

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME FOUR
AN INVITATION TO RETURN—A SURVEY OF HOSEA—MALACHI
HOSEA: LOVE THAT NEVER DIES
A SURVEY OF HOSEA



The Heart of the Matter

With Hosea's story we begin the study of the twelve books commonly referred to as the Minor Prophets. They are "minor," not because they are insignificant but because their books are short compared to the Major Prophets. Hosea was a prophet to the ten northern tribes called Israel. His contemporaries were Amos, Isaiah, Jonah, and Micah. Hosea's was a pathetic, tragic life. Few men in Scripture inspire such pity as does Hosea. His book falls neatly into two parts: personal—a narrative of his life with an adulterous wife—and national—a series of sermons declaring God's holiness, justice, and love to an adulterous people.



Discovering the Way

1. What Was It Like in Hosea's Day?

Hosea lived at a time of political corruption, social compromise, and religious infidelity.

2. What Was It Like in Hosea's Home?

God commanded Hosea to marry a woman who would later prostitute herself. They had three children together. Both his marriage and family served as a living illustration of God's faithfulness to an unfaithful nation.

3. What Was It Like in Hosea's Congregation?

Hosea delivered three messages to Israel: You are sinful but God is holy. Judgment is sure because God is just. You are rebellious but God still loves you.

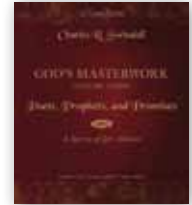


Starting Your Journey

What is it like in our lives today? If you are like Israel—unfaithful, rebellious, and sinful—you need to repent. If you are like Hosea—betrayed, wronged, and mistreated—you need to allow God to turn your scar into a message of grace.



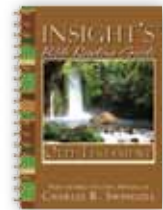
Tools for Digging Deeper



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HOSEA

	PERSONAL The Agony of an Unfaithful Mate	NATIONAL The Tragedy of an Unfaithful People			
	Marriage <hr/> Children <hr/> Separation <hr/> Reunion <i>CHAPTERS 1–3</i>	Series of sermons declaring the sin of the people and the character of God <hr/> Model of the message as Hosea remains true to his wife in spite of her infidelity <i>CHAPTERS 4–14</i>			
	Adulterous wife yet faithful husband		Adulterous nation yet faithful God		
	God: <i>“Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry.” (1:2)</i>	God: <i>“Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress.” (3:1)</i>	Nation is guilty. God is holy.	Nation needs judgment. God is just.	Nation has hope. God is love.
Theme	God’s faithful love toward His unfaithful people				
Key Verses	2:19–20; 3:1; 11:1–12				
Christ in Hosea	Christ’s being “called out” from hiding in Egypt as a child is pictured in Hosea’s record of Israel’s exodus from Egypt (11:1; see also Matthew 2:15). In Hosea’s redemption of Gomer from the slave market, Christ is pictured as the loving, faithful Redeemer of sinful humanity.				

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