

IN &
OUT

*A Love That
Will Not
Let Me Go*

A Study of Hosea

In & Out[®]

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) *harlotry, play the harlot*
 - 3) *I will*
 - 4) *Israel* (the Northern Kingdom—capital, Samaria)
 - 5) *Judah* (the Southern Kingdom—capital, Jerusalem)
 - 6) *name him (her)* _____ 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.

- 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 last 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.

HOSEA 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THE word of the LORD which came to Hosea the son of Beeri, during the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz *and* Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during 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 harlotry and *have* children of harlotry; for the land commits flagrant harlotry, 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, “Name him Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.
- 5 “On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.”
- 6 Then she conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. And the LORD said to him, “Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have compassion on the house of Israel, that I would ever forgive them.
- 7 “But I will have compassion on the house of Judah and deliver them by the LORD their God, and will not deliver them by bow, sword, battle, horses or horsemen.”
- 8 When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and gave birth to a son.
- 9 And the LORD said, “Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not My people and I am not your God.”
- 10 Yet the number of the sons of Israel
Will be like the sand of the sea,
Which cannot be measured or numbered;
And in the place
Where it is said to them,

“You are not My people,”

It will be said to them,

“*You are* the sons of the living God.”

- 11 And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel will be gathered
together,
And they will appoint for themselves one leader,
And they will go up from the land,
For great will be the day of Jezreel.

HOSEA 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

SAY to your brothers, “Ammi,” and to your sisters, “Ruhamah.”

- 2 “Contend with your mother, contend,
For she is not my wife, and I am not her husband;
And let her put away her harlotry from her face
And her adultery from between her breasts,
- 3 Or I will strip her naked
And expose her as on the day when she was born.
I will also make her like a wilderness,
Make her like desert land
And slay her with thirst.
- 4 “Also, I will have no compassion on her children,
Because they are children of harlotry.
- 5 “For their mother has played the harlot;
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, behold, 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 will pursue her lovers, but she will not overtake them;
And she will seek them, but will not find *them*.
Then she will say, ‘I will go back to my first husband,
For it was better for me then than now!’
- 8 “For she does not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the
new wine and the oil,

And lavished on her silver and gold,
Which they used for Baal.

- 9 “Therefore, I will take back My grain at harvest time
And My new wine in its season.
I will also take away My wool and My flax
Given to cover her nakedness.
- 10 “And then I will uncover her lewdness
In the sight of her lovers,
And no one will rescue her out of My hand.
- 11 “I will also put an end to all her gaiety,
Her feasts, her new moons, her sabbaths
And all her festal assemblies.
- 12 “I will destroy her vines and fig trees,
Of which she said, ‘These are my wages
Which my lovers have given me.’
And I will make them a forest,
And the beasts of the field will devour them.
- 13 “I will punish her for the days of the Baals
When she used to offer sacrifices to them
And adorn herself with her earrings and jewelry,
And follow her lovers, so that she forgot Me,”
declares the LORD.
- 14 “Therefore, behold, I will allure her,
Bring her into the wilderness
And speak kindly to her.
- 15 “Then I will give her her vineyards from there,
And the valley of Achor as a door of hope.
And she will sing there as in the days of her youth,
As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.
- 16 “It will come about in that day,” declares the LORD,
“That you will call Me Ishi
And will no longer call Me Baali.

- 17 “For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth,
So that they will be mentioned by their names no more.
- 18 “In that day I will also make a covenant for them
With the beasts of the field,
The birds of the sky
And the creeping things of the ground.
And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land,
And will make them lie down in safety.
- 19 “I will betroth you to Me forever;
Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice,
In lovingkindness and in compassion,
- 20 And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness.
Then you will know the LORD.
- 21 “It will come about in that day that I will respond,”
declares the LORD.
“I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the
earth,
- 22 And the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine and to
the oil,
And they will respond to Jezreel.
- 23 “I will sow her for Myself in the land.
I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained
compassion,
And I will say to those who were not My people,
‘You are My people!’
And they will say, ‘*You are my God!*’ ”

HOSEA 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THEN the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman *who* is loved by *her* husband, yet an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes.”

- 2 So I bought her for myself for fifteen *shekels* of silver and a homer and a half of barley.
- 3 Then I said to her, “You shall stay with me for many days. You shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man; so I will also be toward you.”
- 4 For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or *sacred* pillar and without ephod or household idols.
- 5 Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.

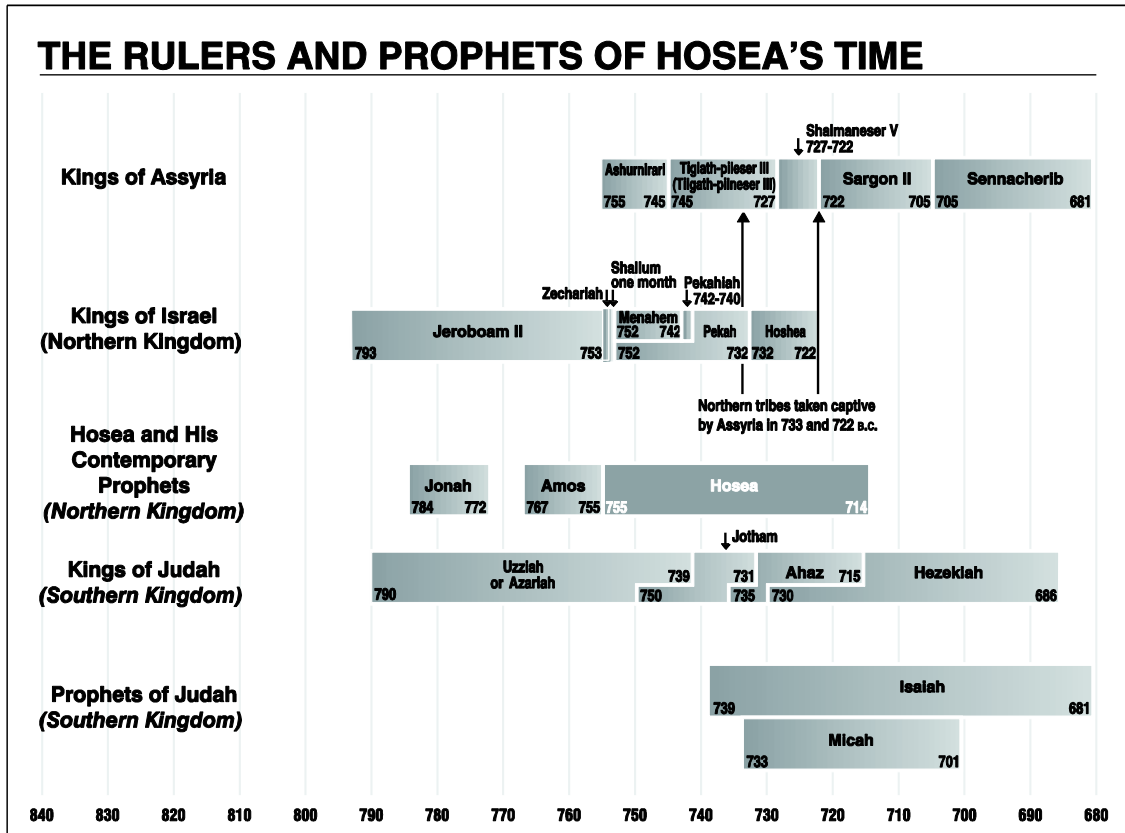
HOSEA AT A GLANCE

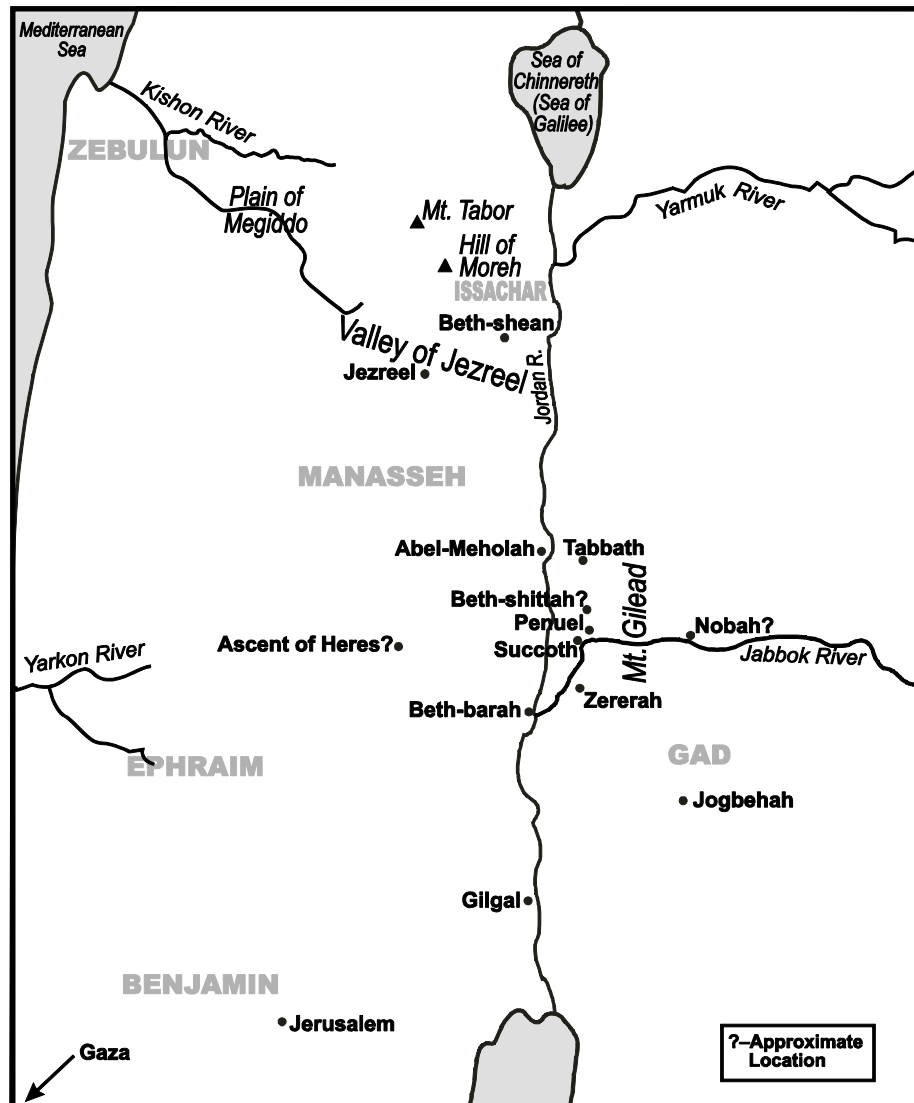
Book Theme:

	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





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



