



# HOSEA & MICAH

The Prophets Series...

HOSEA



# Introduction...

- Hosea's name means SALVATION or DELIVERANCE,
- He was called by God to live out his prophetic ministry and message to his people by marrying a woman who would be unfaithful to him.
- The historical context of Hosea is set in the opening verse where the Kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah (Judah) and Jeroboam II (Israel) are mentioned.
- Hosea was from the northern kingdom and his ministry was around 755-715 BC after the ministry of Amos.
- He referred to Israel at times as Jacob or Ephraim. In his time in ministry, Hosea warned of an impending destruction which eventually came in 722 BC through the terrible Assyrian Empire.



# Introduction...

- Hosea lived during a time of peace, plenty, prosperity and perversion.
- The spiritual condition of Israel was similar to that of the warning to the Laodiceans; <sup>17</sup> *Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. Revelation 3:17*
- There was widespread corruption, wayward leaders, unstable family life, immorality, class hatred, poverty and gross idolatry.
- Hosea is preaching and prophesying to a generation who were caught up with their relative good lives and didn't relate to his warnings of impending judgement.



# Introduction...

- The book of Hosea is about a people who need to hear the Love of God.
- A God who was trying to reach them and reveal His heart.
- The people were more interested in buying love and indulging in self gratification.
- So God gives the people a graphic sermon through the life of the Prophet himself.
- The prophet would marry a wayward Wife, have Children with her, and go after her when she strayed despite breaking his heart.
- Hosea would demonstrate through his love for Gomer, God's love for Israel. He would live out his own sermons through a broken heart.



# Gomer...

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- In the first part of Hosea, we witness God instruct the Prophet to do something strange; to take a Wife from harlotry
- *When the LORD began to speak by Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea:*
- *“Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry  
And children of harlotry,  
For the land has committed great harlotry  
By departing from the LORD.”*
- *<sup>3</sup>So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.  
Hosea 1:1-3*
- This sets the theme for the book. God is demonstrating His relationship with Israel through Hosea’s marriage to Gomer



# Gomer...

- Over a period of time she bears three children for Hosea, two boys and a girl. Each of them is given a name as a prophetic statement:
- Jezreel – judgement on house of Jehu and upon Israel
- Lo-Ruhamah – No more Mercy
- Lo-Ammi – Not my people
- Yet in the middle of these judgements, God prophesies:
- Yet the number of the Children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea which cannot be measured or numbered...Hosea 1:10
- This points back to the original promise of God to Abraham Genesis 22:17 “blessing I will bless you and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore....”



# Gomer...

- Hosea writes with emotion. The emotion of a heartbroken lover.
- God is heartbroken over Israel. In Hosea 2:2, His saying: For she is not my Wife, nor am I her Husband!
- He goes on to state all the things He would do in response to her unfaithfulness and adultery.
- Then in Hosea 3:14, He says “I will allure her will bring her into the wilderness and speak comfort to her. And 3:16 – “In that day you will call me My Husband...”





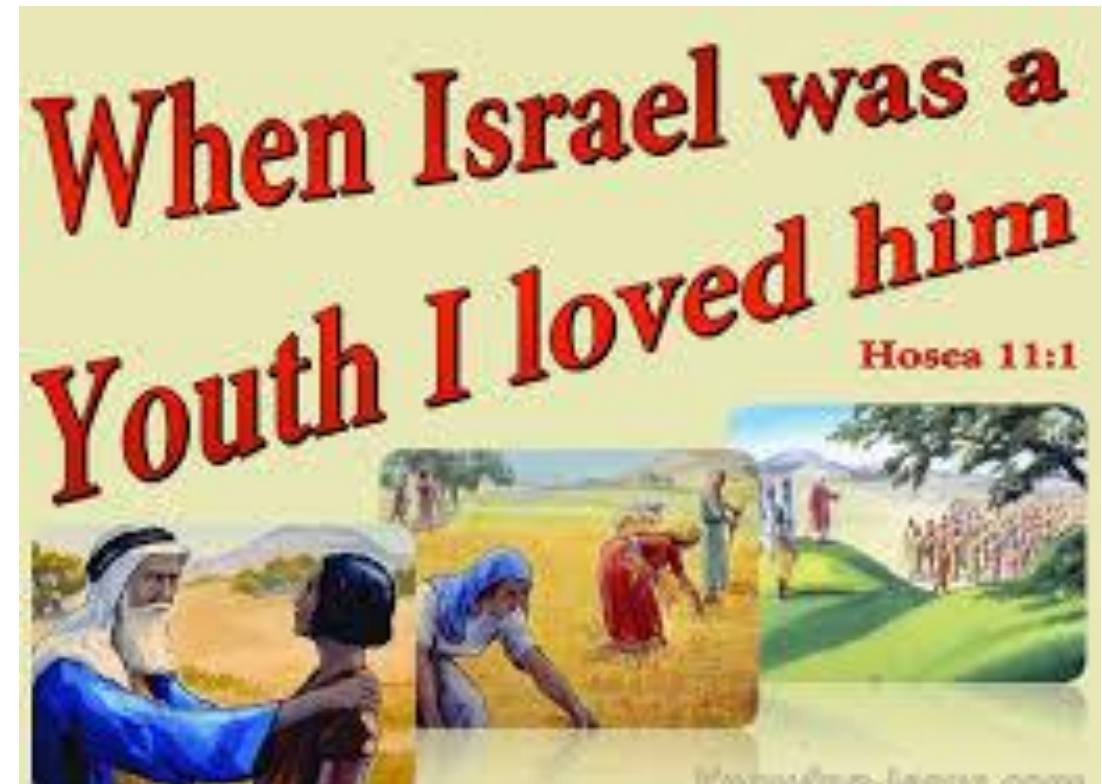
# Gomer...

- *Then the LORD said to me, "Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover.*
- *This will illustrate that the LORD still loves Israel, even though the people have turned to other gods and love to worship them."*
- *<sup>2</sup> So I bought her back for fifteen pieces of silver and five bushels of barley and a measure of wine.*
- *<sup>3</sup> Then I said to her, "You must live in my house for many days and stop your prostitution.*
- *During this time, you will not have sexual relations with anyone, not even with me.*  
*Hosea 3:1-3*
- So Hosea's heartbrokenness over Gomer is a parallel of God's heart towards Israel
- Hosea shows God's true heart towards His Children and people. A God of mercy and covenant love despite all the pain we put Him through.



# Israel...

- God's unfaithful Bride will bear the consequence of her adultery by going into exile
- However they will return and in the latter days, they shall willingly seek 'DAVID' their King.
- This speaks of the Messiah who is the Son of David and those who will worship the Father in spirit and in truth.



# Israel...



- God through the prophet goes on to bring a number of charges against the nation.
- She has indulged hypocritically in some form of worship but overtly worshipped other gods.
- She has trusted more in her alliances with other nations than trusted in God.
- As a result of this 'adulterous' behaviour Israel shall sow the wind and reap the whirlwind.
- Despite God's pleas, Israel has forsaken her first love and gone after other lovers that will traumatise her in the end.

# Israel...



- There's a very telling verse that summarises God's agony:

- "Oh, how can I give you up, Israel?  
How can I let you go?  
How can I destroy you like Admah  
or demolish you like Zeboiim?"

My heart is torn within me,  
and my compassion overflows.

<sup>9</sup>No, I will not unleash my fierce anger.  
I will not completely destroy Israel,  
for I am God and not a mere mortal.

I am the Holy One living among you,  
and I will not come to destroy.

<sup>10</sup>For someday the people will follow me.  
I, the LORD, will roar like a lion.  
And when I roar,

my people will return trembling from the west.

<sup>11</sup>Like a flock of birds, they will come from Egypt.  
Trembling like doves, they will return from Assyria.  
And I will bring them home again,"  
says the LORD.

Hosea 11:8-11

# Restoration...

- The LORD says,

“Then I will heal you of your faithlessness;  
my love will know no bounds, for my anger will be gone  
forever.

<sup>5</sup> I will be to Israel  
like a refreshing dew from heaven. Israel will blossom like  
the lily; it will send roots deep into the soil like the cedars  
in Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup> Its branches will spread out like beautiful olive trees, as  
fragrant as the cedars of Lebanon. <sup>7</sup> My people will again  
live under my shade.

They will flourish like grain and blossom like grapevines.  
They will be as fragrant as the wines of Lebanon. Hosea  
14:4-8



# In Summary...

- God directed a faithful prophet to marry an unfaithful wife.
- His living witness is a model for us to live out a life of love even towards those we think do not deserve it.
- The unconditional love of God is the most powerful witness to a dark ungodly world.
- The heart of God in us is to love the unlovable and be like our Father.
- The longsuffering nature of God is now available in us through the Holy Spirit who empowers us to stick things through even when we have legitimate reasons to quit on people.



# MICAH

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...walk humbly before your God

# Introduction...

- Micah (Who is like the Lord) was a prophet towards the end of the Northern Kingdom before it was sacked by the Assyrians in 722BC.
- He was a contemporary of Hosea and Isaiah and prophesied mainly to the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
- Micah was extremely committed to expressing the message to his people that he was willing to go without clothes to pass his message across.
- Micah was very accurate in his prophecies that Jeremiah quoted him in Jeremiah 26:17-19 and his words came to pass 7 hundred years later when Jesus was born Matthew 2:1-6, John 7:41-43







# Introduction...

- When the nation divided into north (Israel) and south (Judah), many 'high places' began showing up all over Samaria.
- These idolatrous practices began seeping into Judah from the north and placed Canaanite practices in direct competition with true temple worship.
- Also this was a prosperous time across Israel and people became decadent and corrupt.
- The Book of Micah shows the spiritual decline which would lead inevitably to the destruction of Israel first, followed a hundred plus years later by Judah.

# Introduction...

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- Micah's first statement is in prose whilst the rest of his prophecies are in poetry. This is difficult to translate into another language without missing the rhythm and wordplays.
- He uses an abundance of word pictures to convey his message eg:
- *The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might;  
They shall put their hand over their mouth;  
Their ears shall be deaf.*

*<sup>17</sup> They shall lick the dust like a serpent;  
They shall crawl from their holes like snakes of the earth.  
They shall be afraid of the LORD our God,  
And shall fear because of You.  
Micah 7:16*



# He Will Come Down...

- Micah starts his prophecy with a clear indication that this is from the Lord...
- *For behold, the LORD is coming out of His place; He will come down And tread on the high places of the earth. <sup>4</sup> The mountains will melt under Him, And the valleys will split Like wax before the fire, Micah 1:3-4*
- The Lord God is coming to judge and He is not happy with the state of Israel even though He has given her warning upon warning.
- *Micah declares that both north and south will be judged.*



# Woe to those...

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- The various sins of Israel and Judah included:
- Premeditated sins...devise evil upon their beds
- Compromise of the truth.
- Oppression, violence and power to take land from the poor.
- Prophets for hire
- Defrauding the poor and powerless
- Monetary profit, greed, bribery were driving forces.
- Israel and Judah's leaders and elite were totally corrupt



# Hear Now O Heads of Jacob...

- The book of Micah is an interplay of God's charges against Israel and Judah mixed with HOPE and Messianic prophecies.
- The religious practices and corruption is very similar to the Laodicean church in Revelation.
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# Messianic...

- Micah is the first of the Prophets to give us a clear glimpse of the Messiah Jesus – 700 years before He shows up.
- Micah also prophesies about the emergence of the CHURCH
- *“I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob,  
I will surely gather the remnant of Israel;  
I will put them together like sheep of the fold,*

*Like a flock in the midst of their pasture;  
They shall make a loud noise because of so many people.*

*<sup>13</sup> The one who breaks open will come up before them;  
They will break out, Pass through the gate,*

*And go out by it; Their king will pass before them,  
With the LORD at their head.”*

*Micah 2:12-13*



# Messianic...

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- Possibly the most famous and classic prophecy of Micah is that of 5:2
- *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting. Micah 5:2*
- There was no reason in the natural for Micah to point to Bethlehem at the time.
- He indicates the Divinity of Christ by adding the phrase; “whose goings forth are from old from EVERLASTING”



# Messianic....

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- Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”
- <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
- <sup>5</sup>So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:
- <sup>6</sup>‘But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”
- <sup>7</sup>Then Herod, when he had secretly called the <sup>7</sup>wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”
- Matthew 2:1-8





# Messianic...

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- And He shall stand and feed<sup>[b]</sup> *His flock*  
In the strength of the LORD,  
In the majesty of the name of  
the LORD His God;  
And they shall abide,  
For now He shall be great  
To the ends of the earth;  
<sup>5</sup> And this *One* shall be peace.  
Micah 5:4



# Messianic...

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- Who *is* a God like You,  
Pardoning iniquity  
And passing over the transgression of the  
remnant of His heritage?
- He does not retain His anger forever,  
Because He delights *in* mercy.  
<sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us, And  
will subdue our iniquities.
- You will cast all our sins  
Into the depths of the sea.  
<sup>20</sup> You will give truth to Jacob  
*And* mercy to Abraham,  
Which You have sworn to our fathers  
From days of old.



# The Church & Millenium...

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- Now it shall come to pass in the latter days  
*That* the mountain of the LORD's house  
Shall be established on the top of the mountains,  
And shall be exalted above the hills;  
And peoples shall flow to it.

<sup>2</sup> Many nations shall come and say,  
"Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
To the house of the God of Jacob;  
He will teach us His ways,  
And we shall walk in His paths."  
For out of Zion the law shall go forth,  
And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> He shall judge between many peoples,  
And rebuke strong nations afar off;  
They shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
And their spears into [\[a\]](#)pruning hooks;  
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
Neither shall they learn war anymore.

