

"THE COUNTRY PREACHER WHO FELL IN LOVE  
WITH A CITY GIRL"  
(HOSEA)

I. THE BACKGROUND

A. Historical and Political Conditions:

1. An era of plenty of peace and of luxury.
2. Israel had drifted into a state of ease and extravagance.
3. Amos' preaching had little effect upon the nation.
4. Anyone who wished to, could see the signs of decay and the inevitable calamity ahead.
5. Israel's kings were being assassinated along with their heirs.
6. Anarchy, bloodshed, and revolt began to creep in.
7. Isaiah and Micah were preaching to Judah while Hosea preached to Israel.

B. Social Conditions:

1. The nation was at the lowest level of immorality.
2. Corruption was rampant at every level.
3. Excessive taxation was levied on the poor.
4. The priests of God were actually organized gang leaders.
5. Family life had gone to pieces.

C. Religious Conditions:

1. The priests had failed to teach the people about God.
2. Worship was formal and professional.
3. The priests kept "holy women" in the temple for prostitution.
4. The nation of Israel became idol worshipping and degenerate.

D. Steps to Israel's Downfall:

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Lack of Knowledge (4:6,11) | 5. Corruption (9:9)   |
| 2. Pride (5:5)                | 6. Backsliding (11:7) |
| 3. Instability (6:4)          | 7. Idolatry (13:2)    |
| 4. Worldliness (7:8)          |                       |

II. THE MAN OF GOD

A. His Marriage:

1. Married Gomer, of whom he actually knew very little.
2. Hosea had very high ideals about marriage.
3. Gomer became entangled in sin and open unfaithfulness.
4. Hosea remained faithful and loyal to Gomer, in spite of her immorality.

B. His Equipment:

1. Hosea had a very sensitive soul.
2. Amos influenced Hosea greatly.
3. Hosea loved Israel dearly.
4. His own marriage problems enabled him to see more clearly how God felt about Israel.

C. His Character:

1. Hosea was quiet, pensive, affectionate and sensitive.
2. His life was often lonely and sad.
3. He had a deep faith in God and believed that somehow God would bring Israel back.

III. THE BOOK

- A. 1:1 - 3:5 The sin against trust.  
4:1 - 6:11 The sin against truth.  
7:1 -13:16 The sin against troth.  
14:1-9 The final appeal.

- B. Hosea did not consider arranging his writing in any chronological or logical order. He was so stirred that he jumped from one idea to another.

IV. SOME TEACHING VALUES

- A. Knowledge of God is essential.  
B. Sin's nature and appearance is seen (5:12, 4:9, 8:7, 4:11)  
C. Genuine repentance is a must. (3:5, 5:4, 6:1, 14:1,2)  
D. God's love can be seen. (11:1,3)  
E. God has a plan of salvation.

LESSONS OF VALUE

1. Nothing can quench God's love.
2. God suffers intense pain when His children desert Him.
3. Marriage is sacred.
4. Worship is not pleasing to God until the worshipper comes in the right spirit.
5. There is a real danger of becoming like those with whom one associates.
6. Genuine repentance will bring forgiveness and full restoration of God's favor.
7. Inward corruption is more dangerous to a nation than its external enemies.
8. The root sin from which all others spring is unfaithfulness to God.
9. A nation declines rapidly when its leaders become corrupt.
10. In God's plan, there is no double standard of morality.