



HOSEA

Study Guide by Pastor Keith Hamblen



2009

Calvary Bible Church
3180 West Elm Street
Lima, Ohio 45805

Hosea takes an unfaithful woman for a wife Hosea 1-3

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law” (Ps.119:18)!

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Cor.3:18).

Remember to pray for illumination (to be taught of God’s Spirit—Jn. 6:45)!

“The first three chapters of [Hosea] give us a kind of summary of the whole message of the prophet and are introductory in character.” “The first word from God to the prophet was an order for him to marry a woman who would later become a harlot...her crimes are committed after she is married.” “[As is revealed more fully as Hosea unfolds,] God chose Israel and brought her into a most blessed relationship with Himself, likened to the marriage bond, and while in this state she committed harlotry. Her sin is explained as departing from the Lord.” Charles L. Feinberg (CLF), *The Minor Prophets*

Monday—prayerfully read and ask for enlightenment in Hosea 1-3 (and other portions in your daily reading plan)! Answer today’s questions without looking back after reading the chapter!

1-4. Tell the story of these first three chapters in your own words, using proper names. _____

5. Does the LORD directly connect Hosea’s personal story with what is happening in the nation of Israel? _____

6. Memorize a thought from this passage, and take it with you for the day!

Tuesday—prayerfully read Hosea 1:1-7.

1. What came to Hosea, and who were the kings of Judah and of Israel during whose reigns Hosea ministered (1:1)?

2. (“Whoredom” can be translated “adultery.”) What kind of wife did the LORD tell Hosea to take (1:2)? _____
3. (“Jezreel” can be translated “God will sow”; the meaning of “Jezreel” is that God will see that what was sown will be reaped.) Whose blood did the LORD say He would avenge by causing the house of Israel to cease (1:4)? _____

4. Name the first son (1:4) and daughter (1:6) of Hosea and Gomer. _____
5. What truth can we apply to our lives in 1:7? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (from this passage or otherwise), and take it with you for the day!

Wednesday—prayerfully read Hosea 1:8-2:3.

1. Name the third child (another son) of Hosea and Gomer, and what do you suppose that name means (1:8-9)?

2. What happened between 1:9 and 1:10? _____

3. What two things did God say will happen to Israel and Judah in 1:11? _____

4. By what names did the Lord refer to Hosea's brothers and sisters (2:1)? _____
5. Who do you suppose is the mother referred to in 2:2 (in light of 2:1)?! _____
6. Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take it with you for the day!

Thursday—prayerfully read Hosea 2:4-13.

1. (In 2:4 “children of whoredoms” suggests that these children are characterized by whoredoms.) To whom did “their mother” give credit for her prosperity (2:5)? _____
2. What will the nation (“their mother” apparently) lose in 2:6?

3. When did “their mother” (2:2) finally realize it was better with her when she was with her husband (2:7)? _____

4. (Application) For what should we always remember to give credit to God (2:8-12)? _____

5. What seems to have been Israel's root problem as identified in 2:13? _____
6. Memorize a portion of scripture that helps you admire Him (from this passage or otherwise), and take “it” with you for the day!

Friday—prayerfully consider Hosea 2:14-23.

1. (Warning: this question will take some thought!) Why do you suppose 2:14 begins with “therefore”? _____

2. What two “strange” ways to “allure” (“win their hearts”) are included in 2:14-15 as to what God will do for Israel? Hint for second: “Achor” can be translated “troubled.” _____

3. (“Ishi” means “husband,” and “Baali” means “master” in 2:16.) What five things does God say that He will do for Israel in 2:16-20? _____

4. What does the LORD say that He will hear in “that day” (2:21)? _____

5. What will the LORD say to them that were not His people in “that day,” and what will they say to Him (2:23)? _____

6. In your “pursuit of God” (meaning developing a better relationship with Him), what characteristic of Him could you consider and meditate on today taken from this passage?!

Saturday—prayerfully read Hosea 3:1-5.

1. What two things characterize the spiritual adultery of Israel (3:1)? _____
2. Why do you suppose Hosea had to buy Gomer in 3:2?

3. For how long would the purchased woman and the man who purchased her not live together as man and wife (3:3)?

4. What was the man and wife's living apart picturing (3:3-4)?

5. When will the children of Israel return and be restored fully (3:5)?

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take "it" with you for the day!

Sunday—prayerfully review Hosea 1-3.

Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take "it" with you for the day!

people and leadership addressed for their sins
Hosea 4-6

Remember to pray for illumination (to be taught of God’s Spirit—Jn.6:45)!

“Chapter 4 of Hosea introduces the rest of the book and contains a summary of the prophet’s messages. The chapters of this portion give in minute and vivid details what was set forth in broad outline and under the picture of a domestic scene in chapters 1, 2, and 3. The section does not lend itself easily to division, because its parts form one long indictment from God on the morally corrupt, politically decaying, and spiritually bankrupt nation. At the very outset we are confronted with the attention-arresting word: ‘Hear!’ (This is repeated in 5:1.) The whole nation is in view with particular emphasis on the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Note how repeatedly Ephraim (e.g., Israel, which was so called because Ephraim was its most populous tribe) appears at the head of these chapters, Hosea 4:1 to the end of the book.” Charles L. Feinberg (CLF), *The Minor Prophets*

Monday—prayerfully read and ask for enlightenment in Hosea 4-6! Answer today’s questions without looking back after reading the chapter!

1-4. Give the themes of each chapter of this reading (this is a little difficult, but everybody can get it “a little”). _____

5. What two main groups of people is Hosea addressing?

6. Memorize a thought from this passage, and take it with you for the day!

Tuesday—prayerfully read Hosea 4:1-9.

1. (In 4:1, “controversy” speaks of charges as in a court of law the LORD is bringing against Israel.) What controversy (“accusations”) does the LORD bring against Israel in 4:1-2? There are two lists—one seems to be “heart issues” and the other outward conduct. _____

2. 4:4 seems to be saying that God holds the priests responsible; that is, the priests are not to blame the _____.
3. Why are God’s people being destroyed, and what have they forgotten (4:6)? _____
4. How do you suppose they (“My people”) were “increased” (4:7)? _____

5. What do you suppose is the meaning of “like people, like priest” in 4:9? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (from this passage or otherwise), and take it with you for the day!

Wednesday—prayerfully read Hosea 4:10-19.

1. What had the people “left off” (4:10)? _____

2. What takes away the heart (4:11)? _____

3. What does the following after false gods lead to (4:12-13)?

4. 4:14 seems to be teaching that the LORD will not just punish the daughters and the spouses for their sin, but that the men as well will be punished: men and women are _____ responsible for their actions.

5. When does it become time to “let [another, a group or an individual (I suppose)] alone” (4:17)? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take it with you for the day!

Thursday—prayerfully read Hosea 5:1-8.

1. What three leadership groups are addressed in 5:1? (Mizpah and Tabor were military strongholds on either side of the Jordan.) _____

2. What would Israel not do to “help them” turn back to God, and what spirit was in the midst of them (5:4)? _____

3. What additional (and root) sin in Israel is rebuked in 5:5?

4. Why do you suppose they (Israel) did not find the LORD when they went to seek Him (5:6)? (Are you praying God will help you to understand as you ponder this passage?! Are you pondering this passage?) _____

5. What do you see of yourself (or of God) in this section?

6. Memorize a portion of scripture that helps you admire Him (from this passage or otherwise), and take “it” with you for the day!

Friday—prayerfully consider Hosea 5:9-15.

1. What were the civil government leaders (“the princes of Judah”) guilty of (5:10)? _____

2. (Warning: this question will take some thought!) What do you suppose “he willingly walked after the commandment” in 5:11 means? _____

3. Where did Ephraim go for help (5:13)? _____
4. What does the LORD say will cause Ephraim and Judah to seek Him early (5:15)? _____
5. In your “pursuit of God” (meaning developing a better relationship with Him), what characteristic of Him could you consider and meditate on today taken from this passage?!

6. What portion of scripture could you take with you for the day?

Saturday—prayerfully read Hosea 6:1-11.

1. Where are we encouraged to go for healing (6:1)? (Bonus question—do you see any irony in 6:1?) _____

2. When shall we know (that He is real, the Healer, truth) (6:3)?

3. What characterized Ephraim's goodness (6:4)?

4. What did God most desire (6:6)?

5. Scan back over this passage and see if anything spoke to you, and mention it on the following line.

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take "it" with you for the day!

Sunday—prayerfully review Hosea 4-6.

people and leadership addressed for their sins
Hosea 7-9

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law” (Ps.119:18)!

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Cor.3:18).

Remember to pray for illumination (to be taught of God’s Spirit—Jn.6:45)!

“In chapter 6 there is stated the desire of God to heal Israel of their spiritual ills, but in chapter 7 it is noted that when effort to do so is put into effect it is repeatedly frustrated by the sin of the people. Every repeated attempt to redeem Israel only disclosed more of her sinfulness.” “All Israel is at fault but the Northern Kingdom is especially pointed out in ‘Ephraim’ and ‘Samaria.’” Charles L. Feinberg (CLF), *The Minor Prophets*

Monday—prayerfully read and ask for enlightenment in Hosea 7-9 (and other portions in your daily reading plan)! Answer today’s questions without looking back after reading the chapter!

- 1-4. Give the themes (or a phrase which sticks out to you) of each chapter of this reading (this is a little difficult, and answers will vary considerably, but at least try “in prayer!”).

5. What themes are mixed throughout these chapters (again, this is a little difficult, but try!)? _____

6. Memorize a thought from this passage, and take it with you for the day!

Tuesday—prayerfully read Hosea 7:1-8.

1. What would the LORD have done for Israel (apart from their continuing sin) (7:1)? _____

2. By what three names did the LORD refer to the northern tribes in 7:1, and what did these tribes not consider in their hearts (7:2)? _____

3. With what do they make the king and the princes glad (7:3)?

4. What three sins do the kings commit in 7:4-5? _____

5. (Perhaps the picture of “an oven heated by the baker” in 7:4-8 speaks of the continuing spirit of adultery that they/the children of Israel are being “heated in.” The “cake not turned” in 7:8 could picture a half-baked loaf of bread which is disgusting to those around Israel when Israel could be a blessing to them.) How do you suppose we can escape the “oven” of the “spirit of whoredoms” of our age? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (from this passage or otherwise), and take it with you for the day!

Wednesday—prayerfully read Hosea 7:9-16.

1. What are “here and there” upon Israel, “yet he knoweth it not,” and what do you suppose this speaks of (7:9)? _____

2. What three (or five) sins are identified in 7:10-11?

3. Israel spoke lies against the LORD in spite of what (7:13)?

4. What did Israel not do “when they howled [in misery] upon their beds” (7:14)? _____
5. What applies to us in this passage (7:9-16)? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take it with you for the day!

Thursday—prayerfully read Hosea 8:1-14.

1. From the context, what can be said about Israel’s cry in 8:2?

2. What had Israel done without consulting the LORD (8:4)?

3. What hope is in 8:10? _____

4. What were counted a “strange thing” to Ephraim (8:12)?

5. How can we not “forget our Maker” (8:14)? _____

6. Memorize a portion of scripture that helps you admire Him (from this passage or otherwise), and take “it” with you for the day!

Friday—prayerfully consider Hosea 9:1-9.

1. What was Israel not to do and why (9:1)? _____

2. Where would Israel no longer dwell, but where would they instead be living (9:3)? _____

3. What would not be pleasing to the LORD (9:4)? _____
4. What are come, and what do you suppose that means (9:7)?

5. In your “pursuit of God” (meaning developing a better relationship with Him), what characteristic of Him could you consider and meditate on today taken from this passage?!

6. What portion of scripture could you take with you for the day?

Saturday—prayerfully read Hosea 9:10-17.

1. What had Israel “separated themselves unto” (9:10)? _____

2. What must we watch so that we do not commit abominations (9:10)? _____
3. Where was Ephraim planted (9:13)? _____
4. What chastening is especially evident in this section (9:12, 13, 14, 16)? _____

5. Scan back over this passage and see if anything spoke to you, and mention it on the following line. _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take “it” with you for the day!

Sunday—prayerfully review Hosea 7-9.

Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take “it” with you for the day!

Israel is without a king, yet God still loves them
Hosea 10-12

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law” (Ps.119:18)!

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Cor.3:18).

Remember to pray for illumination (to be taught of God’s Spirit—Jn.6:45)!

“In the first ten chapters of the prophecy of Hosea, the emphasis has been on the disobedience of God’s people and the inevitable judgment as a consequence, although passages are not lacking that speak with detail of the blessings and glories that await a repentant and believing remnant in Israel in the days to come. The dominant note and chord in the last four chapters of the book is the love of God.” Charles L. Feinberg (CLF), *The Minor Prophets*

Monday—prayerfully read and ask for enlightenment in Hosea 10-12 (and other portions in your daily reading plan)!

1-5. Try to give a key thought from each chapter.

6. Memorize a thought from this passage, and take it with you for the day!

Tuesday—prayerfully read Hosea 10:1-8.

1. What did Israel increase as God prospered him (10:1)?

2. What was Israel’s heart problem, and what do you suppose that means (10:2)? _____

3. Apparently because Israel had no king (v.3), what did they easily break (10:4)? _____
4. What shall be taken away from Israel (which shall cause them to fear) (10:5-6, 8)? _____
5. (These are difficult verses, but don’t be discouraged! Keep gazing at the inspired “art work” of this book, a section at a time, praying for illumination!) Do you see anything you can apply to yourself (please write it down briefly)? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (from this passage or otherwise), and take it with you for the day!

Wednesday—prayerfully read Hosea 10:9-15.

1. “Gibeah” (10:9) probably refers to the time when Israel all but wiped out the tribe of Benjamin following Benjamin’s defense of the wicked men of Gibeah in the matter of the Levite and his concubine (Judges 19-20). Israel becomes who in the analogy? _____

2. “two furrows” (10:10) apparently speaks of Israel’s two perversities against which Hosea is preaching. If this is so, what do you suppose those two sins would be? _____

3. What kind of animal was Ephraim compared to in 10:11, and what did she love to do (10:11)? _____

4. What will you reap if you sow in righteousness, and what is it time to do (10:12)? _____

5. What two things did the people trust in (10:13)? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take it with you for the day!

Thursday—prayerfully read Hosea 11:1-12.

1. When did the LORD love Israel (as a group?) according to 11:1? _____
2. What do you suppose is the antecedent of “they” in 11:2?

3. Who shall be Israel’s king, and where do you suppose they “refused to return” (11:5)? _____

4. What were “my people” bent to, and what was the failure of even those who “called to the most High” (11:7)? _____

5. What reason did God give for not executing “the fierceness of mine anger” (11:9)? _____

6. Memorize a portion of scripture that helps you admire Him (from this passage or otherwise), and take “it” with you for the day!

Friday—prayerfully consider Hosea 12:1-7.

1. What two things did Ephraim daily increase (12:1)?

2. Fill in the pronouns in 12:4 with proper nouns. “Yea, _____ had power over the angel, and prevailed: _____ wept, and made supplication unto _____: _____ found _____ in Bethel, and there _____ spoke with us.”

3. What three or four things did Hosea exhort Israel to do (12:6)?

4. What was Ephraim’s occupation, and what two corrupt tendencies did Ephraim manifest (12:7)? _____

5. In your “pursuit of God,” what characteristic of Him could you consider and meditate on today taken from this passage?!

6. What portion of scripture could you take with you for the day?

Saturday—prayerfully read Hosea 12:8-14.

1. When Ephraim proclaimed, “I am become rich,” did he also admit that there was sin in him (12:8)? _____

2. How did God speak to the Ephraimites (apparently) (12:10)?

3. Where did Jacob flee, and for what did he serve (keeping _____) (12:12)? _____

4. By what did the LORD bring Israel out of Egypt, and by what was Israel preserved (12:13)? _____

5. Scan back over this passage and see if anything spoke to you, and mention it on the following line. _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take “it” with you for the day!

Sunday—prayerfully review Hosea 10-12.

Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take “it” with you for the day!

the final of the six cycles of sin/judgment/deliverance
Hosea 13-14

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law” (Ps.119:18)!

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Cor.3:18).

Remember to pray for illumination (to be taught of God’s Spirit—Jn.6:45)!

“In many ways the last chapter of Hosea is the most beautiful in the entire prophecy and forms a fitting close to the series of prophetic discourses.” “The great billows of condemnation and denunciation have lashed themselves against Israel (esp. the closing word in 13:16...); now God speaks tenderly in grace. Grace shines through the threatening clouds at last.” CLF

Monday—prayerfully read and ask for enlightenment in Hosea 13-14 (and other portions in your daily reading plan)!

1-5. Give the verses breakdown for the final of the six cycles of sin, judgment, and deliverance. _____

6. Memorize a thought from this passage, and take it with you for the day!

Tuesday—prayerfully read Hosea 13:1-5.

1. When did Ephraim (Israel) thrive and when did he decline (13:1)? _____

2. Israel made their idols according to what (13:2)?

3. How many word pictures did Hosea give in 13:3, and what was he picturing? _____
4. When apparently did God become Israel's "LORD thy God" (13:4)? _____
5. (These are not as difficult verses as 10-12, and don't be discouraged! Keep gazing at the inspired "art work" of this book, a section at a time, praying for illumination!) Do you see anything you can apply to yourself (please write it down briefly)? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (from this passage or otherwise), and take it with you for the day!

Wednesday—prayerfully read Hosea 13:6-10.

1. What contributed to Israel's forgetting God (13:6)? _____

2. To what predators does God liken Himself (13:7-8)? If "caul" means "chest," what does God say He will do to their heart (13:8)? _____

3. How do you suppose Israel had destroyed himself (13:9)?

4. What did God say He would be for Israel (13:10)?

5. Give a personal application from 13:6. _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take it with you for the day!

Thursday—prayerfully read Hosea 13:11-16.

1. What do you suppose 13:11 means (or refers to)? _____

2. Verse 12 probably means that God has not yet fully exposed and dealt with their sin. Consider if you have any unexposed and not-dealt-with sins. Did you consider this? _____

3. “Ephraim, in its refusal to repent and be healed, is likened to a baby who refuses to be born—which would be unwise, since it would be fatal (cf. v.14)” (ESV Study note). Do you have a better explanation of this verse?! _____

4. What is God apparently wanting to do for His children (13:14)?

5. Discuss God’s love and Hosea 13:15-16. _____

6. Memorize a portion of scripture that helps you admire Him (from this passage or otherwise), and take “it” with you for the day!

Friday—prayerfully consider Hosea 14:1-4.

1. What invitation (to his messages) does the prophet give (14:1)?

2. Hosea tells the people what to say and do in 14:2-3; what two requests does he give wording for the people to pray (v.2)?

3. What underlying “action” does Hosea instruct the people to take in 14:3? _____

4. How does God say He will love a repentant Israel (14:4)?

5. In your “pursuit of God” (meaning developing a better relationship with Him), what characteristic of Him could you consider and meditate on (for two minutes) today taken from this passage?! _____

6. What portion of scripture could you take with you for the day?

Saturday—prayerfully read Hosea 14:5-9.

1. To what kind of living thing does God compare a revived Israel (14:5-6)? _____

2. What is the antecedent of “his,” and who are the “they” of 14:7? _____

3. What will Ephraim give up (14:8)? _____

4. To whom does the prophet Hosea make his final appeal (14:9)?

5. Scan back over this passage and see if anything spoke to you, and mention it on the following line. _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take “it” with you for the day!

Sunday—prayerfully review Hosea 13-14.

Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take “it” with you for the day!