

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Hosea

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1:1-11

Background: This book contains the prophecies of Hosea, son of Beeri. Hosea lived in the northern kingdom of Israel. He often called this kingdom Ephraim or Samaria. Hosea prophesied for about 38 years and predicted that Assyria would destroy the northern kingdom of Israel.

Hosea began to prophesy around 753 B.C., just before King Jeroboam II died. At this time, the kingdom of Israel was prosperous but spiritually weak. Hosea warned how Yahweh would punish Israel unless the people turned back to Yahweh and were faithful to him.

This passage mentions the house of Jehu and the town of Jezreel. Jehu was a king of Israel. He went to Jezreel and killed the previous king and members of his family.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The word of Yahweh came to Hosea. [1:1]
- ☐ Yahweh told him to take for himself a wife who was a prostitute because Israel was acting like a prostitute by abandoning Yahweh. [1:2]
- ☐ Hosea married Gomer and she gave birth to a son. [1:3]
- ☐ Hosea called his name Jezreel because in a little while Yahweh would punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed at Jezreel. [1:4-5]
- ☐ Gomer gave birth to a daughter, and Yahweh gave her a name that meant he would no longer have mercy on Israel, but he said he would have mercy on Judah. [1:6-7]
- ☐ Gomer gave birth to another son, and Yahweh gave him a name that meant Israel were not his people, but he promised a good future for Israel and Judah. [1:8-11]

Part 2

Answer the following questions

1. What kind of wife did Yahweh tell Hosea to take for himself, and what would she do? [1:2]
Yahweh told him to take for himself a wife who was a prostitute, and she would have children as a result of her prostitution.
2. Why did Yahweh ask Hosea to do this? [1:2]
Yahweh said because the land of Israel was committing great prostitution by abandoning Yahweh.
3. Did Hosea obey the command of Yahweh? [1:3]
Yes, Hosea married Gomer the daughter of Diblaim.
4. Why did Yahweh tell Hosea to call the name of his first son Jezreel? [1:4]
Yahweh told him this because in a little while Yahweh would punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed at Jezreel.

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5. Why did Yahweh tell Hosea to call the name of his first daughter Lo-Ruhamah? [1:6]
Yahweh told him this because he would no longer have mercy on the house of Israel. (The name Lo-Ruhamah means “not pitied.”)
6. On whom would Yahweh have mercy? [1:7]
Yahweh would have mercy on the house of Judah.
7. How did Yahweh say he would save the house of Judah? [1:7]
He said he would save them by himself, and not by bow, sword, battle, horses, or horsemen.”
8. Why did Yahweh tell Hosea to call the name of his second son Lo Ammi? [1:9]
Yahweh told him this because the Israelites were no longer the people of Yahweh. (The name Lo Ammi means “not my people.”)
9. What would be said to those who formerly were not Yahweh’s people? [1:10]
It would be said to them that they were people of the living God.
10. What would the number of the people of Israel be like? [1:10]
Their number would be like the sand of the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted.
11. What would the people of Judah and Israel do? [1:11]
They would appoint one leader for themselves, and they would go up from the land.

Comment Section:

3:1-5

Background: Yahweh spoke through Hosea to the people of Israel and told them that he would punish them for being an adulterous people, but then would pursue them and bring them back to him. Yahweh said he would have mercy on Lo-Ruhamah, and he would say to Lo-Ammi that “You are my people.”

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh told Hosea to love his wife as he has loved the people of Israel. Hosea bought her from another man and then told her not to prostitute herself or belong to another man. [3:1-3]
- ☐ The people of Israel would also live for many days without a king or idols, and then they would return and seek Yahweh. [3:4-5]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. In what way did Yahweh tell Hosea to love his wife? [3:1]
Hosea must love her as Yahweh loved the people of Israel.
2. What did Hosea have to do to get his wife back? [3:2]
He bought her back for 15 pieces of silver, a homer, and a letheke of barley. A letheke equals about 52 kilograms.
3. After the people of Israel lived for many days without a king, who would they seek? [3:4-5]
They would seek Yahweh their God and David their king.
4. How will the people of Israel approach Yahweh in the last days? [3:5]
They will come trembling before Yahweh and his goodness.

Comment Section:

4:1-3

Background: Yahweh considered the covenant he had made with Israel as a legal transaction, so that when Israel broke the covenant, Yahweh treated his actions with Israel as a lawsuit or legal transaction.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh had a lawsuit against the inhabitants of the land because there was no truthfulness or knowledge of God in the land. The people had broken all bounds. [4:1-2]
- ☐ The land mourned and everyone in it was wasting away. [4:3]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Whom did Yahweh have a lawsuit against? [4:1]
The inhabitants of the land, the people of Israel.
2. What was the reason for Yahweh's lawsuit? [4:1-2]
There was no truthfulness or covenant faithfulness or knowledge of God. They were continually cursing, deceiving, killing, and committing adultery.
3. What was happening to everyone who was living in the land? [4:3]
Because of their unfaithfulness, everyone who was living in the land was wasting away.
4. What was happening to the beasts, birds, and the fish? [4:3]
They were all being taken away.

Comment Section:

5:1-7

Background: This passage talks about Mizpah and Tabor. These were names of mountains. The people of Israel probably went there to worship idols.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh told the whole house of Israel that judgment was coming against them all. [5:1]
- ☐ Yahweh would punish all the rebels. [5:2]
- ☐ Ephraim and Israel were not hidden from Yahweh, and he saw that the mind of prostitution was in them and they did not know Yahweh. [5:3-4]
- ☐ Israel, Ephraim, and Judah would not be able to find Yahweh, because they were unfaithful to Yahweh and had borne illegitimate children. [5:5-7]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Yahweh say was the reason for judgment coming against the priests, the king, and the house of Israel? [5:1]
They were a snare at Mizpah and a net spread over Tabor.
2. What did Yahweh say regarding Ephraim and Israel? [5:3]
He said that Ephraim and Israel were not hidden from him.
3. Why did their deeds not allow them to turn to God? [5:4]
They could not turn to God because they had a mind of prostitution and did not know Yahweh.
4. What would happen to Israel and Judah? [5:5]
Israel would stumble in their guilt. Judah also would stumble with them.
5. Why would Israel, Ephraim, and Judah not find Yahweh? [5:6]
They would not find Yahweh, for he had withdrawn himself from them.
6. How were they unfaithful to Yahweh? [5:7]
They had given birth to illegitimate children.
7. What do you think it meant that they gave birth to illegitimate children? [5:8]
Perhaps it meant that just like a prostitute gave birth to a child that did not belong to her husband, the people of Israel gave birth to children who did not know Yahweh because their parents taught them to worship idols.

Comment Section:

8:7-14

Background: Yahweh told Israel that their enemy would come against them swiftly because they had broken Yahweh's law. They said they knew Yahweh, but they did not. Yahweh said he was very angry with them because of their idolatry, and their idols would be broken into pieces.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Israel sowed the wind so they would reap the whirlwind. [8:7]
- ☐ Israel laid among the nations like a useless pot. [8:8]
- ☐ Even though Israel had hired lovers among the nations, Yahweh would now gather them together for judgment. [8:9-10]
- ☐ God told Israel that they would view his law as strange even if He wrote it down ten thousand times. [8:12]
- ☐ Yahweh would punish their sins and return them to Egypt. [8:13]

Part 2

Answer the following questions

1. What do you think it meant that Israel would "sow the wind and reap the whirlwind"? [8:7]
Perhaps it meant that since they did nothing of value, all they would get in return was destruction.
2. What would happen if their grain grew to maturity? [8:7]
Foreigners would come and devour it.
3. To what did Yahweh compare Israel? [8:8]
He compared them to a useless pot.
4. What do you think it meant that Israel went to Assyria and hired lovers for herself? [8:9]
Perhaps it meant that Israel made an alliance with Assyria and depended on them for protection instead of Yahweh.
5. What would happen to Israel even though they hired lovers among the nations? [8:10]
They would begin to waste away because of the burden of the king of princes.
6. If Yahweh wrote down his law for Ephraim ten thousand times, how would they view it? [8:12]
They were so far from God, Ephraim would view it as something strange to them.
7. How would Yahweh punish the people's sins? [8:13]
He would return them to Egypt.

Comment Section:

10:1-2

Background: Hosea continued to describe Israel's sin and how Yahweh would punish them.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Even though Yahweh blessed Israel, they turned to other gods and built altars to worship them. [10:1]
- ☐ Yahweh would judge Israel and demolish their altars. [10:2]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Hosea compare Israel to? [10:1]
He compared them to a luxuriant vine.
2. What happened as Israel's fruit increased? [10:1]
Israel built more altars to other gods.
3. Why do you think they would have built more altars when their fruit increased? [10:2]
Perhaps they thought their wealth and prosperity was caused by the false gods.
4. What did Yahweh say about their hearts? [10:2]
Their hearts were deceitful.
5. How would Yahweh punish them? [10:3]
Yahweh would demolish their altars and destroy their pillars.

Comment Section:

11:1-11

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh loved Israel and called him out of Egypt. [11:1]
- ☐ The more Israel was called, the more Israel went away from Yahweh. [11:2]
- ☐ Assyria would rule over Israel and destroy their cities because Israel refused to return to Yahweh. [11:5-6]
- ☐ Israel was determined to turn away from Yahweh. Though they called to the Most High, no one would help them. [11:7]
- ☐ Yahweh would restore Israel after their judgment. [11:8-11]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. From where did Yahweh call Israel when Israel was young? [11:1]
Yahweh called Israel out of Egypt.
2. What did Israel do as Yahweh continued to call Israel? [11:2]
The more Yahweh called Israel, the more Israel went away from him and sacrificed to idols.
3. How did Ephraim respond when Yahweh taught them to walk and lifted them by their arms.? [11:3]
They did not know that Yahweh was the one who healed them.
4. What would happen to the people since they refused to return to Yahweh? [11:5-6]
They would return to Egypt and Assyria would rule over them. Their cities would be destroyed.
5. What would happen to them even though they called out to the Most High? [11:7]
No one would help them.
6. Who do you think is the Most High? [11:7]
Yahweh is the Most High.
7. Why did Yahweh say he would not again destroy Ephraim? [11:9]
Yahweh's heart had changed in him and he had compassion on them. He is God and would not come to them in wrath.
8. Why do you think Yahweh said that he is God and not a man? [11:9]
Perhaps he meant that God's love is greater than man's love. God does not think like a man thinks.
9. How will the people come to Yahweh when he restored them? [11:10-11]
The people would come trembling from the west like a bird from Egypt, like a dove from the land of Assyria.

Comment Section:

14:1-9

Background: Hosea continued to describe how Yahweh would punish Israel.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Hosea told Israel to return to Yahweh, ask him to forgive them, and reject Assyria and false gods. [14:1-3]
- ☐ Yahweh said he would heal them and love them freely. [14:4-6]
- ☐ When Israel returned to Yahweh, their fame would be like the wine of Lebanon. [14:6-7]
- ☐ The righteous would walk in the ways of Yahweh, but the rebellious would stumble. [14:9]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Israel stumble? [14:1]
Israel fell because of their iniquity.
2. Israel should ask Yahweh to take away their iniquity for what reason? [14:2]
They should do this so that they may offer to him the fruit of their lips.
3. What do you think it meant to offer the fruit of their lips? [14:2]
It probably meant to speak praises to Yahweh.
4. What else did Hosea say that Israel should say to Yahweh? [14:3]
They should say that Assyria will not save them, and they should tell Yahweh that they would no longer say to the things they make, "You are our gods."
5. What would Yahweh do when he was no longer angry with them? [14:4]
Yahweh would heal their apostasy and love them freely.
6. What will Israel be like when Yahweh healed them? [14:4-6]
Israel would be like a lily that blossomed, a cedar tree that took root, and a beautiful olive tree whose fragrance was like the cedars of Lebanon.
7. What would the people's fame be like when Yahweh restored them? [14:7]
Their fame would be like the wine of Lebanon.
8. Who will walk in the ways of Yahweh? [14:9]
The righteous will walk in them.

Comment Section: