

# Hosea

**Position In Bible:** Twenty-eighth of thirty-nine Old Testament books

**Meaning Of Name:** The Book is called "Hosea" from the Hebrew *yasha'*, meaning "to save" or "to deliver." Hosea, then, is a book about the Lord's love for and deliverance of His people, even when they do not deserve such love.

**Key Characters:** God, Hosea, Gomer, Jezreel ("Sewn or scattered by God"), Loruhamah ("not pitied), and Lo-ammi ("not my people").

**Basic Outline:**

- I. Historical Superscript 1:1
- II. Hosea's Family Life As A Paradigm of God and Israel 1:2-3:5
- III. Israel's Sin/Chastisement; God's Grace/Restoration 4:1-14:8
- IV. Theological Postscript: A Divine Invitation 14:9

**Interpretation of the Book of Hosea**

The content of the Book of Hosea alternates between passages on Israel's sin and God's judgment of those sins on the one hand and passages about God's grace and restoration on the other hand. Mark your Bible along these lines:

1:1 Historical Superscript	
Sin/Judgment Passages	Grace/Restoration Passages
1:2-9	1:10-2:1
2:2-13	2:14-3:5
4:1-5:14	5:15-6:3
6:4-11:7	11:8-11
11:12-13:16	14:1-8

14:9 Theological Postscript

**Key Theme:** God desires consistent and steadfast love and loyalty to Him, just as He has been loving and loyal to His people.

**Key Verse:** Hosea 6:6

"For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God, rather than burnt offerings."

**Purpose of the Book of Hosea:** "In the ministry of Hosea to the ten apostate northern tribes there is manifest the grace of God. It is to these tribes, ripe for destruction, that the prophet is sent. His great purpose is to reveal the love of God for a sinful and rebellious nation. He pictures that nation, under the symbolism of a faithless wife, as a nation that has committed spiritual adultery, and he pleads with the people to repent and to turn from their ungodly ways. There must come a time of refining, when Israel shall dwell for many days in an unusual condition. Then, after the exile, mercy will again be shown." [E.J. Young, *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, p. 251]