

ESV Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

ESV Ephesians 4:17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!

Do I (we) have a similar need for being corrected by the Lord?

ESV Hebrews 12:4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Do I (we) have a similar admonition for repentance unto the Lord?

ESV James 4:4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

A Guide for How Following Idols/Gods Could Look Today



	IDOLS	GODS
You...	job, occupation money, possessions house, vehicles education, knowledge leisure, entertainment relationships, family hobbies, activities sports, exercise politics, news activism, hobbyhorse	For... Because...
love fear serve obey walk in, keep, hold fast, worship	status, affluence acceptance, identity happiness, satisfaction control, security protection, safety success, legacy	identity meaning redemption freedom
Or...	sex, fulfillment drugs, alcohol food, not eating violence, self-harm gambling, risk-taking obsession, ritual	For... Because...
	pleasure escape coping penance comfort revenge	boredom frustration guilt, shame tired habit, impulse pain

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Hosea—Faithless People Faithful God

No. 10 | Excursus

How can we understand what Hosea means for us today?

Selected Scriptures

Excursus | How can we understand what Hosea means for us today?

How was Hosea written?

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.

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.

- The book of Hosea was written to Israel, the northern kingdom, in the days leading up to their exile to Assyria (722 BC).
- It was written to address Israel's routine, widespread, and stubborn unfaithfulness to the LORD God.
- God's "controversy" (charge) with Israel was based upon the uniqueness of his long-standing relationship to them and, especially, on the covenant that he had established with them (1446 BC).
- His charge against Israel warned them of impending retribution (punishment), admonishing them to repent and turn back to him, and promised them of eventual restoration, based upon his faithful love for them.

The book of Hosea is about God's people (Israel), who were supposed to be living faithfully as his people, but were instead forsaking him and living as the people of other gods (Baals), and thus deserving God's loving discipline.

How was (is) Israel different from us today?

A Different People (Israel, God's People) and Time (1446-722 BC)

ESV Deuteronomy 7:6 "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth."

A Different Relationship (covenant) and Place (Canaan)

ESV Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

How is Scripture (the Bible) related to us today?

- God's word is always true, right, certain, and good.

ESV Numbers 23:19 God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

- All Scripture is God's word and is profitable.

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.

The Old Testament was written for our instruction, too.

ESV Romans 15:1 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.³ For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me."⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ESV 1 Corinthians 10:1 I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,³ and all ate the same spiritual food,⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play."⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

But, Paul tells us that those in Jesus Christ are different from Israel.

ESV Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

ESV Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Example

ESV James 2:1 My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

How can we proceed (for example, with the book of Hosea)?

Three Options for Contemporary Application

- There is no direct relevance.
- There is some sort of intended correspondence.

Example

What was originally to Israel is ultimately fulfilled in the church. *Or...*

What was originally to Israel is typologically realized through Jesus Christ.

- There is contextually consistent implied significance.

Reminders for Approaching a Particular Text

- We should first seek to understand what God was intending to communicate to the original recipients and to have them do in response to his word.
- We should discern the meaning of a particular text by recognizing it within its context, determined according to its normal grammar and actual history.
- We should carefully identify the significance of a particular text, starting first with the original recipients before moving to us today and then refined by the rest of God's word.
 - Determine if what a particular text was intended to do in its original context has immediate significance. If not...
 - Determine what, if any, New Testament references in *their* original context clearly indicate a particular text's enduring significance, including for today (e.g. quotations, allusions, etc.). If not...
 - Determine what, if any, theologically consistent truths, especially within the original context of the New Testament, may suggest possible significance for today. And then, check your conclusions with Scripture...

The Historical Trajectory of the Book of Hosea

First, Hosea spoke (and acted) God's word to Israel (the northern kingdom).

Second, Hosea's words were written down (the book of Hosea) which ended up being especially beneficial to Judah (the southern kingdom).

Third, the book of Hosea then became a written document to admonish any child of Israel, following the exile of Judah (586 BC).

The Reality of the Book of Hosea in the New Testament

See Matthew 2:15; Romans 9:25, 26; 1 Corinthians 15:4, 55; 1 Peter 2:10

A Template for Significance of the Book of Hosea Today

Do I (we) have a similar covenant relationship with the Lord?

ESV 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (See also, Romans 9:23-26)

ESV 2 Corinthians 11:1 I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me!² I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.³ But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

Do I (we) have a similar tendency to live unfaithfully to the Lord?