

bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them.

- **Israel** (Ephraim, Samaria) + Judah

^{ESV} **Hosea 4:15** Though you play the whore, O Israel, let not Judah become guilty. Enter not into Gilgal, nor go up to Beth-aven, and swear not, "As the LORD lives." ¹⁶ Like a stubborn heifer, Israel is stubborn; can the LORD now feed them like a lamb in a broad pasture? ¹⁷ Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone. ¹⁸ When their drink is gone, they give themselves to whoring; their rulers dearly love shame.

- **whoredom**, adultery (4:13), prostitute (4:14), and lover (8:9)

"The metaphor of 'harlotry' can refer variously to the sins of sexual immorality found at the Canaanite 'high places,' promiscuity as a shameful lifestyle, and the idolatrous worship practiced in the name of Baal, as well as the unfettered pursuit of prosperity via foreign trade with 'lovers.' For now, it is sufficient to observe that Hosea uses wordplays on the multifaceted character of 'harlotry' to encode the urgent message that economic, religious, and political sins had become symbiotic in the eighth century BCE. In other words, sinful structures had been encased in Israel's institutions by its leaders to such a wide-reaching extent that systemic sin unavoidably led to individual sins, and vice versa." (Jerry Hwang, p. 27)

Hosea is challenging for us, today.

Hosea and the Scriptures...

See 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Hosea and the New Testament...

^{ESV} **Romans 9:22** What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory- ²⁴ even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? ²⁵ As indeed he says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'" ²⁶ "And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"

Hosea and the Church...

- God as Husband of Israel, Israel as unfaithful Wife to God
- Marriage as an Illustration of Exclusive Faithful Love
- Corporate Identity vs Individual Identity
- Israel vs the Church

Hosea and all People...

^{ESV} **Hosea 14:9** Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

Sunday, November 02, 2025
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

Hosea—Faithless People Faithful God
No. 1 | Introduction

Hosea 1:1

Introduction

My approach to preaching...

The book of Hosea...

^{ESV} **2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

What do we know about Hosea?

Hosea is one of the "minor" prophets.

What's up with the "minor" prophets?

- The Book of the Twelve (Hosea-Malachi)
- Spanning 700s BC (e.g. Jonah) to 400s BC (e.g. Malachi)

"The lives of the prophets in the Book of the Twelve span a period of more than three centuries (c. 770-430 BC), and they ministered in some of Israel's most tumultuous days. The Lord had promised through Moses that he would send prophets to communicate his word to his people (Deut 18:15-22), and he kept his promise even as he prepared to bring judgment against Israel and Judah for their unfaithfulness, which had persisted for hundreds of years." (Richard Alan Fuhr, Jr. and Gary E. Yates, p. 1)

- Different from the "former" prophets (e.g. Samuel, 1 Samuel 3:2), "non-writing" prophets (e.g. Elijah, 1 Kings 18:22), and "major" prophets (e.g. Isaiah, 2 Chronicles 32:32)
- At times, contemporaneous with each other (e.g. Amos 1:1, Hosea 1:1, Isaiah 1:1, and Micah 1:1)

What's up with Hosea as one of the minor prophets?

- First of the Twelve (listed in the Bible)
- Fourteen chapters long, 197 verses total
- 32 minutes to read all the way through
- Page 751 in the ESV Pew Bible

Hosea was a prophet of the "LORD".

^{ESV} **Hosea 1:1** The word of the LORD that came to Hosea, the son of Beeri... ² When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea...

"The Greek name for Jesus corresponds to the Hebrew name *Joshua*, which is a lengthened form of *Hosea*, meaning 'salvation.' Joshua, the successor to Moses,

sometimes went by the shorter name Hoshea (Num. 13:16; same as Hosea in Hebrew) and certainly his career of delivering the nation victoriously into the Promised Land corresponded to the name. But, on the other hand, Hoshea was also the name of Israel's last king, who ironically delivered the defeated nation into exile from the Promised Land (2 Kings 17:6)." (Michael P. V. Barrett, p. 4)

ESV **Hosea 12:10** I spoke to the prophets; it was I who multiplied visions, and through the prophets gave parables.

ESV **Hosea 1:1** The word of the LORD that came to Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

- Uzziah (Azariah, reigned **52 yrs**, 2 Kings 15:1-2), Jotham (reigned **16 yrs**, 2 Kings 15:32), Ahaz (reigned **16 yrs**, 2 Kings 16:1-2), and Hezekiah (reigned **29 + 15 yrs**, 2 Kings 18:1-2) **kings of Judah** = approx. from 790 BC to 686 BC (spanning 104 yrs)
- Jeroboam (II, reigned **41 yrs**, 2 Kings 14:23), **king of Israel** = approx. from 793 BC to (722 BC, spanning 71 yrs, with 7 kings total, including Jeroboam II)

ESV **2 Kings 14:23** In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, **Jeroboam** the son of Joash, king of Israel, began to reign in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. ²⁴ And **he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD**. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. ²⁵ He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, which he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher. ²⁶ For the LORD saw that the affliction of Israel was very bitter, for there was none left, bond or free, and there was none to help Israel. ²⁷ But the LORD had not said that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, so he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash. ²⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam and all that he did, and his might, how he fought, and how he restored Damascus and Hamath to Judah in Israel, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? ²⁹ And Jeroboam slept with his fathers, the kings of Israel, and Zechariah his son reigned in his place.

ESV **2 Kings 15:8** In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah king of Judah, **Zechariah** the son of Jeroboam reigned over Israel in Samaria six months. ⁹ And **he did what was evil** in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done. He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. ¹⁰ Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him and struck him down at Ibleam and put him to death and reigned in his place.

ESV **2 Kings 15:13** **Shallum** the son of Jabesh began to reign in the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah king of Judah, and he reigned one month in Samaria. ¹⁴ Then Menahem the son of Gadi came up from Tirzah and came to Samaria, and he struck down Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria and put him to death and reigned in his place.

ESV **2 Kings 15:17** In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah king of Judah, **Menahem** the son of Gadi began to reign over Israel, and he reigned ten years in Samaria. ¹⁸ And **he did what was evil** in the sight of the LORD. He did not depart all his days from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin.

ESV **2 Kings 15:23** In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, **Pekahiah** the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned two years. ²⁴ And **he**

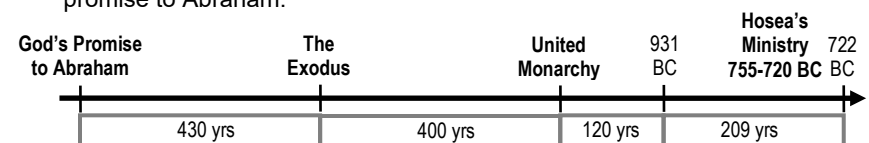
did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. ²⁵ And Pekah the son of Remaliah, his captain, conspired against him with fifty men of the people of Gilead, and struck him down in Samaria, in the citadel of the king's house with Argob and Arieah; he put him to death and reigned in his place.

ESV **2 Kings 15:27** In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah, **Pekah** the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned twenty years. ²⁸ And **he did what was evil** in the sight of the LORD. He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. ²⁹ In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and captured Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and he carried the people captive to Assyria. ³⁰ Then **Hoshea** the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah and struck him down and put him to death and reigned in his place, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.

ESV **2 Kings 17:1** In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, **Hoshea** the son of Elah began to reign in Samaria over Israel, and he reigned nine years. ² And **he did what was evil** in the sight of the LORD, yet not as the kings of Israel who were before him.

"Hosea son of Beeri prophesied in Israel (the Northern Kingdom) in the eighth century BC, beginning in the reign of Jeroboam II (793-753) and continuing through the fall of Samaria at the end of Hoshea's reign in 722. He died probably around 715... His ministry thus began with Israel as a prosperous and expanding empire and ended with the nation obliterated, its capital city in ruin, and its people scattered." (Duane Garrett, p. 336)

- The Northern Kingdom (Israel/Samaria) began in 931 BC and fell in 722 BC (spanning 209 yrs); the unified monarchy began (possibly) in 1051 BC and divided in 931 BC (spanning no more than 120 yrs)
- The unified monarchy began (possibly) 400 yrs after the Exodus from Egypt; and, the Exodus from Egypt (likely) took place 430 yrs after God's promise to Abraham.



Hosea spoke the "word of the LORD" to God's people.

ESV **Hosea 1:2** When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD."

ESV **Hosea 4:1** Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land;

ESV **Hosea 11:1** When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. ² The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols.

ESV **Hosea 11:3** Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them. ⁴ I led them with cords of kindness, with the