

THE RELENTLESS LOVE OF GOD

A STUDY OF HOSEA

#1: GOD LOVES THE UNLOVABLE—HOSEA 1-3 (PART 1)

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I. BACKGROUND OF HOSEA

1. His character:

Hosea was a godly man who simply wanted to communicate the Truth that God had given Him as His prophet.

2. His times:

Hosea's ministry in the northern kingdom of Israel occurred between 755 to 715 BC

This disaster came upon the people of Israel because they worshiped other gods. They sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them safely out of Egypt and had rescued them from the power of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. They had followed the practices of the pagan nations the LORD had driven from the land ahead of them, as well as the practices the kings of Israel had introduced. The people of Israel had also secretly done many things that were not pleasing to the LORD their God. They built pagan shrines for themselves in all their towns, from the smallest outpost to the largest walled city. They set up sacred pillars and Asherah poles at the top of every hill and under every green tree. They offered sacrifices on all the hilltops, just like the nations the LORD had driven from the land ahead of them. So the people of Israel had done many evil things, arousing the LORD's anger. Yes, they worshiped idols, despite the LORD's specific and repeated warnings.

2 Kings 17:7-13 (NLT)

3. His message:

- **Date:** 715 BC

- **Purpose:**

Call Israel to repentance and faithfulness to God by illustrating:

⇒ How unlovable they had become in their rebellion and idolatry

⇒ How relentless God's love is and the extremes He is willing to go to win back their hearts

- **Key verses:**

Then the LORD said to me, "Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover. This will illustrate that the LORD still loves Israel, even though the people have turned to other gods and love to worship them."

Hosea 3:1 (NLT)

I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as the LORD.
Hosea 2:20 (NLT)

- **Contemporary prophets:**

- ⇒ Jonah (793-753 BC)
- ⇒ Amos (760-750 BC)
- ⇒ Micah (742-687 BC)
- ⇒ Isaiah (740-681 BC)

- **Outline of Hosea:**

- I. Israel's Unfaithfulness Described (1—3)**

- 1. God is gracious (1:1—2:1)
 - 2. God is holy (2:2—13)
 - 3. God is love (2:14—3:5)

- II. Israel's Sins Denounced (4—7)**

- 1. Ignorance (4:1—11)
 - 2. Idolatry (4:12—5:15)
 - 3. Insincerity (6:1—7:16)

- III. Israel's Judgment Determined (8—10)**

- 1. The Assyrian invasion (8)
 - 2. The nation scattered (9)
 - 3. Reaping what they have sown (10)

- IV. Israel's Restoration Declared (11—14)**

- 1. God's past mercies (11)
 - 2. God's present disciplines (12—13)
 - 3. God's future promises (14)*

II. HOSEA AND GOMER: GOD'S LOVES THE UNLOVABLE – HOSEA 1-3 (PART 1)

- 1. God tells Hosea to marry a prostitute (1:1-2)**
- 2. Hosea has children with Gomer (v.3-9)**
- 3. The Lord offers the hope of restoration and reconciliation (v.10-11)**
- 4. Gomer abandons her family to return to prostitution (2:1-13)**