

# Hosea and Gomer

Chapter 9

## Chapter 9 Hosea & Gomer

- This is last Chap in OT
- I knew least about this Chapter
- I did know Hosea was a prophet
- ~92 prophets listed/named in the Bible
- Obviously not all wrote books, but some did
- Just out of curiosity, I asked ChatGPT for a list of most known prophets, what it thought the avg person would know
- Hosea was finally listed #14, based on its unique story
- TRUE/FALSE questions
- OT layout

### I. Introduction

- A. Show timeline of Bible, specifically prophets (94.25" x 23.85") (7.85' x 1.9875')
  1. <https://apologeticspress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Bible-Timeline-Full-Poster-V4-web.pdf>
- B. A prophet was a person who delivered a message from God to His people
- C. For the most part, prophets emerged after the Law had been given (called “God’s covenant law enforcers”)
- D. 8<sup>th</sup> Century BC “The Golden Age of Prophecy”
  1. Time of national crises
  2. N: Assyrians (under Sargon II) conquer Samaria 722 BC
  3. S: Jerusalem surrounded by Sennacherib of Assyria 700 BC
- E. Hosea: native to northern kingdom (also Elijah and Elisha, but no writings)
  1. N: Amos, Hosea (simultaneously)
  2. S: Micah, Isaiah
- F. Covers kings:
  1. Judah (south): Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah
  2. Israel (north): Jeroboam II
- G. When Hosea began ministry, Northern kingdom reached apex of its power and influence under Jeroboam II. After his death, within 30 years, N kingdom ceased to exist.
  1. Hosea 10:7: As for Samaria, her king is cut off Like a twig on the water.
- H. Two aspects of Canaanite religion particular angered God:
  1. Human sacrifice (most valued gifts offered to ‘gods’: children 2-3 years old)
  2. Cult prostitution (both forced and voluntary “selling” themselves)
    - i. Sex became a religion for Canaanites and their gods
    - ii. Hosea was “incensed” that Israel eagerly adopted this practice and others

#### I. Hosea’s marriage was a living message for the nation

### II. Wife and Children (Hosea 1:2-9)

- A. Strange that a prophet would be commanded by God to enter a faithless marriage- marry a woman of harlotry.
  1. How pleased would you be if a preacher, a man you respected and admired, marriage a prostitute?
- B. Student book: Scholars debate whether Gomer was already a working prostitute at time of marriage. It’s possible, but text language anticipates Gomer unfaithfulness after the marriage.
- C. Wayne Jackson (former editor and founder of Christian Courier) said: It’s better to take the language of V2 as an example of prophetic prolepsis – this is a common biblical figure of speech by which a writer speaks of something that will happen as if it already happened.
  1. The reasoning for this conclusion:
    - i. The situation is supposed to parallel the relationship of God with Israel
    - ii. Hosea’s credibility would have been called into question had he knowingly married a prostitute
- D. Children
  1. First son named: Jezreel “the Lord gives seed”

2. First daughter: Lo-Ruhammah “no mercy”
3. Later son: Lo-Ammi “not my people”
  - i. Paul – Romans 9:26:  
25 As He says also in Hosea:  
“I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved.” 26 “And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ There they shall be called sons of the living God.”
  - ii. Peter – 1 Peter 2:10:  
9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.
4. Based on these names, it’s apparent God was grieved that love and commitment to Him had all but disappeared from Israel.

### III. Not My Wife (Hosea 2:1-8)

- A. OT & NT are filled with warnings of sexual sins and consequences
  1. Heb 13:4: 4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
  2. 1 Cor 6:16-18: 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. 18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.
- B. Student book: Wayne Jackson: Israel would continue their pursuit of satisfaction in idolatry, but every trail would be blocked. Idols provide no happiness, only tons of misery.
- C. Hopefully those who pursue sin eventually realize it fails to provide what it promises. When this occurs some may turn back to God

### IV. Wife and Israel (Hosea 3:1-5)

- A. Hosea was a grieving husband
  1. Had a life with wife and children
  2. Wife left everything to be an adulteress
    - i. CONSIDER THIS FEELING! This is how God felt about his people
  3. Faithfulness had died
    - i. God was still faithful though
    - ii. He had Hosea seek his wife
- B. Student book: Why Hosea had to purchase Gomer is not explicitly stated in the text, but given the total amount paid, she may have become a sex slave.
  1. Exodus 21:32: 32 If the ox gores a male or female servant, he shall give to their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

### V. Conclusion

- A. Hosea’s marriage for God’s people
- B. Hosea’s call to marry a harlot was personal, prophetic, metaphorical
- C. Sin is more than a legal transgression, it is relational betrayal
- D. Student book:
  1. Although the marriage of Hosea and Gomer is hardly a model for Christians today, it helps us better appreciate what true devotion looks like.
  2. Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful
  3. 1 Thess 4:3: 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;
  4. Heb 13:4: 4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
- E. Hosea and Gomer teach that God’s love is not sentimental but covenantal

# ChatGPT: List most known prophets in the bible by avg person...

|           |                        |                  |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Moses  | 6. Jeremiah            | 11. Elisha       |
| 2. Elijah | 7. Ezekiel             | 12. Noah*        |
| 3. Isaiah | 8. Samuel              | 13. Abraham*     |
| 4. Daniel | 9. John the<br>Baptist | 14. <u>Hosea</u> |
| 5. Jonah  | 10. Nathan             | 15. Zechariah    |

## Top 15 Most Known Prophets in the Bible

### 1. Moses

The single most recognizable prophet across cultures.

### 2. Elijah

Fire from heaven, raising the dead, chariot of fire.

### 3. Isaiah

Famous for widely quoted Messianic prophecies.

### 4. Daniel

Lions' den, dreams, and apocalyptic imagery.

### 5. Jonah

Jonah and the whale—one of the most famous Bible stories in the world.

### 6. Jeremiah

Major prophet, widely quoted, known for lamentation and warning.

### 7. Ezekiel

Dry bones, wheels-within-wheels—extremely memorable imagery.

### 8. Samuel

Recognizable for anointing David and hearing God as a child.

### 9. John the Baptist

Iconic New Testament prophet; baptizes Jesus.

### 10. Nathan

Known from the famous “You are the man!” confrontation of David.

### 11. Elisha

Successor to Elijah; known for miracles like healing Naaman and raising the dead.

### 12. Noah (sometimes not considered a “prophet” in the technical sense, but culturally treated as one)

Ark, flood—one of the most universally known biblical figures.

### 13. Abraham (also not strictly labeled a “prophet” in the Bible, but considered one in tradition and universally recognized)

Foundational patriarch; name recognition is extremely high.

### 14. Hosea

Known for the dramatic story involving his marriage symbolizing God and Israel.

### 15. Zechariah

Famous for prophetic visions and widely referenced in Christian teaching.

# NAOMI, RUTH, AND BOAZ

**TRUE or FALSE**

1. The Old Testament is structured into 5 “segments”

***TRUE***

# NAOMI, RUTH, AND BOAZ

**TRUE or FALSE**

2. The 5 segment groupings include:  
Law, History, Kings, Poetry, Prophets

***FALSE***

– <sup>1</sup>*Law*, <sup>2</sup>*History*, <sup>3</sup>*Poetry*,  
<sup>4</sup>*Major Prophets*, <sup>5</sup>*Minor Prophets*

# NAOMI, RUTH, AND BOAZ

**TRUE or FALSE**

3. Hosea is one of the Major Prophets

***FALSE***

*– Hosea is the first of the “Minor”  
Prophets section*

# NAOMI, RUTH, AND BOAZ

**TRUE or FALSE**

4. The difference between “Major” and “Minor” Prophets is the length of the book’s writings.

***TRUE***

# Old Testament layout

|                                |                                  |   |   |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Law – 5</b>                 | Genesis<br>Exodus                | Leviticus<br>Numbers                      | Deuteronomy                                 |
| <b>History – 12</b>            | Joshua<br>Judges<br>Ruth         | 1/2 Samuel<br>1/2 Kings<br>1/2 Chronicles | Ezra<br>Nehemiah<br>Esther                  |
| <b>Poetry – 5</b>              | Job<br>Psalms                    | Proverbs<br>Ecclesiastes                  | Song of<br>Solomon                          |
| <b>Major<br/>Prophets – 5</b>  | Isaiah                           | Jeremiah<br>Lamentations                  | Ezekiel<br>Daniel                           |
| <b>Minor<br/>Prophets – 12</b> | Hosea<br>Joel<br>Amos<br>Obadiah | Jonah<br>Micah<br>Nahum<br>Habakkuk       | Zephaniah<br>Haggai<br>Zechariah<br>Malachi |

# HISTORY

LAW



GENESIS-RUTH



EXODUS & ENTRY INTO THE PROMISED LAND



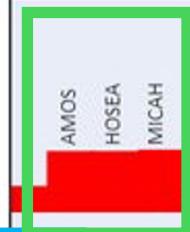
SAMUEL-KINGS

KING DAVID & SOLOMON

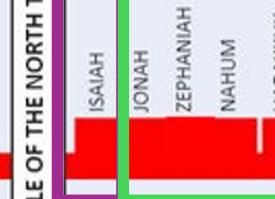
PROVERBS  
SONG OF SONGS  
ECCLESIASTES

THE KINGDOM DIVIDES INTO NORTH & SOUTH

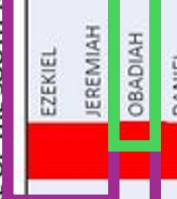
JOB (date unknown)



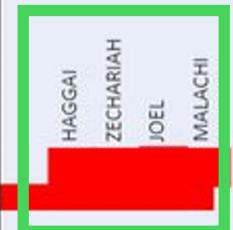
EXILE OF THE NORTH TO ASSYRIA  
EXILE OF THE SOUTH TO BABYLON



EXILE OF THE SOUTH TO BABYLON



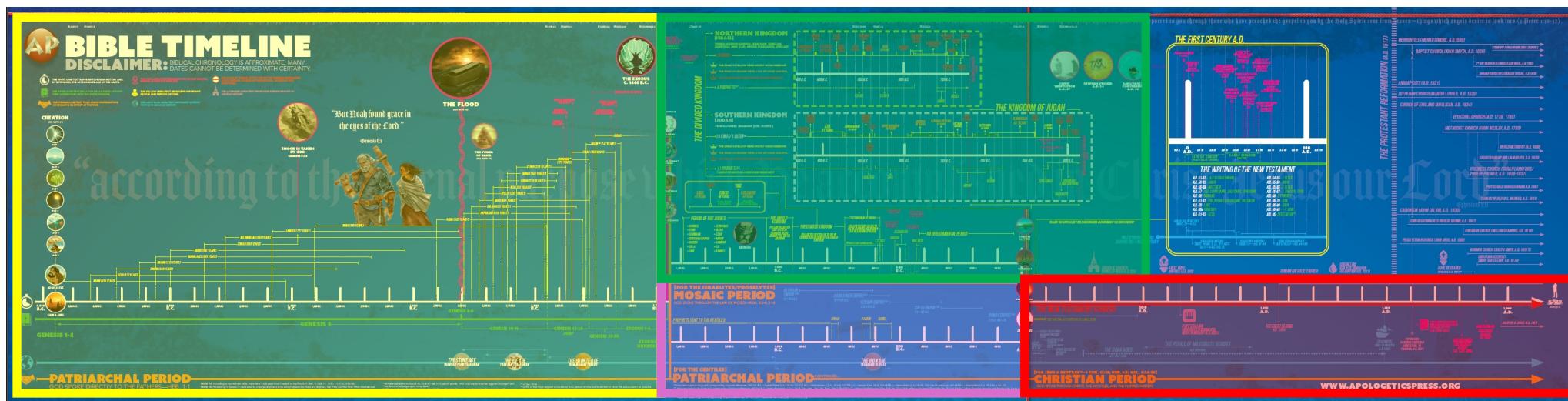
RETURN TO JERUSALEM



POETRY

MAJOR  
PROPHETS

MINOR  
PROPHETS



forehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through

29:1-7:28

## THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

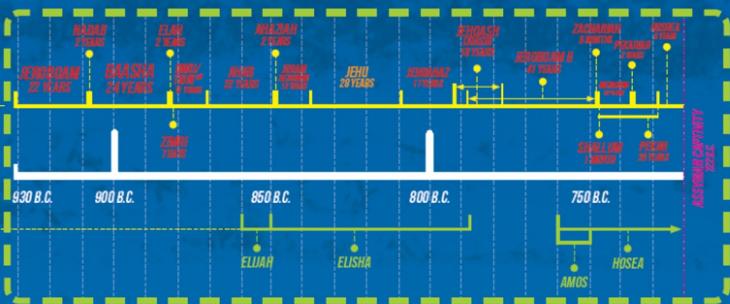
### • NORTHERN KINGDOM [ISRAEL]

TRIBES: REUBEN; SIMEON; ISSACHAR; ZEBULUN; NAPHTALI; DAN; GAD; ASHER; MANASSEH; EPHRAIM

10 KINGS<sup>46</sup>

THE KINGS IN YELLOW WERE MOSTLY GOOD/OBEDIENT.  
THE KINGS IN ORANGE WERE A MIX OF GOOD AND EVIL.  
THE KINGS IN RED WERE MOSTLY EVIL/DISOBEDIENT.

4 PROPHETS<sup>47</sup>



### • SOUTHERN KINGDOM [JUDAH]

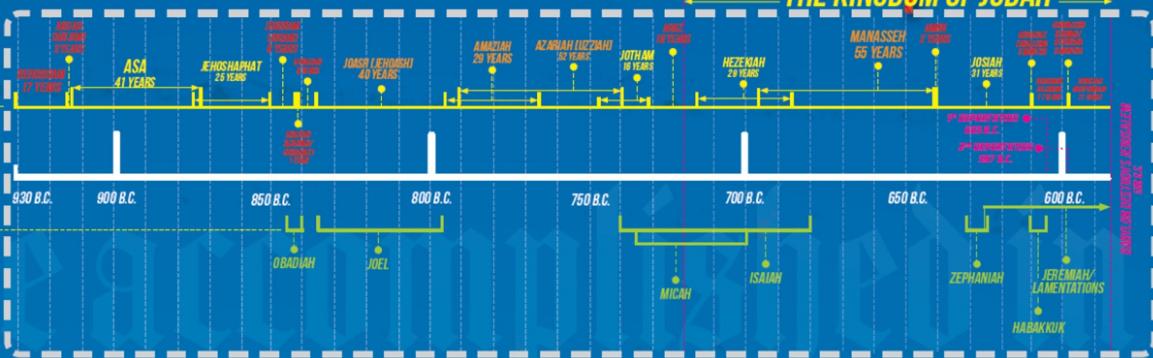
TRIBES: JUDAH; BENJAMIN [1 KI. 11:29ff.]

19 KINGS/1 QUEEN<sup>48</sup>

THE KINGS IN YELLOW WERE MOSTLY GOOD/OBEDIENT.  
THE KINGS IN ORANGE WERE A MIX OF GOOD AND EVIL.  
THE KINGS IN RED WERE MOSTLY EVIL/DISOBEDIENT.

11 PROPHETS<sup>49</sup>

7 SHOWN IN THIS GRAPHIC AND 4 SHOWN ON MAIN TIMELINE BELOW



## PERIOD OF THE JUDGES



## THE UNITED KINGDOM



## THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



## FOLLOW THE DOTTED LINE TO SEE AN EXPANDED BREAKDOWN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

JUDGES - 1 SAMUEL 9/1 RUTH

1 SAMUEL 10-13; 1 KINGS 1-10

1 KINGS 12 - 2 KINGS 17 - 2 KINGS 18-25

1 KINGS 18-25

Book of Isaiah

Daniel 2:44

Malachi 4:5

Luke 1:67-70

Matthew 3:3

Revelation 11:15; 13:3



930 B.C.

ZIMRI  
7 days

850 B.C.

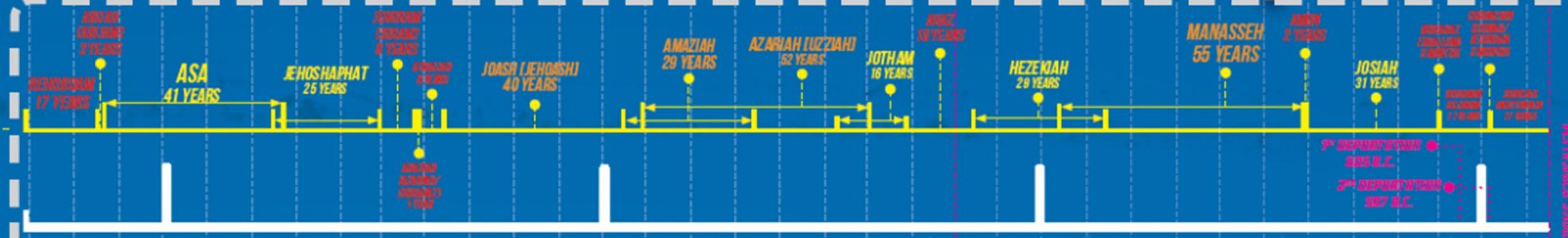
800 B.C.

750 B.C.

ASiSTiAN CAPTiVITY

JESUS'  
TEMPTATION  
A.D. 27

STEPH



930 B.C.

900 B.C.

850 B.C.

800 B.C.

750 B.C.

700 B.C.

650 B.C.

BAiSiON DESTROYiS JERUSALEM

587 B.C.

OBADiAH

JOEL

MiCAH

ISAiAH

ZEPHANiAH

JEREMiAH/  
LAMENTATiONS

HABAKKUK

THE DiViDED KINGDOM

(FOLLOW THE DOTTED LINE TO SEE AN EXPANDED BREAKDOWN OF THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH)

THE KINGDOM of JUDAH

(FOLLOW THE DOTTED LINE TO SEE AN EXPANDED BREAKDOWN OF THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH)

PROPHETS NOT SHOWN ABOVE... EZEKIEL

ASSASSINATION OF JEHU

REESTABLISHMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH

CyRUS THE GREAT RESTORES JERUSALEM

REESTABLISHMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE

ZECHARIAH

HAGGAI

MALACHI

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERiOD



FOLLOW THE DOTTED LINE TO SEE AN EXPANDED BREAKDOWN OF THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH

JOHN THE BAPTiZER

MATTHEW

# Outline – Hosea and Gomer

I. Introduction

II. Wife and Children  
(Hosea 1:2-9)

III. Not My Wife (Hosea 2:1-8)

IV. Wife and Israel (Hosea 3:1-5)

V. Conclusion

# II. Wife and Children

- Wife harlot
- First son: Jezreel “the Lord gives seed”
- First daughter: Lo-Ruhammah “no mercy”
- Later son: Lo-Ammi “not my people”
- NT references
  - Paul – Romans 9:26
  - Peter – 1 Peter 2:10
- Based on these names, it’s apparent God was grieved that love and commitment to Him had all but disappeared from Israel.

# III. Not My Wife

- OT & NT filled with warnings of sexual sins and consequences
  - Heb 13:4
  - 1 Cor 6:16-18
- Hopefully those who pursue sin eventually realize it fails to provide what it promises
  - Then turn back to God

# IV. Wife and Israel

- Hosea was a grieving husband
  - Had a life with wife and children
  - Wife left everything to be an adulteress
- Faithfulness had died – Gomer and Israel
- God was still faithful though
- Hosea purchased Gomer
  - Slave's ransom?
  - Exodus 21:32

| <b>Hosea and Gomer</b>   | <b>God and Israel</b>   |
|--|---|
| Hosea marries Gomer (1:3)  | God is betrothed to Israel (2:19)                               |
| Hosea is a faithful husband (3:3)                                  | God is a faithful “Husband” (1:7)                               |
| Hosea’s love is unrequited (3:1)                                   | God’s love is unrequited (3:1)                                  |
| The relationship disintegrates (3:1)                               | The relationship disintegrates (2:2)                            |
| Gomer pursues other men (3:1)                                      | Israel pursues other gods (4:1)                                 |
| Gomer is indifferent to the feelings of Hosea (3:1)                | Israel is indifferent to God’s feelings (11:1)                  |
| Hosea has a daughter whose name Lo-Ruhamah means “Not Loved” (1:6) | God will not have pity on His wayward children in Israel (5:6)  |
| Hosea has a son whose name Lo-Ammi means “Not My People (1:9)      | God declares that the Israelites are not His People (1:9)       |
| Hosea redeems and restores adulterous Gomer (3:2)                  | God redeems and restores the unfaithful nation, Israel (14:4-8) |

# V. Conclusion

Hosea and Gomer...

- Marriage reflection of God's people
- The marriage call was personal, prophetic, metaphorical
- Their marriage is hardly a model for Christians today
  - ...but it helps us better appreciate what true devotion looks like
- Sin is relational betrayal
  - 1 Thess 4:3
  - Heb 13:4
- Teach that God's love is not sentimental but covenantal

Us...

- Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful