

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

HOSEA'S METAPHOR MARRIAGE

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 For use in Animated/Engaged Learning.

ABOUT THE MAN HOSEA

Hosea was a prophet who lived just before the destruction of Israel in 722 B.C.

WHEN HOSEA WAS WRITTEN

The book of Hosea was most likely written in the time period when he carried out his prophetic mission, which was in the final years of Jeroboam II and ended at the beginning of Hezekiah's reign—before 753 B.C. and actively until around 729 B.C. (F. D. Nichol, ed., *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* vol. 4 [Hagerstown, Md.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1977], 885.)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The story of Hosea begins after the death of King Solomon, when Israel was divided, where Judah (two of the twelve tribes) was in the south, and Israel (ten of the twelve tribes) in the north, under Jeroboam (who had the other ten tribes). Hosea preached specifically to the northern kingdom, where he was most likely from. Throughout the book of Hosea, you will see that he refers to Israel as Ephraim. Ephraim was the largest tribe in Israel, and sometimes the whole nation was referred to as Ephraim.

Jeroboam didn't follow God and set up new worship centers, new dates for worship, and new symbols in the temples to try to please the people. What he did was directly opposite from what God had established at Mount Sinai. In some ways, what Jeroboam established was a new religion, and he is referred to as the one "who made Israel to sin." (John Clement Whitcomb, *Solomon to the Exile; Studies in Kings and Chronicles*, Old Testament Studies, [Winona Lake, Ind.: BMH Books, 1971], 24.) Many kings followed Jeroboam with various degrees of wickedness until King Ahab, who was extremely wicked, ruled Israel. While the prophet Elijah showed Yahweh's power on Mount Carmel, Baal worship still dominated Israel. More wicked kings followed, until we meet Jeroboam II, who showed a glimmer of hope when asking for God's intervention, although he still worshiped false gods.

The period of Hosea was one where Israel was in a bad place—religiously, politically, socially, and morally. Their constant neglect of God's law resulted in one of the darkest periods in all of Israel's history. (Allan Philip Brown, *The Theology of Hosea* [Phd. Diss., Bob Jones University, 1975]; 55.)

The book of Hosea is divided into three main parts:

1. **Hosea 1–3.** Hosea's marriage to Gomer.
2. **Hosea 4–13.** God's message for the people through Hosea's life
3. **Hosea 14.** Israel's restoration.

Let's look specifically at chapters 1 through 3.

1. Who was reigning over Israel at this time? (Hosea 1:1)

Jeroboam son of Jehoash

**2. The next thing we read is that God tells Hosea to take a prostitute for a wife. (v. 2)
What is your response to God's instruction?**

i would be definitely confused and would not have wanted to do it, but if i did do as God asked then i would
probably have some trust issues.

3. Hosea 1:3–9 tells us that Gomer had three children. What were their names, and what did they mean?

"Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel,"

"Lo-Ruhamah (which means "not loved")"

"Call him Lo-Ammi (which means "not my people")"

4. Why did God tell Hosea to give these children such foreboding names? (Read Hosea 2:4–7)

God wanted to have them named that because they were the children of the
prostatue

5. Have you ever been close to someone who has experienced adultery? Has someone ever cheated on you?
no and no

6. What emotions did God (and Hosea) feel? (Hosea 2:9–13)

anger and annoyance for God

7. Despite these raging emotions, God asked Hosea to do something extraordinary. What was it? (Hosea 3:1–3)

For him to go back and love her again.

8. Why did God ask Hosea to do this?

To represent God and the people.

9. How do you think you might have responded if God asked you to do something similar?

I would not have done it.

10. Can you think of other prophets who lived out God's messages in their lives?

Ellen White

11. Think about Gomer. Why do you think she kept rejecting Hosea's offer of love?

because she thought that he could not offer her what she wanted.

12. Have you ever felt like Gomer with anyone in your life? (Or even with God?)

Yes.

13. What message might there be for you, personally, in this story?

That God loves us no matter what