



Hosea

Spiritual Adultery

Introduction

- Author: Hosea (הוֹשֵׁעַ) ‘YHWH saves’ (1:1)
- Date: Prior to Assyrian invasion, Jezreel 733 B.C.
- Setting: Spiritual & social decline
- Theme: Spiritual Adultery
- Message: With his life (1-3) & message (4-14), Hosea confronts Israel’s **spiritual adultery**, alternating between caution of God’s imminent judgment and comfort of His future restoration, concluding with a call for their repentance.

Rhetorical Structure

Judgment

(Confront)

1:2-9

2:2-13

4:1-5:15

6:4-11:7

11:12-13:16

Restoration

(Comfort)

1:10-2:1

2:14-3:5

6:1-3

11:8-11

14:1-9

Confront: Adultery (1:2-9)

- Prostitute: ‘Go take a wife of **whoredom** (זְנוּנִים) and children of **whoredom**’ - *past or future?*
- Picture: ‘For the land (*people*) **continually** **whores** (זָנָה תִּזְנֶה) away from YHWH.’
- Posterity: symbols of YHWH’s coming judgment
 - **Jezreel** (4-5): Jehu (visit, 2 Kgs. 9-10), **Israel** (15)
 - **Lo-Ruhamah** (6-7): ‘**No mercy**’ for Israel
 - **Lo-Ammi** (8-9): ‘**Not my people,**’ not I AM to you, covenant language, Ex. 3:14, 6:7

Comfort: Restored (1:10-2:1)

- Realized: ‘Israel will be like the sand of the sea’
[promise to Abraham fulfilled; Gen. 22:17, Jer. 33:22]
- Reversal: Name change foretells restoration
 - ‘Not my people’ → ‘children of living God’
 - ‘Jezreel’ → united, flourish in ‘God plants’
 - ‘No mercy’ → ‘she has received mercy’
 - ‘Not my people’ → ‘you are my people’

Confront: Adultery (2:2-13)

- Repent: Plead, that she put away her **whoring**
 - Q: marriage broken? Audience and address
- Reason: Judgment for restoration [Gomer/Israel?]
 - Inflict (3, 9-13): naked – birth, desert, lewdness (dependence & shame, cf. Ezek. 16:35f)
 - **Infidelity** (4-5, 8): attributing her ‘wages’ (fertility) to her lover (Baal), forgetting true Giver
 - Intent (6-7): Then she’ll say, ‘I will go back . . .’

“Behold, I will allure her,
and bring her into the
wilderness” (Hosea 2:14)

Comfort: Restored (2:14-3:5)

- Reversal (14-23): God turns agony to affection
 - Change: seduce/deceit (Ex. 22:16), desert (Hos. 13:5), but Sinai (Jer. 2:2-3), speak tenderly (Ruth 2:13)
 - Covenant (Baal, betroth), curses (Lev. 26:18f, names)
- Redeemed (3:1-5): ‘... as YHWH loves Israel’
 - Command: Love a woman, loved by another, **whore**
 - Cost: finance (6 ou. silver, 6+ bushels), emotions
 - Chastity: restriction (**whore**) pictures exile, repent!

Review

Vividly pictured in Hosea's marriage and family, God's prophet confronts Israel's spiritual adultery, alternating between caution of God's coming judgment and comfort of His future restoration! With repeated calls to repentance, God desires His people to turn back to covenant obedience.