

Hosea covers the last 30 years of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and a few of the years after it is taken into exile by the Assyrians in 722 BC. Perhaps more than any other Book in the Bible, Hosea reveals the personal anguish and heartache God feels when His people are unfaithful to Him. He suffers because He loves people like us, who “go after” other gods, other sources of fulfillment.

God instructs His prophet, Hosea, to marry a woman--a woman whom he is told will commit adultery! Hosea experiences with his wife what God experiences with His people. His marriage becomes a picture of God’s heartbreak.

Hosea literally means *Salvation, Deliverance*. And the name captures the poignant message of the Book: God redeems His people. Even in the very moment when He must punish them for their unfaithfulness, God formulates the plans for His people’s restoration. As a just Sovereign, He must subject them to the consequences of their waywardness, but as a loving King, He makes a way for them to experience full recovery from those consequences.

Nowhere is the theme of this Book more apparent than in Chapters 6 and 14:

<sup>1</sup> “Come, let us return to the LORD.  
For He has torn *us*, but He will heal us;  
He has wounded *us*, but He will bandage us.  
<sup>2</sup> “He will revive us after two days;  
He will raise us up on the third day  
That we may live before Him.  
<sup>3</sup> “So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD.  
His going forth is as certain as the dawn;  
And He will come to us like the rain,  
Like the spring rain watering the earth.”  
<sup>4</sup> What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?  
What shall I do with you, O Judah?  
For your loyalty is like a morning cloud,  
And like the dew which goes away early.  
<sup>5</sup> Therefore I have hewn *them* in pieces by the prophets;  
I have slain them by the words of My mouth;  
And the judgments on you are *like* the light that goes forth.  
<sup>6</sup> For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice,  
And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.  
Hosea 6:1-6

Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;  
*Whoever* is discerning, let him know them.  
For the ways of the LORD are right,  
And the righteous will walk in them,  
But transgressors will stumble in them.  
Hosea 14:9