

# Hosea

## Chapter 1

### The Historical Setting

1. Hosea was a prophet of God who prophesied to Israel from about 755B.C. to about 715 B.C. The kings that ruled during his days of prophecy are listed in verse 1.
2. As we learn in verse 2, Hosea was called to prophesy during a time of great spiritual and moral decline. Israel (the ten northern tribes) had forsaken the worship of the true God and was steeped in idolatry.
3. Hosea was commanded by God to take "*a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms.*"
  - Hosea marrying a prostitute was to be a sign to the nation of Israel.
  - Prophets were often asked to do seemingly outlandish things as a sign to God's people, Israel.
  - Hosea represented God, and Gomer pictured unfaithful and adulterous Israel.
4. Hosea immediately obeyed God's instruction and Gomer conceived and bare a son. vs. 3
5. God commanded that the child be named Jezreel, which was a sign of coming judgment. vs. 4-5
6. Next they gave birth to a daughter, and God commanded that they name her Lo-ruhamah, which means "not pitied." vs. 6
7. They had another son and God commanded them to name him Lo-ammi, which means "not my people." vs. 8-9
8. All of these literal, historical events pictured great prophetic truth for the nation of Israel.

### The Prophetic Teaching

1. When God told Hosea to name their son Jezreel, this was a prophetic picture of God's judgment that was soon to come on Israel. vs. 4-5
  - Jezreel was the scene of a bloodbath of murder and violence at the hand of King Jehu when he dethroned King Ahab. **2 Kings 10**
  - But Jehu and Israel failed to learn the lesson of Ahab's judgment and they continued down a path of idolatry and wickedness. **2 Kings 10:31**
  - Hosea prophesies that God will bring an end to the kingdom of Israel and God will break their bow in the valley of Jezreel.
  - The valley of Jezreel separated Samaria from Galilee. It is the major corridor through the rugged Palestinian hills and has been a strategic battlefield throughout history.
  - Most people believe that the valley of Jezreel is synonymous with Armageddon, the site of the final battle of this age. **Revelation 16:16**
2. Hosea named their daughter Lo-ruhamah. vs. 6
  - Again, this was a prophetic warning to Israel. This name means "not pitied."
  - God had been very merciful and longsuffering with Israel, but God had reached the end of His mercy, although He would still extend mercy to the house of Judah. They had not yet openly revolted against God. vs. 7

3. Hosea named their next child Lo-ammi which means "not my people." This symbolized God's rejection of Israel. vs. 8-9
4. All three of these children pointed prophetically to what was soon about to happen to Israel.
  - God would no longer extend mercy to His unfaithful, idolatrous children.
  - God would soon bring judgment in Jezreel, which happened in 722B.C., when the Assyrian armies overtook Israel and carried them away captive.
  - God declared, "Lo-ammi" - you are not my people and I will not be your God.
  - The Lo-ammi declaration has remained true until today. Will it ever be lifted? Will Israel ever be God's people again?
5. All of a sudden this solemn mood changes and Hosea gives an incredible prophetic promise to Israel in 1:10-2:1.
  - Hosea confirms that God has not forgotten the covenant He made with Abraham. **Genesis 22:15-18; Psalm 105:8-11**
  - In the place where God broke their bow (the valley of Jezreel - Armageddon), God will one day deliver Israel and declare them once again, "*The sons of the living God.*" **Romans 11:26-28**
  - At that time the Lo-ammi and the Lo-ruhamah sentences will be removed. 2:1
  - Also, there will no longer be a division between Israel and Judah. They will be one nation with one head (leader). This head will be their Messiah and King, Jesus Christ. **Jeremiah 3:18; Ezekiel 37:21-27; John 10:16**
  - Israel shall come up (ascend, be exalted, spring forth) out of (from) the land. God will make them fruitful and multiply them in the land. **Jeremiah 23:2-4**
  - All of these prophecies point to the great climax of all prophecy, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to earth. Hosea calls it "*the day of Jezreel.*" **Joel 2:30-32, 3:2, 15-17, 20; Psalm 89:28-37**

### **Practical Application for the Body of Christ**

1. For thousands of years the Gentile nations had the sentence of Lo-ammi upon them. **Ephesians 2:11-12** describes this alienated position.
2. Because of the cross work of Jesus Christ, God repealed this Lo-ammi sentence for the Gentiles and sent salvation to them. While the Gentiles had been given over by God, we have now received unprecedented grace and mercy. **Ephesians 2:13**
3. Paul draws out this application in **Romans 9:25-26**. This is only an application that Paul makes of this prophecy in Hosea.
  - Notice Paul says, "*As he saith also in Osee (Greek form of Hosea)...*"
  - He does not say that God's mercy to the Gentiles **fulfils** this prophecy.
4. This prophecy will be literally fulfilled to the nation of Israel, but there is wonderful application for this dispensation of grace today. Thank God for the grace God has extended to this world through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

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**CHRIST RETURNS  
& DELIVERS ISRAEL  
"DAY OF JEZREEL"**

**THE PROPHETIC  
PROGRAM OF  
ISRAEL**

**Time of Grace  
for all people**

**Prophetic Program  
Interrupted**

**Prophetic  
Program  
Resumed**

**Israel's  
Kingdom  
on Earth**

**Old Testament**



**TRIBULATION  
7 YEARS**

**The Mystery**

**LO-AMMI  
SENTENCE  
REPEALED  
FOR ISRAEL**

**ISRAEL IN  
SPIRITUAL  
ADULTERY**

**GOD'S JUDGMENT  
IN JEZREEL**

**"LO-AMMI"  
NOT MY PEOPLE**

**Lo-ammi**

**Not My People**

