
Shallum (752)	Hosea (c.755-717))
Menahem (752-742)	Jotham (750-731)
Pekahiah (742-740)	
Pekah (740-732)	Ahaz (735-715)
Hoshea (732-722)	
<b>Fall of Israel (722 BC)</b>	Hezekiah (729-686)

# Hosea, the Prophet

- He preached primarily to Israel.
- Hosea was warning the last generation of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) before judgment fell.
- The Assyrians defeated Israel in 722 BC.
- Hosea lived through this time though his book doesn't mention it.

# New Testament Greek Words

- *eros*—sexual love
- *philia* (verb = *phileo*)—friendship love
- *agape* (verb = *agapao*)—a determined act of the will, a joyful resolve to put the welfare of others above our own—  
Rom 5:8
- *storgos*—family love or covenant love, where there's a bond; KJV calls it “natural affection.”



# Old Testament Hebrew Words

- *ahab*—to have affection for (love a person, a food, even God)
- *chesed* (*hesed*)—like *storgos* in the NT—lovingkindness, mercy, kindness, loyalty, favor, goodness, steadfast love, unending love, covenant or family love where there is a bond—This type of love is very important in Hosea (2:19; 4:1; 6:4, 6; 10:12; 12:6).

# God's actions show His love.

- John 15:13—“Greater love has no one than this: that one lay down his life for his friends.”
- Rom. 5:8—“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
- John 3:16—“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

## Our obedience shows our love.

- John 14:15 “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments”—Jesus speaking!
- John 14:23 “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word.”

- James 4:4—“You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”
- 1 John 2:15—“Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

*“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”*

*Deuteronomy 6:4-5*