

Book of Hosea

Prepared by Kevin E. Hughes

The Person:

Hosea, the son of Beeri, (**Hos 1:1**). The name **Hosea**, means “salvation.”

A Prophet: Individuals called and empowered by **God** to declare **His Will** and to fulfil **His Purpose**, to **His** chosen people, **Num 12:6**, **Isa 46:8-11**

Intended Audience:

Northern Kingdom of Israel, “**Ephraim**” mostly, and **Southern Kingdom of Israel**, “**Judah**” partially.

Time and Historical Setting:

Hosea, an 8th century Prophet like **Jonah** and **Amos**, prophesied to **Northern Israel**, named after the largest of the 10 tribes there (**Ephraim**).

At the same time, **Isaiah** and **Micah** were prophets to **Southern Israel** (**Judah**).

Hosea’s ministry, was about (755 -710 BC), overlapping the reign of **King Jeroboam II** (793-753 BC), **Hosea 1:1**. **Hosea’s** ministry, began near the end of **Jeroboam II’s** reign, of **N. Israel** (793-753 BC)

His ministry also overlapped the **S. Israel** (**Judah**) reigns of **Uzziah** (Azariah), (790-739 BC), **Jotham** (750-732 BC), **Ahaz** (735-715 BC), and **Hezekiah’s** (715-686 BC).

King Jeroboam II, was an **Evil King**, **2 Kings 14:23-29**, **Hosea 1:1** [See Chart Attached]

His **reign** was marked by great economic and political success but growing spiritual apostasy.

In 732 BC **Damascus** had fallen to the **Assyrians** and by 722 BC **Samaria**, the capital City of **N. Israel**, fell to the **Assyrians** and **N. Israel** went into **Exile** (**2 Kings 17:6**).

This was the fulfillment of prophecy by **Hosea** (**Hosea 8:9-10**, **9:3**, **11:5**)

Hosea wrote before the Exile of **Northern Kingdom of Israel**: (722 BC), **2 Kings 17:1-6**

and before the Exile of **Southern Kingdom Judah** (605, 597, 586 BC), **2 Kings 24:1**, **24:8-16**, **25:1-30**

Purpose and Background:

The primary purpose of **Hosea’s** prophecy, (like **Amos**, **Jonah**, **Isaiah**, and **Micah**), is to be understood against the background of the conditional and un-conditional **promises of God** previously made toward **Israel** as a nation, especially as given to **Abraham**, **Moses**, and **David**.

For Example **Deuteronomistic** (Palestinian) **Covenant**; **Deuteronomy 28**, **29**, and **30**

Israel was to be loyal to **the Lord** by worshiping **Him** alone and by obeying **His** commandments.

Obedience would result in **blessing**, **Deut 28:1-14**

Disobedience would bring **curse**, **judgment**, and **dispersion**, **Deut 28:15**, **25**, **37**, **41**, **45**, **48**, **62**, **64**

Deuteronomy 29, **30** records **Moses’** added, **Deuteronomistic Covenant**, between **the Lord** and **Israel**,

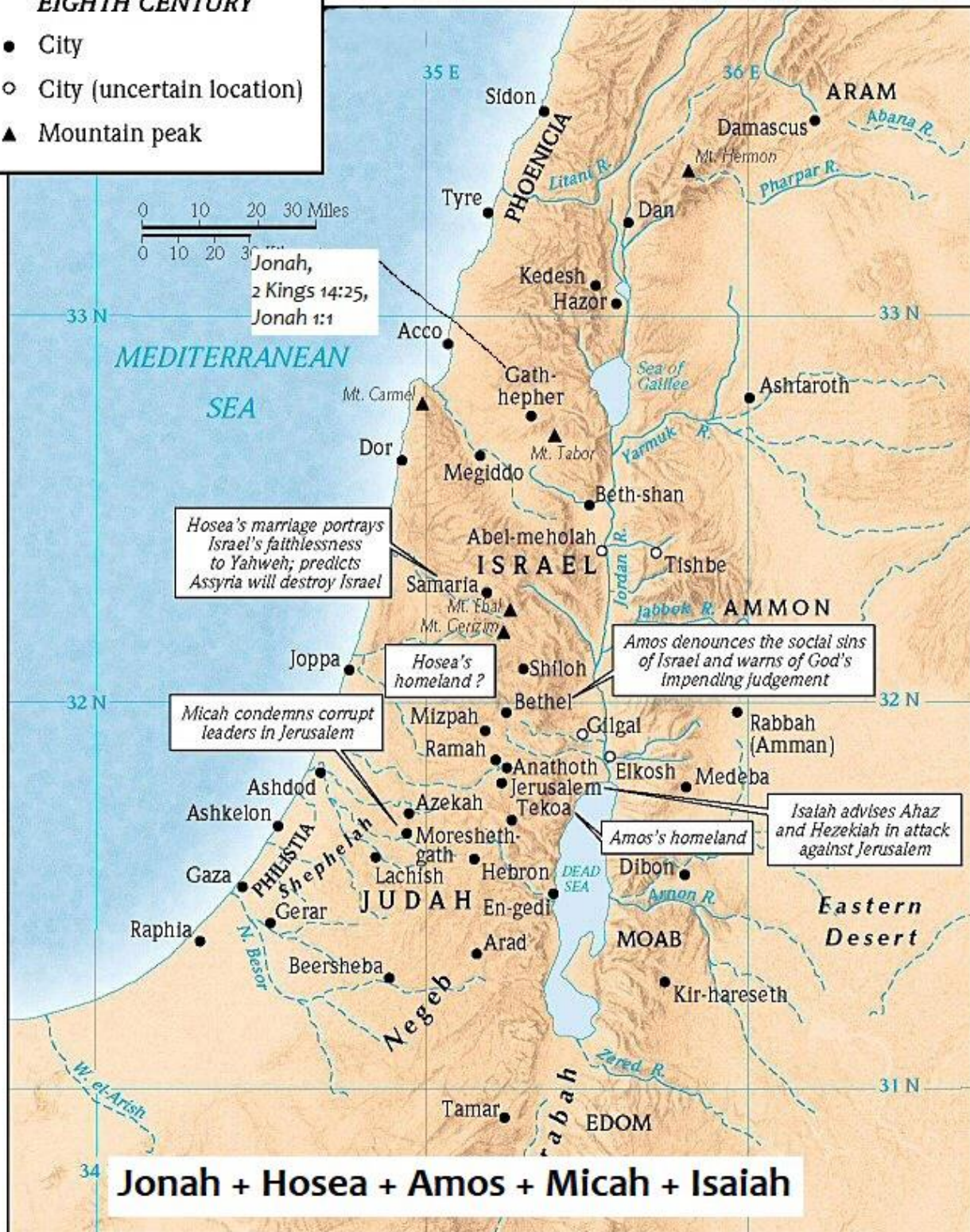
“besides (the Mosaic covenant) “made with **them** at **Horeb**” (Mt. Sinai), **Deut 29:1**

Deuteronomistic Covenant: **Deut 29:1 – 30:20**, **Covenant Verses**: **Deut 29:1**, **12**, **13**, **14**, **15**

Restoration of Israel: **Deut 30:1-10**, (**Jer 31:27-34**, **31:8**, **32:36-41**, **33:7-9**, **33:14-18**)

PROPHETS OF THE EIGHTH CENTURY

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak



Hosea's Directive:

1. To expose **Israel's** breach of **Obedience** or **Sin**.
2. To announce **God's** intention to implement **Curses** for **Disobedience**, from **Deut 28:15-68**
3. To affirmed **God's Covenant** promise of **Israel's** ultimate **Restoration**, from **Deut 30:1-10**

Three Major Themes:

Sin, Judgment, and Restoration

- A. **Israel's Sin:** idolatry (3:1, 4:17; 8:4, 6; 10:5; 11:2; 13:2), Baal worship (2:8, 13; 11:2; 13:1), Broke Covenant and rebelled against the Law, (6:7, 8:1)
- B. **Israel's Judgment:** (1:2-9, 2:2-13, 4:1-5:14, 6:4-11:7, 11:12-13:16)
- C. **Israel's Restoration:** (1:10-2:1, 2:14-3:5, 5:15-6:3, 11:8-11, 14:1-9)



Theme Verse:

Whoever is wise, let him understand **these things** (things of **Lord**, prophesied by **Hosea**);
Whoever is discerning, let him know **them** (these things).

[WHY?] For **the ways of the LORD** are right, And the righteous will walk in **them** (ways of **LORD**)
But transgressors will stumble in **them** (ways of **LORD**), **Hosea 14:9**

The Marriage Illustration:

To illustrate **Israel's** infidelity to **the Lord**, **God** commands **Hosea** to "Go" marry a harlot wife **Gomar** who, illustrated the nation of **Israel** as a **Harlot** wife to **her** husband **the Lord**, **3:1**

The Lord compares **His** Covenant Marriage relationship with **Israel**,
with **Hosea's** Illustrative Covenant Marriage relationship to **Gomar**. [Detail in Chapter 1 & 2]



Application for Us: Application Answers Question > "So What"

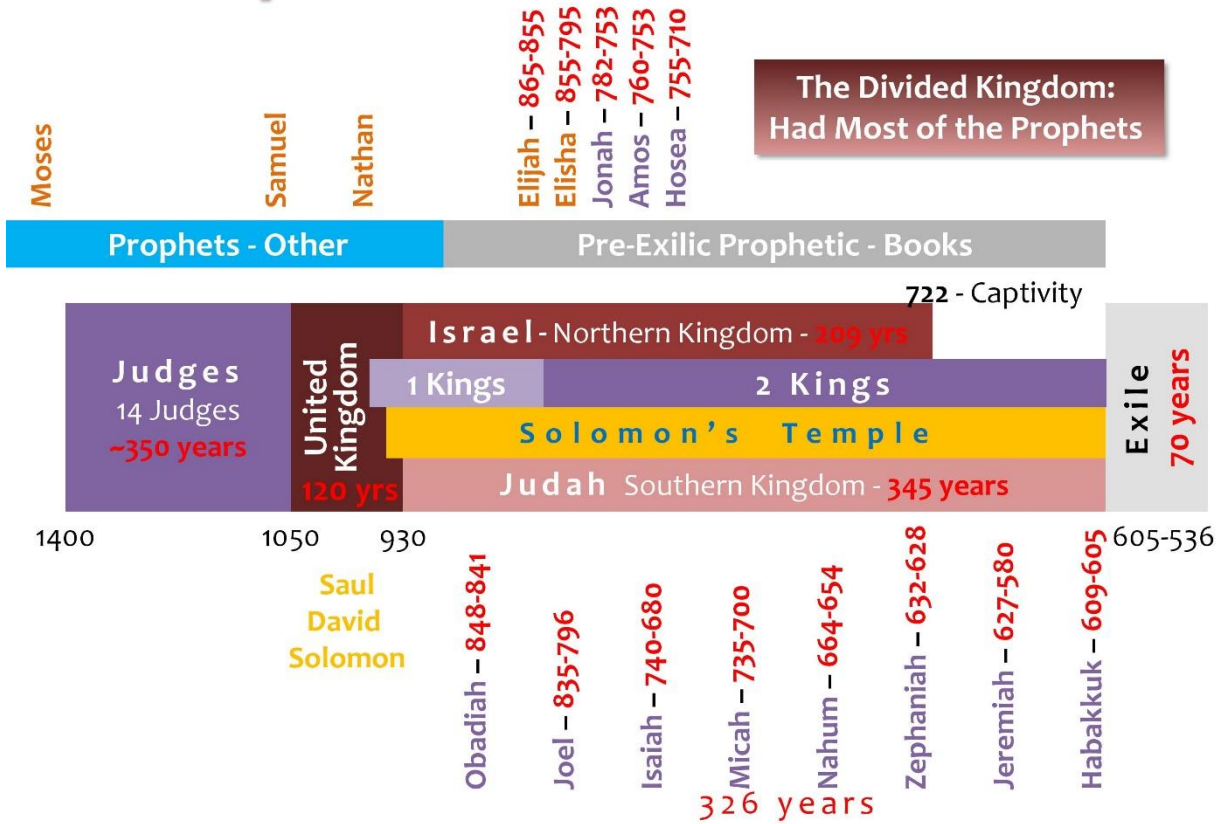
1 Corinthians 10:6

Now **these things** happened (to **Israel**) as examples for us (**NT Believers**),
(Reason) so that **we** would not crave **evil things** as **they** (**Israel**) also craved.

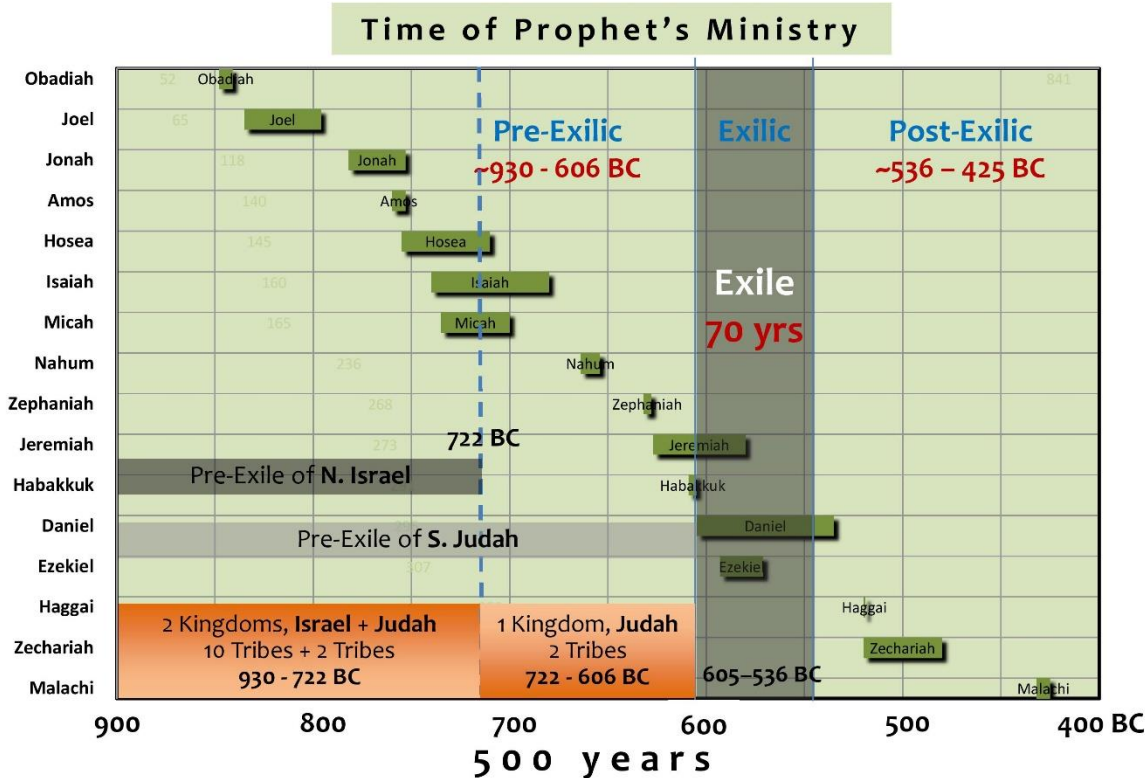
1 Corinthians 10:11

Now **these things** happened to **them** (**Israel**) as an example,
and **they** (these things) were written for our (**NT Believer's**) instruction,
upon **whom** (**NT Believers**) the ends of the ages have come

Prophets – Moses to Habakkuk



Prophetic Books of Bible



Working Outline Hosea 1:1 (Identifying Paragraphs from NAS Bible)

- I. The word of **the LORD** came to **Hosea** during the days of **5 Different Kings, 1:1**
 - A. The word of **the LORD** which came to **Hosea, 1:1**
 1. during the days of, **Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah (S. Israel), 1:1**
 2. during the days of, **Jeroboam, the son of Joash, king of Israel (N. Israel), 1:1**

Read Hosea 1:1

Q1: “When”(1:2) more exactly did the Word of **the LORD** come to **Hosea** ?

During What Time period ? **[SEE CHART]**

A1: There are **5 Kings** mentioned: First (4) **Kings** of **S. Judah** and (1) of **N. Israel**
AND we assume **Hosea’s** ministry was **45 years** (755 BC -710 BC, See Chart)
AND IF ONLY (1 of 7) **Kings** of **N. Israel** is mentioned during those **45 years**

Q: TRUE ?

AND IF Hosea’s Entire Prophecy was **ONLY** “during the days of” those **5 Kings**
and **NOT** “during the days of” the (6) **missing Kings** of **N. Israel**

Q: TRUE ?

THEN “**the Lord** first spoke through **Hosea**” (1:2),
must be “during the days of” **Jeroboam II**, **ONLY**

I don’t think we want to assume that this “**first spoke**”(verse 2) prophecy
concerning **Hosea’s** command to “**GO**”, says

“the word of **the Lord**” came to **Hosea**, “during the days of” the (6) **missing Kings** ?

IF those other (6) **Kings** are **NOT** mentioned in the TEXT.

I think **ONLY King Jeroboam II** is mentioned, as a **King of N. Israel**,

because **He** specifically relates to the **CONTEXT** of the following **verses**, in **chapters 1 + 2**

In conclusion, the (4) **Kings** mentioned **first**, refer to **Hosea’s** Ministry as a whole
and the (1) **King** mentioned **second**, refers to the “**first spoke**”(verse 2) **TIME**.
Also **King Hezekiah’s** Time on **CHART**, was after the **722 BC** Exile of **N. Israel**.

Hosea: During Days of 4 Kings of Judah and 1 King of Israel

Hosea 1:1-2 and 2 Kings 14:23 – 20:21

