

RESONATE

Book of the Month

March 2022: *Hosea*

Introduction

Hosea prophesied during the latter half of the eighth century B.C. (c. 753–722 B.C.). This period was an extremely difficult time in Israel’s history, just before the northern kingdom went into exile.

Hosea’s primary audience was Ephraim (another name for the northern kingdom, Israel), which is mentioned 35 times in the book. Hosea wanted to see Israel turn back to God.

Israel is the Lord’s bride, but Israel has instead joined itself to Baal, the false god worshiped in Syria-Palestine. Worshiping Baal violates the first of the Ten Commandments ([Ex. 20:3](#)). It is also a betrayal of God’s intimate union with his people. Therefore Hosea describes it as spiritual adultery, an offense against the marriage between the Lord and Israel. He compares Israel’s spiritual unfaithfulness to the ingratitude of a wayward wife. Such unfaithfulness justifies the Lord’s coming judgment. But punishment is not ultimately what the Lord wants for his people. He desires that they leave their sin. He wants them to return to the One who first loved them and who can provide what is best for them.

<p>Notable Characters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God • Hosea • Gomer • Ephraim 	<p>Key Themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosea frequently refers to the Pentateuch, the foundation of Israel’s relationship to God (e.g., 1:10; 6:7; 7:13; 9:6–10; 11:1–4; 12:2–5, 9–10, 12–13; 13:4–6). • Hosea stresses divine sovereignty. God speaks in the first person, “I,” almost a hundred times in the book. • Hosea’s personal life illustrates the Lord’s compassion (chs. 1–3). • Isolation/exile, which is coming upon Israel, is a way to restoration (1:6–7; 2:14–23; 5:6–6:3; 11:8–11; 12:9).
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Note that we will be reading through the Book of Hosea 5 times throughout the month of March. Each time, we’ll use a different lens through which to understand the story as well as see the Gospel more clearly.

Reading Plan

#1 Familiarize yourself with the text.

1. Hosea 1-2
2. Hosea 3-4
3. Hosea 5-6
4. Hosea 7-8
5. Hosea 9-10
6. Hosea 11-12
7. Hosea 13-14

#2 Take note of God’s condemnations in the text.

8. Hosea 1-2
9. Hosea 3-4
10. Hosea 5-6

11. Hosea 7-8
12. Hosea 9-10
13. Hosea 11-12
14. Hosea 13-14

#3 Where do you see yourself in the text?

15. Hosea 1-2
16. Hosea 3-4
17. Hosea 5-6
18. Hosea 7-8
19. Hosea 9-10
20. Hosea 11-12
21. Hosea 13-14

#4 Take note of God’s redemption throughout the text

22. Hosea 1-2
23. Hosea 3-4
24. Hosea 5-6
25. Hosea 7-8
26. Hosea 9-10
27. Hosea 11-12
28. Hosea 13-14

#5 Take note of phrases and verses that point to the coming of Jesus.

29. Hosea 1-5
30. Hosea 6-10
31. Hosea 11-14