



Hosea

Prophet of God's love and mercy

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Class Preview & Overview

- Historical, geographical setting
 - To help you place it in context of what we've studied
- Archeological evidence
 - To help trust the Bible—see primary evidence
 - Hosea
- Message similar to Amos
 - Idolatry leads to immorality
- Approach very different, life lessons
 - How this applies to us in life



Geographic & Historic setting

- Divided Kingdom
- Jonah, Amos prophesied early during Jeroboam II's reign
- Jeroboam was King for 40 years—great prosperity (786 BC–746 BC)
- Hosea prophesied in Israel until captivity
 - 41 more, 5 kings —war, turmoil
 - For a total of 50+
- No other prophets sent to Israel
- Captivity came in 721 BC



Next an overview of archeological results from Assyria that confirm the Bible accounts:

Assyria capturing a city on a hill-similar to Samaria



http://www.bible-history.com/assyria_archaeology/archaeology_of_ancient_assyria_archaeological_discoveries.html



This panel reveals Israelites led by king Jehu of Israel paying tribute and bowing to the dust before king Shalmaneser III, who is making a libation to his god. We know it is Jehu because of the cuneiform text on the obelisk "Jehu the son of Omri". It also mentions his gifts of gold, silver, lead and spear shafts.

But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart; for he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin. 2 Kings 10:31

Extreme power & cruelty of Assyria –pictures of torture, impaling, stacks of heads of victims.





More images of torture—
impaling of
captured
people.

In addition, use
of battering
ram.

Also note large
size of Assyrians
and small
images of
conquered
people.



This clay prism contains Assyrian inscriptions in cuneiform writing that validates the Biblical account regarding the capture and deportation of the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C. The inscriptions records the 8th campaign of Sargon II in Syria and the revolts in Samaria, the capital of northern Israel, before and after Sargon's campaigns. The Assyrian inscriptions also record king Sargon's boasting, "I besieged and captured Samaria, and carried off 27,290 of its inhabitants as booty" (2 Kings 17:5-6).



**Images of Sennacherib
and his commander.**

Before Captivity

- In Judah, kings: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, when Hosea preached
 - Isaiah and Micah preaching to Judah, same time
 - Great revival in Judah
 - Hezekiah became king near the end of Hosea's career as prophet—6 years before captivity
- Unlike Israel, Judah had time of repentance



Hezekiah purified the Temple, then celebration and worship

- 2 Chron. 30:1 Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, inviting them to come to the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel.. . . People of Israel, return to the LORD. . . If you return to the LORD, then your fellow Israelites and your children will be shown compassion by their captors and will return to this land, for the LORD your God is gracious and compassionate. . . . The couriers went from town to town in Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun, but people scorned and ridiculed them.
¹¹ **Nevertheless, some from Asher, Manasseh and Zebulun humbled themselves and went to Jerusalem.**

Although most of the many people who came from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar and Zebulun had not purified themselves, yet they ate the Passover, contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, “May the LORD, who is good, pardon everyone ¹⁹ who sets their heart on seeking God—the LORD, the God of their ancestors—even if they are not clean according to the rules of the sanctuary.” ²⁰ And the LORD heard Hezekiah and healed the people.

²¹ **The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great rejoicing. . . . 2 Chronicles 31** ¹ When all this had ended, the Israelites who were there went out to the towns of Judah, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. They destroyed the high places and the altars throughout Judah and Benjamin and in Ephraim and Manasseh. After they had destroyed all of them, the Israelites returned to their own towns and to their own property.

*****Challenge: you never know when or how your ministry will bear fruit! Hosea had preached for many years and when an opportunity to worship came—people responded!***



Sennacherib becomes king of Assyria



This relief from ancient Nineveh shows the Assyrian soldiers of Sennacherib carrying off the statues of the gods of an enemy Syrian city. (2 Kings 18:34)



These sculptured walls were excavated at ancient Nineveh and they illustrate the fall of Lachish by the army of king Sennacherib and the inhabitants being driven into captivity. Before Sennacherib was routed at Jerusalem by the Angel of the Lord, he had captured 36 cities.



2 Kings 18:17: The king of Assyria sent his supreme commander, his chief officer and his field commander with a large army, from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem.



The siege mound at
Lachish.
City only about 30 miles
south of Jerusalem.





This beautifully preserved six-sided hexagonal prism of baked clay, commonly known as the Taylor Prism, was discovered among the ruins of Nineveh, the ancient capital of the Assyrian Empire. **It contains the victories of Sennacherib himself, the Assyrian king who had besieged Jerusalem in 701 BC during the reign of king Hezekiah, it never mentions any defeats. On the prism Sennacherib boasts that he shut up "Hezekiah the Judahite" within Jerusalem his own royal city "like a caged bird."**

The rest of the story. . . .



This basalt stele records the assassination of Sennacherib by his sons in 681 B.C. as a rebuke and consequence of the Assyrian god Marduk and his wrath upon Sennacherib for the destruction of Babylon. This event happened just after Sennacherib had his unsuccessful campaign against Jerusalem and is recorded in the Bible:

2 Kings 19:35-37

35 And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses -- all dead.

36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh.

37 Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the temple of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

Big picture—historical summary

- Israel into captivity
- Cities (Lachish) captured, Jerusalem spared
- Senarcharib's army destroyed
- He was murdered by his sons
- God sets limits to judgment
- Being used by God never an excuse for pride or power of our own





Summary of Hosea

- Told to marry a woman who would be unfaithful to him
- He obeyed God
- She ran away—he went after her and bought her from the slave market
- His love and mercy to her used as a picture of God's love for Israel & us
- Though love yet judgment
- Finally mercy and restoration

Hosea: a message in more than words

- Background unknown, possibly a priest
- Long time of preaching 70 + years
- God told him what to do and what would happen...Following an overview book:
- Hos. 2:² When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife ***this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the LORD.***” ³ So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. ⁴ Then the LORD said to Hosea, “Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel. ⁵ In that day I will break Israel’s bow in the Valley of Jezreel.”



Continues—an overview

- Hos 1:⁶ Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the LORD said to Hosea, “Call her Lo-Ruhamah (which means “not loved”), for I will no longer show love to Israel, that I should at all forgive them. ⁷ **Yet I will show love to Judah; and I will save them—not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but I, the LORD their God, will save them.**” ⁸ After she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, Gomer had another son. ⁹ Then the LORD said, “Call him Lo-Ammi (which means “not my people”), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.
- **But even as he begins, mercy prophesied after judgement:**
- ¹⁰ “Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘children of the living God.’ ¹¹ The people of Judah and the people of Israel will come together; they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel.

Key Lessons

- God is holy, just; Israel abandoned Him religiously
- Lack of teaching, failure of priests and prophets
My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.
“Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; The more priests there were, the more they sinned against me; they exchanged their glorious God for something disgraceful. They feed on the sins of my people”^{Hosea 4: 6-7}
- From religious failure comes moral failure
- Because God had a covenant with Israel, he had to enforce punishments
Hos. 7: 1 because the people have broken my covenant
and rebelled against my law. . . .8:7“They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind.”
- Yet mercy offered in judgment and ultimate mercy offered



Ultimate mercy, looking forward to the church—Jews & Gentiles

- Hos. 2:16 “In that day,” declares the LORD,
“you will call me ‘my husband’;
you will no longer call me ‘my master.’
17 I will remove the names of the Baals from
her lips; no longer will their names be
invoked. . . . 19 I will betroth you to me forever;
I will betroth you in righteousness and justice,
in love and compassion.
20 I will betroth you in faithfulness,
and you will acknowledge the LORD.
- . . . I will show my love to the one I called ‘Not
my loved one.’
I will say to those called ‘Not my people,’ ‘You are
my people’;
and they will say, ‘You are my God.’”
- Paul Rom. 9: 23f Paul uses this passage to show
God’s ultimate love and mercy to Gentiles



Back to Hosea

- A long, difficult time to preach, no happy home life
- God often uses people to illustrate his lessons



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. ⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. **2 Corinthians 1:3-11**

Summary & Observations

- “In this world you will have tribulations....”
 - There will always be troubles
 - Often not a result of sin, lessons to you and others
- Yet God always has HIS people
- They will
 - Worship when they can
 - Serve when able
 - Return to their place
 - Trust God no matter what
 - Because God limits judgment, preserves his people and grants favor
- No matter the personal cost or circumstances, we must share this message



**Jesus-our Hosea
Our Salvation**

Discussion Questions

1. What did the pictures teach you about the Old Testament?
2. If you were Hosea and God called you to do what he did, what would be your questions to God?
3. How did God use him and others to teach His lessons? What do you think about that?
4. What does Hosea teach us about God's love?