

Hosea (“Salvation”)

Introduction: with gratitude to David Dorsey for his work on *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament*. This prophet from the Northern tribes addresses his own kingdom in a very negative tone. He seems to have ministered from @ 760-715 BC. He was a contemporary of Amos, Isaiah, and Micah. Political turmoil characterized this era as most of the last 6 Northern kings were assassinated during Hosea’s lifetime.

- 1) **Israel is God’s wayward WIFE:** He will cause her to return home—1:1-3:5
 - a) Condemnation of Israel’s spiritual prostitution and idolatry—4:1-5:7
 - i) Condemnation for political faithlessness and corruption and empty sacrifices; Yahweh’s efforts to bring Israel back—5:8-6:11a
 - (1) **Focus:** Israel has not returned to Yahweh, though He has called it to return—6:11b-7:16
 - (a) Yahweh’s failed efforts to cause Israel to return—6:11b-7:2
 - (i) Debauchery and drunkenness—7:3-7
 1. Condemnation for mixing with nations—7:8-9
 - a. **FOCUS:** Israel has not returned to Yahweh—7:10
 - i. *And the pride of Israel testifies to his face, but they do not return to the Yahweh their God, nor seek Him for all this.*
 - ii. As long as Israel trusted in their own ability at diplomacy, it was impossible for them to trust God and repent of their sin.
 2. Condemnation for appealing to nations for help—7:11-12
 - (ii) Debauchery and drunkenness—7:13-14
 - (b) Yahweh’s failed efforts to cause Israel to return—7:15-16
 - ii) Condemnation for political faithlessness and corruption and empty sacrifices; Yahweh’s efforts to bring Israel back—8:1-9:7b
 - b) Condemnation of Israel’s spiritual prostitution and idolatry—9:7c-10:15
 - 2) **Israel is God’s wayward SON:** God invites him to return—11:1-14:9
 - 3) **Things we need to remember** (think, feel, do):
 - a) Remember the 3 vivid illustrations of the unrepentant heart: a useless, half-baked pancake; an unstable, unwise dove; and an unusable, untrustworthy bow.
 - b) Don’t be like this. Repent and turn to God.