



IN
OUT

English Standard Version

*A Love That
Will Not
Let Me Go*

A Study of Hosea

In & Out[®]

English Standard Version

KINGS AND PROPHETS SERIES

Course 8

A LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO

A STUDY OF HOSEA

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN WE WANT YOU TO KNOW...

Beloved, thank you for joining us in the eighth of our ten-course study in the Kings and Prophets series, *A Love That Will Not Let Me Go*. How we pray that this study of Hosea will help you understand the wonder of God's covenant love to all His covenant people. Remember, the Old Testament was written for our instruction, hope, and encouragement (1 Corinthians 10:11; Romans 15:4).

If you're new to this series, it's important for you to know that the Old Testament books we're studying are a mix of history and concurrent prophecy. We designed this series to give you a full picture of events in Israel during a specific period of history.

While we want you to have the full picture of these times, we also want you to be able to separate out the writings of the prophets should you desire. So we divided this series into ten separate courses. This and the fact that the course does not demand an overwhelming commitment should encourage newcomers to join us without hesitation. We trust that you are about our Father's business recruiting others to study God's Word for themselves!

Remember, Beloved: God put sixty-six books into His Book. There is a purpose for each one, and we need to study each and every one. To ignore the Word of God is to ignore God, which is the height of pride. The Bible is *the Word* of the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

God has spoken, and what He has spoken is absolute truth. He told us we're to live by every word which comes from His mouth (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4). Therefore we must not neglect the Word of God or prefer the words of men (books authored by human beings) over the very words of God. The content of each book of the Bible is critical to our lives; otherwise, God would not have included it in His eternal Word.

You're doing what you ought to be doing and we're proud of you for disciplining yourself for the purpose of godliness, for adding to your faith, knowledge—the knowledge of the one and only true God, His ways, His history, His commandments, His ordinances and precepts for life.

It's our prayer that you will see how critically relevant Hosea is to our times and to your life so that you'll confidently know and understand that He loves you with a love that will not let you go. May this love cause you to keep His commandments and honor Him for Who He truly is.

How we look forward to your stories about how God uses these courses to teach you more of Who He is, to conform you more into His Son's image, and to prepare you to be the vessel of righteousness He desires to use for the furtherance of His kingdom. And how we would love to see you face-to-face at one of our training workshops, study courses, tours, or conferences!

Blessings untold,



Kay Arthur for all the Precept Staff



A Love That Will Not Let Me Go

How much and how long will You love me, my God?

Surviving the trauma of fractured relationships, the frailty and fickleness of human love make the answer to this question a matter of the greatest security and peace. The study you’re about to embark on could not be more timely or needful.

TAKING IT IN

If you begin each day’s study with prayer, crying out to the God of heaven for insight, wisdom, and understanding of the pertinence of this book, then God will meet with you in a very profound and personal way. It’s His delight to answer the cry of your heart.

Remember the Bible is God’s book, His words—recorded word-for-word under the supervision of the Holy Spirit. So come to God in childlike trust, dear disciple, and listen accordingly. As you learn more and more of His Word, more and more you’ll come to know your God better and watch with amazement and delight as Scripture interprets Scripture and the Spirit teaches you how to live.

1. As we go through Hosea, we think it will be helpful to memorize one verse a week. Your first verse to learn is Hosea 2:23.
2. Read Hosea 1–3 on your Observation Worksheets. Using a pencil, underline every reference to *wife*, *husband*, *mother*. Then write down your first impression of what you think these three chapters are about.



3. Now let's begin our observations of Hosea 1.
 - a. Mark the following key words along with their synonyms and pronouns. List the words on the blank side of the Key Word Bookmark on the back of this workbook and mark them as you will throughout Hosea.
 - 1) *the Lord first spoke, the Lord said*
 - 2) *whoredom, play the whore*
 - 3) *I will*
 - 4) *Israel* (the Northern Kingdom—capital, Samaria)
 - 5) *Judah* (the Southern Kingdom—capital, Jerusalem)
 - 6) *call his (her) name _____* and include the name in the marking.
 - b. Read Hosea 1 again and:
 - 1) Mark references to time and add this to your bookmark. Many of us do this with a green circle.*
 - 2) Double underline geographical references in green.* Add this to your bookmark. You will find a map of the Jezreel Valley in the Appendix.
 - c. What do you learn from marking “days” in Hosea 1:1? *When* did the Word of the Lord come to Hosea? The answer will give you a clearer understanding of the timing of Hosea's messages.
4. Let's see when the kings mentioned in Hosea 1:1 ruled.
 - a. Look at the chart “The Rulers and Prophets of Hosea's Time,” in the Appendix. Locate the names of the kings mentioned in verse 1, then on the following page list them under the kingdoms they ruled over with the years of their reigns (as recorded on the chart).



THE KINGS OF HOSEA 1:1

Kings of Judah	Years ruled	Kings of Israel	Years ruled

b. Now, using the same chart, what were the names of the kings of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) who ruled during the reigns of the Southern kings listed in Hosea 1:1?

c. “The Rulers and Prophets of Hosea’s Time” chart shows that Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Note the names of the prophets to the Southern Kingdom during Hosea’s time.

5. Great start! Next we are going to dig a little deeper into Hosea 1:1-9.

a. One of the phrases you marked was *the Lord first spoke* and *the Lord said*. Look at each place you marked these synonymous phrases. How many times did the Lord speak to Hosea in this first chapter?

b. Now, on the following page list what you learn about God’s messages to Hosea in the order they are spoken by God. Watch the *I wills* of God you marked.



- c. Let's stop for a moment and think about God's command to Hosea to name his first son Jezreel, "God sows."
- 1) What were the two reasons given for naming his son Jezreel, and when would God sow?

 - 2) Now look at *when* God put an end to the kingdom of Israel. Consult the chart "The Rulers and Prophets of Hosea's Time," and record the year the last part of the Northern Kingdom was taken into captivity.



- b. List the order of events in this chapter. Then, if there are parallel events with the sons of Israel, record them in the comparison column.

Hosea and Gomer	Comparison with Israel

- c. You may have already recorded these answers, but just so you don't miss them:

1) What will happen in the latter days and to whom?

2) According to what you observed in Hosea 2, where do you think this will happen?

- d. What do you think Hosea 3:4 means? Is there a correlation between Hosea 3:4-5 and where Israel is today as a nation?

- e. Record the themes of Hosea 1-3 on your "Hosea at a Glance" chart. Also summarize the first message in as few words as possible and record it on the chart.



**LIVING IT
OUT**

1. Read Hosea 1 and 2 again. Then think about what this tells you about God. God has said some hard things to Israel (called her a whore), but is He finished with her? If not, what does this tell you about God's dealings with *you*?
2. If you've sinned against God, is all lost? Was all lost for Israel? What did you learn from marking the *I will*'s of Hosea 2:14-23?
3. Finally, Beloved, in light of what you observed, how much and how long will God love you? And what is your prayer?

Do you believe God? Are you living accordingly?



HOSEA 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

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.

- 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.”
- 3 So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.
- 4 And the LORD said to him, “Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.
- 5 “And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”
- 6 She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the LORD said to him, “Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all.
- 7 “But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen.”
- 8 When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son.
- 9 And the LORD said, “Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God.”
- 10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, “You are not my people,” it shall be said to them, “Children of the living God.”



11 And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.



HOSEA 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

SAY to your brothers, “You are my people,” and to your sisters, “You have received mercy.”

- 2 “Plead with your mother, plead—
for she is not my wife,
and I am not her husband—
that she put away her whoring from her face,
and her adultery from between her breasts;
- 3 lest I strip her naked
and make her as in the day she was born,
and make her like a wilderness,
and make her like a parched land,
and kill her with thirst.
- 4 “Upon her children also I will have no mercy,
because they are children of whoredom.
- 5 “For their mother has played the whore;
she who conceived them has acted shamefully.
For she said, ‘I will go after my lovers,
who give me my bread and my water,
my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.’
- 6 “Therefore I will hedge up her way with thorns,
and I will build a wall against her,
so that she cannot find her paths.
- 7 “She shall pursue her lovers
but not overtake them,
and she shall seek them
but shall not find them.



Then she shall say,
‘I will go and return to my first husband,
for it was better for me then than now.’

8 “And she did not know
that it was I who gave her
the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and who lavished on her silver and gold,
which they used for Baal.

9 “Therefore I will take back
my grain in its time,
and my wine in its season,
and I will take away my wool and my flax,
which were to cover her nakedness.

10 “Now I will uncover her lewdness
in the sight of her lovers,
and no one shall rescue her out of my hand.

11 “And I will put an end to all her mirth,
her feasts, her new moons, her Sabbaths,
and all her appointed feasts.

12 “And I will lay waste her vines and her fig trees,
of which she said,

‘These are my wages,
which my lovers have given me.’

I will make them a forest,
and the beasts of the field shall devour them.

13 “And I will punish her for the feast days of the Baals
when she burned offerings to them
and adorned herself with her ring and jewelry,
and went after her lovers
and forgot me, declares the LORD.



- 14 “Therefore, behold, I will allure her,
and bring her into the wilderness,
and speak tenderly to her.
- 15 “And there I will give her her vineyards
and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.
And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth,
as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.
- 16 “And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me ‘My Husband,’
and no longer will you call me ‘My Baal.’
- 17 “For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they
shall be remembered by name no more.
- 18 “And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the
field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground.
And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will
make you lie down in safety.
- 19 “And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in
righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy.
- 20 “I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.
- 21 “And in that day I will answer, declares the LORD,
I will answer the heavens,
and they shall answer the earth,
22 and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and they shall answer Jezreel,
23 and I will sow her for myself in the land.
And I will have mercy on No Mercy,
and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’;
and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’ ”



HOSEA 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- AND** the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.”
- 2 So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley.
 - 3 And I said to her, “You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you.”
 - 4 For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods.
 - 5 Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the LORD and to his goodness in the latter days.



HOSEA AT A GLANCE

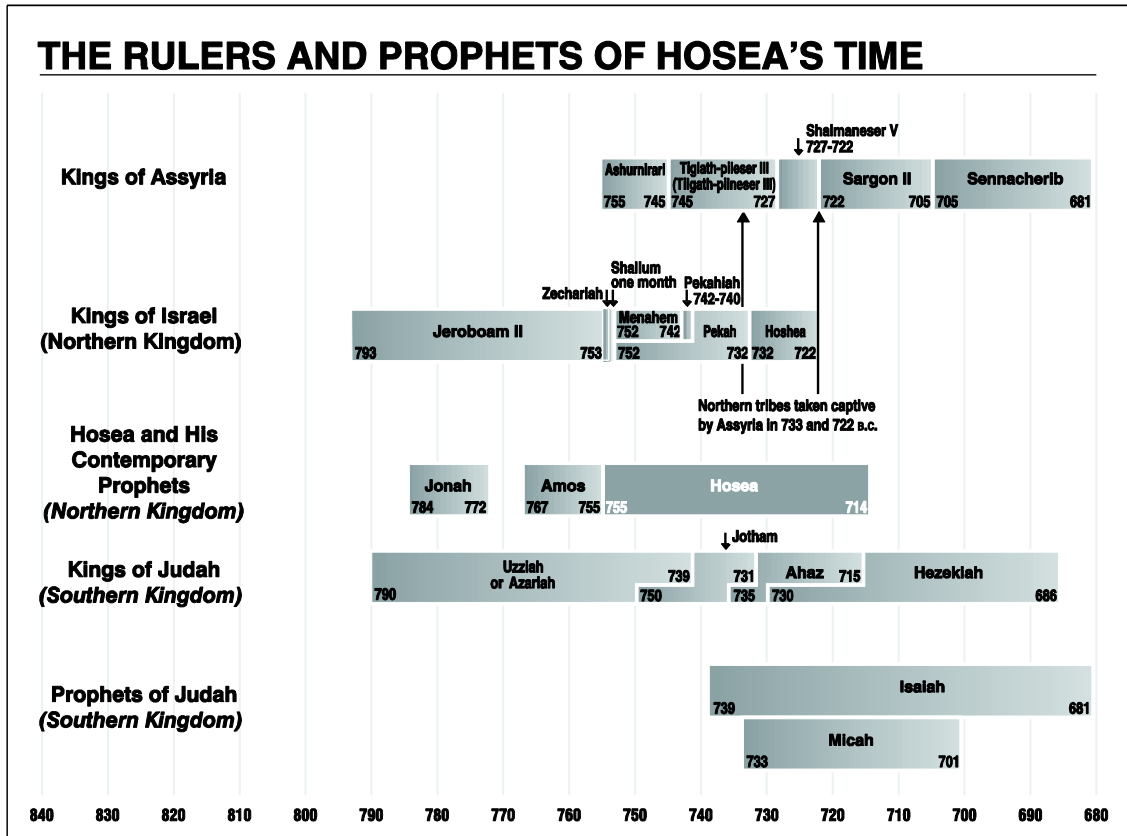
Book Theme:

	Message Themes	Chapter Themes
Author:		1
		2
Date:		3
		4
Purpose:		5
		6
Key Words:		7
		8
		9
		10
		11
		12
		13
		14



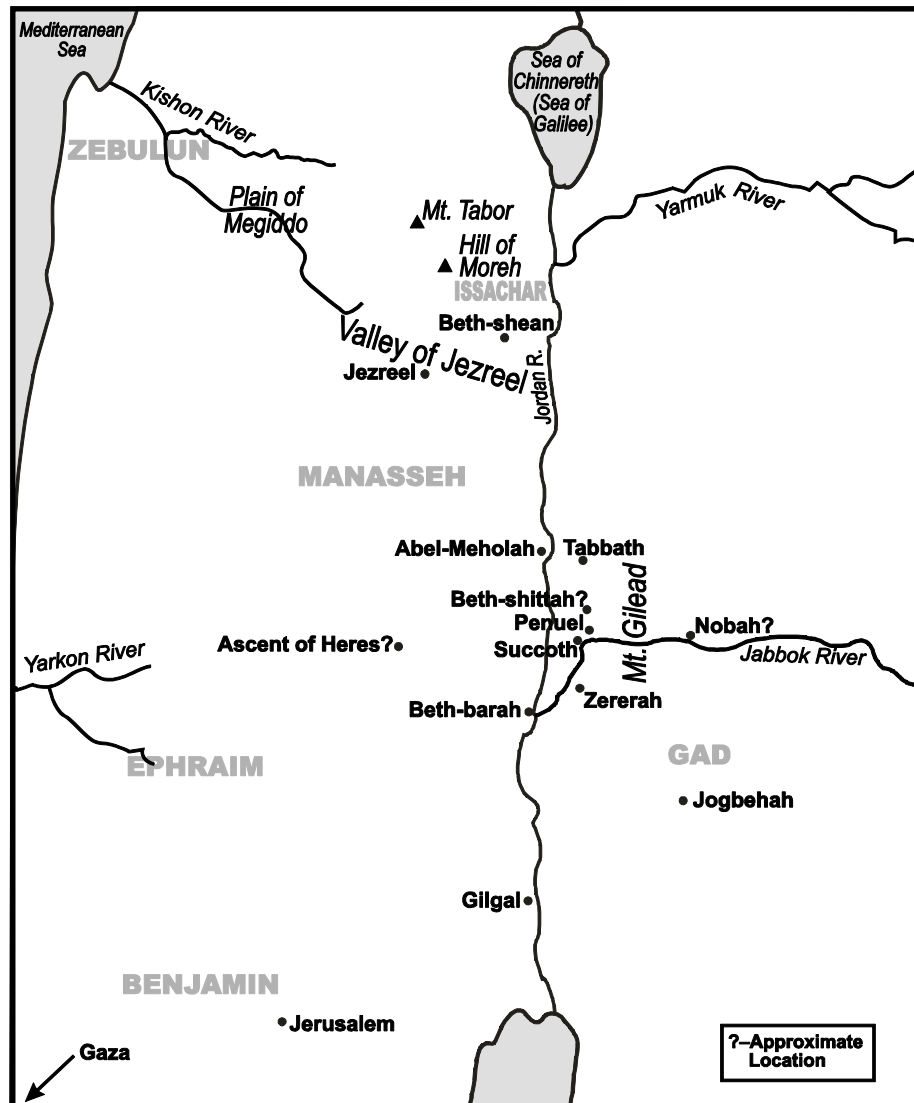
A Love That Will Not Let Me Go

The Rulers and Prophets of Hosea's Time





*A Love That Will Not
Let Me Go*
Jezreel Valley map



Jezreel is the name of northern **and** southern cities in Israel. Locate the northern city on the map since this is the one you need to focus on. Look also for the valley of Jezreel. This valley is also called the valley of Armageddon (Har-Magedon) named for the mountains (Har) or city of Megiddo. It is lush, beautiful and green—breathtaking when you look at it from the top of the Tel of Megiddo, one of Solomon’s chariot cities. When Napoleon saw it, he said it was the greatest battlefield he’d seen. It’s awesome to stand there and realize this is where all the nations will someday gather themselves to go to war against Israel and against her God.



Cities of Israel and Judah



