

THE KINGDOMS  
OF  
JUDAH AND ISRAEL

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# TRUTH, PROPHECY, and MESSIAH

A Study of the Minor Prophets



# What are we studying?

- The Minor Prophets is a collection of twelve Old Testament books, known simply as “the Twelve” or “the Book of the Twelve” in the Hebrew Bible.
- **The title “minor” refers to length, not significance or value.**
- Roughly in chronological order, each of these short books gives a glimpse into the spiritual landscape and history of Israel, challenging the status quo through prophets called to speak on God’s behalf.
- In the Hebrew Bible, these works are counted as one book.

<https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/minor-prophets>



# What are we studying?

- The **Minor Prophets** or **Twelve Prophets** (תרי עשר, Trei Asar), occasionally **Book of the Twelve**, is the last book of the Nevi'im, the second main division of the Jewish Tanakh. The collection is broken up to form twelve individual books in the Christian Old Testament, one for each of the prophets. The terms "minor prophets" and "twelve prophets" can also refer to the twelve traditional authors of these works.
- The term "Minor" relates to the length of each book (ranging from a single chapter to fourteen); even the longest is short compared to the three major prophets, Isaiah Ezekiel and Jeremiah. It is not known when these short works were collected and transferred to a single scroll, but the first extra-biblical evidence we have for the Twelve as a collection is ca. 190 BC in the writings of Jesus ben Sirach, and evidence from the Dead Sea Scrolls suggests that the modern order had been established by 150 BC.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve\\_Minor\\_Prophets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_Minor_Prophets)

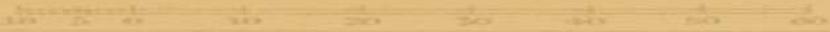


# Dating these biblical prophecies

The arrangement found in current Bibles is roughly chronological. **First come those prophets dated to the early Assyrian period:** Hosea, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah; Joel is undated, but it was possibly placed before Amos because parts of a verse near the end of Joel (3:16) and one near the beginning of Amos (1:2) are identical. Also we can find in both Amos (4:9 and 7:1–3) and Joel a description of a plague of locusts. **These are followed by prophets that are set in the later Assyrian period:** Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah. **Last come those set in the Persian period:** Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. However it is important to note that chronology was not the only consideration, as it seems that an emphatic focus on Jerusalem and Judah was also a main concern. For example, Obadiah is generally understood as reflecting the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BCE and would therefore fit later in a purely chronological sequence. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve\\_Minor\\_Prophets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_Minor_Prophets)

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# Book of Hosea



# Who was Hosea? הוֹשֵׁעַ

- Prophecy written approx. 715 BC, detailing events that occurred approx. 753-715 BC.
- Hosea began his ministry during the end of the prosperous but morally declining reign of Jeroboam II of Israel (the upper classes were doing well, but they were oppressing the poor). He prophesied until shortly after the fall of Samaria in 722 BC. (Life Application Bible)
- In Hebrew the name Hosea means “Yahweh has saved” and is the same as Israel’s last king (2 Kings 17:1). Name can mean “help” or “deliverance.” Jesus (or Yeshua) is a form of this name (Matthew 1:21).
- Nothing is known of Hosea’s family background except that he was a son of Beerī.
- Four kings of Judah (Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah) reigned when Hosea prophesied. One king of the north (Jeroboam II) is mentioned though Hosea’s message was directed primarily to the Northern Kingdom. Six kings of Israel followed Jeroboam II during the reigns of the four Judean kings mentioned. (Bible Knowledge Commentary)
- With the possible exception of Jonah, he was the only writing prophet to live in the northern kingdom.
- Following Jeroboam II’s successful military campaigns (2 Kings 14:25–26), Israel experienced a economic prosperity and freedom. As the Israelites’ wealth increased, their spiritual condition decreased—ultimately leading them to abandon their covenant with God (Hosea 6:7; 8:1). (Lexham Bible Dictionary)

# Why study this book?

Hosea's name means "salvation" and his book was written primarily to the Northern Kingdom and as his name suggests, he seeks Israel's salvation by repentance, otherwise they face destruction and captivity, which eventually happens when the Assyrians invade and take the Northern Kingdom as slaves. **The same problems that Hosea dealt with are those that seem to be present in today's secular world; syncretism and idolatry.** **Syncretism** in the fact that there are a hodgepodge of mystery, false and cult religions and there is **idolatry** in the sense of people making entertainment, pleasure, or self the central focus of their life. The parallels of the Northern Kingdom and nations today are that there is a decline in the worship of God, of religion, and in increase in political, social justice, and moral depravity.

<https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/who-were-the-minor-prophets-a-list-and-bible-study/>



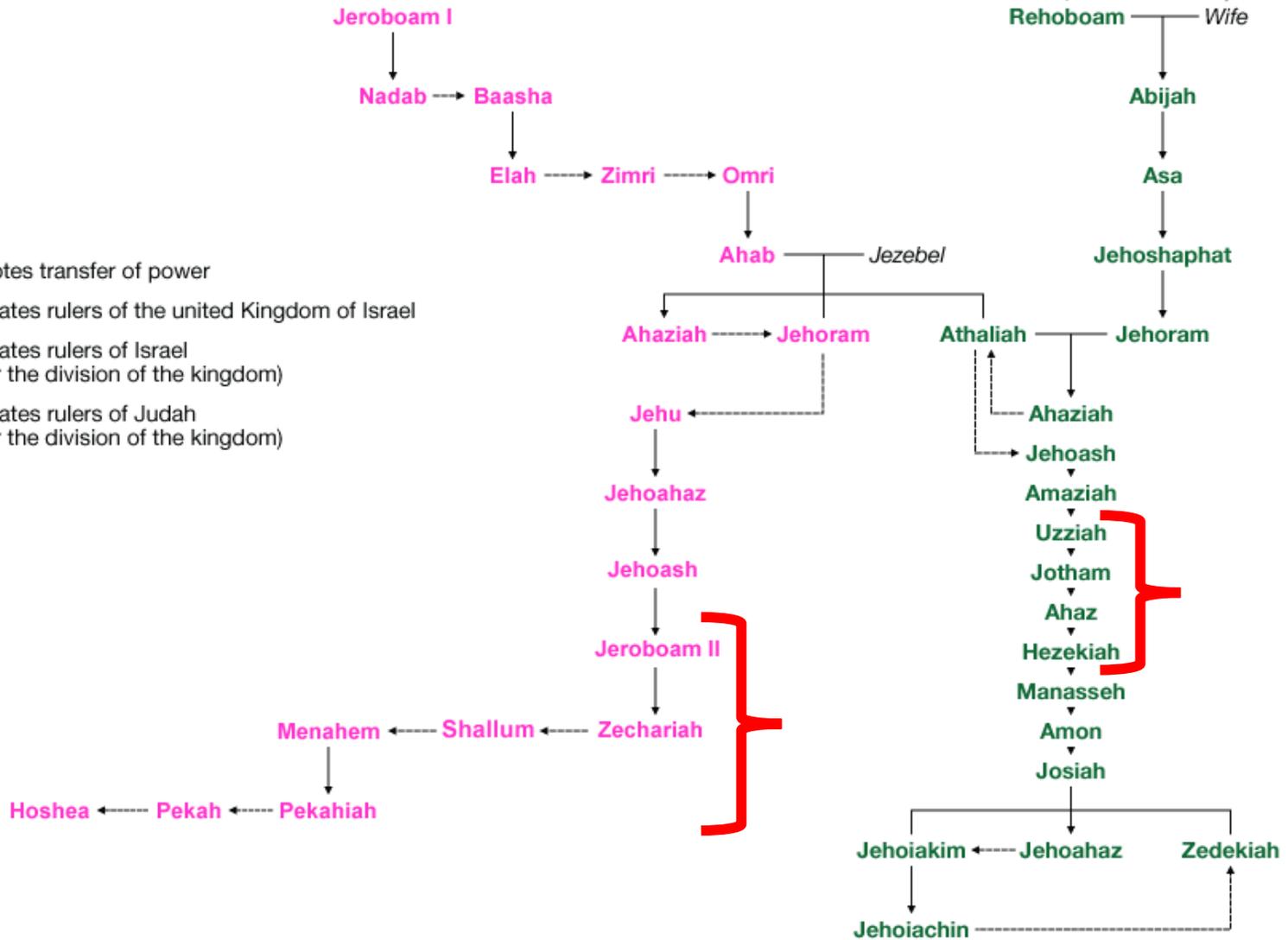
# Dating the Book of Hosea

The word of the Lord which came to Hosea the son of Beerī, during the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel. Hosea 1:1

\*These kings reigned approx. 780-690 BC

# The Genealogy of the Kings of Ancient Israel and Judah

- ▼ Denotes transfer of power
- Indicates rulers of the united Kingdom of Israel
- Indicates rulers of Israel (after the division of the kingdom)
- Indicates rulers of Judah (after the division of the kingdom)



**Kings of Israel and Judah during the prophetic ministry of Hosea**

**Northern Kingdom of Israel** defeated by Assyrians in 722 BC

**Southern Kingdom of Judah** defeated by Babylonians in 586 BC



# Study the Book of Hosea

- Hosea 1:2-11
- Hosea 2:18-23
- Hosea 3:1-5
- Hosea 4:1-10
- Hosea 5:15-6:11
- Overview of chapters 7-11
- Hosea 12:6
- Hosea 13:4-6
- Hosea 14:1,9

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The Lord said to Hosea, “Go take to yourself a wife of harlotry, and have children of harlotry; for the land commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking the Lord.” **So he went** and took Gomer גֹּמֵר the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. Hosea 1:2-3

\*Some argue that Gomer was a prostitute at the time she was married. Another view is that she participated in a Canaanite rite of sexual initiation in preparation for marriage. Others contend that Gomer was sexually pure at the time of marriage and later became an adulteress. The Book of Hosea does not provide information concerning Gomer’s premarital sexual experience. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

And the Lord said to him, “Name him Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.” Then she conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. And the Lord said to him, “Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have compassion on the house of Israel, that I would ever forgive them. But I will have compassion on the house of Judah and deliver them by the Lord their God, and will not deliver them by bow, sword, battle, horses or horsemen.” When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and gave birth to a son. And the Lord said, “Name him Lo-ammi, **for you are not My people and I am not your God.**” Hosea 1:4-9

### **Names of Hosea’s 3 children**

1. Jezreel: “God sows” (1:3b–5) son
2. Lo-Ruhamah: “Not loved” (1:6–7) daughter
3. Lo-Ammi: “Not My people” (1:8–9) son

# Restoration Promised

Yet the number of the sons of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered; and in the place where it is said to them, “You are not My people,” it will be said to them, “**You are the sons of the living God.**” And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel will be gathered together, and they will appoint for themselves one leader, and they will go up from the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel.

Hosea 1:10-11

\*In fulfillment of the Lord’s promises to Abraham in Genesis 22:17, 32:12

# Restoration Promised

“In that day I will also make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds of the sky and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land, and will make them lie down in safety. **I will betroth you to Me forever**; yes, I will betroth you to Me in **righteousness** and in **justice**, in **lovingkindness** and in **compassion**, and I will betroth you to Me in **faithfulness**. Then you will know the Lord. It will come about in that day that I will respond,” declares the Lord. “I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the earth, and the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine and to the oil, and they will respond to Jezreel. I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion (Lo-Ruhamah), and I will say to those who were not My people (Lo-Ammi), ‘You are My people!’ and they will say, ‘You are my God!’ ” Hosea 2:18-23

# In marriages... In our spiritual lives...

- where we start is often not where we end
- things happen
- choices are made
- our past returns
- we begin to look elsewhere
- vows are broken
- hearts are broken

# Will you choose to love?

Then the Lord said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes.” So I bought her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a half of barley. Hosea 3:1-2

\*A homer is a dry measure, equivalent to about 8 bushels or 64 gallons or 36 liters

\*total value of 30 shekels of silver, the price of a common slave

# What has Jesus done for you?

Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?” And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. From then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus. Matthew 26:14-16

But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:17-20

# Can you forgive and restore?

Then I said to her, “You shall stay with me for many days. You shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man; so I will also be toward you.” For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar and without ephod or household idols. Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the Lord and to His goodness in the last days. Hosea 3:3-5

# Israel Commits Spiritual Adultery

Listen to the word of the Lord, O sons of Israel, for the Lord has a case against the inhabitants of the land, **because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land.** There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery. (Violating 5 of the 10 Commandments - #3,9,6,8,7) They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and everyone who lives in it languishes along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky, and also the fish of the sea disappear. Hosea 4:1-3

# Spiritual Adultery of the People

Yet let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof; for your people are like those who contend with the priest. So you will stumble by day, and the prophet also will stumble with you by night; and I will destroy your mother. **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.** Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame. They feed on the sin of My people and direct their desire toward their iniquity. And it will be, like people, like priest; so I will punish them for their ways and repay them for their deeds. They will eat, but not have enough; they will play the harlot, but not increase, because they have stopped giving heed to the Lord.

Hosea 4:4-10

# Repent and Return

The Lord said, “I will go away and return to My place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; **in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.**” Hosea 5:15

\*The ultimate purpose of the Lord’s judgment on His people was to restore them. Having received the just punishment for their sins, God’s people would turn to Him in repentance.

– Bible Knowledge Commentary

“Come, let us return to the Lord. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, that we may live before Him. So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth.” What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? For your loyalty is like a morning cloud and like the dew which goes away early. Therefore I have hewn them in pieces by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of My mouth; and the judgments on you are like the light that goes forth. **For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.**

Hosea 6:1-6

# We Have Left Our First Love

But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant; there they have dealt treacherously against Me. Gilead is a city of wrongdoers, tracked with bloody footprints. And as raiders wait for a man, so a band of priests murder on the way to Shechem; surely they have committed crime. In the house of Israel I have seen a horrible thing; Ephraim's harlotry is there, Israel has defiled itself. Also, O Judah, there is a harvest appointed for you, when I restore the fortunes of My people. Hosea 6:7-11

## Chapters 7-11 describe Israel's sinfulness and spiritual guiltiness, the resulting punishment and the Lord's offer of compassion

- Though the pride of Israel testifies against him, yet they have not returned to the Lord their God, nor have they sought Him, for all this. Hosea 7:10
- They have set up kings, but not by Me; they have appointed princes, but I did not know it. With their silver and gold they have made idols for themselves, that they might be cut off. Hosea 8:4
- Do not rejoice, O Israel, with exultation like the nations! For you have played the harlot, forsaking your God. You have loved harlots' earnings on every threshing floor. Hosea 9:1
- They have gone deep in depravity as in the days of Gibeah; He will remember their iniquity, He will punish their sins. Hosea 9:9
- My God will cast them away because they have not listened to Him; and they will be wanderers among the nations. Hosea 9:17
- Their heart is faithless; now they must bear their guilt. The Lord will break down their altars and destroy their sacred pillars. Hosea 10:3
- You have plowed wickedness, you have reaped injustice, you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your way, in your numerous warriors... Hosea 10:13
- I will not execute My fierce anger; I will not destroy Ephraim again. for I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath. They will walk after the Lord, He will roar like a lion; indeed He will roar and His sons will come trembling from the west. Hosea 11:9-10

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**If we have been unfaithful, what now?**

Therefore, return to your God, observe kindness and justice, and wait for your God continually.

Hosea 12:6

# The Lord is Ready to Restore

“Yet I have been the Lord your God since the land of Egypt; and **you were not to know any god except Me, for there is no savior (יִשַׁע yasha) besides Me.** I cared for you in the wilderness, in the land of drought. As they had their pasture, they became satisfied, and being satisfied, **their heart became proud; therefore they forgot Me.**” Hosea 13:4-6

# Are We Ready To Be Restored?

Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to Him, “Take away all iniquity and receive us graciously, that we may present the fruit of our lips. Assyria will not save us, we will not ride on horses; nor will we say again, ‘Our god,’ to the work of our hands; for in You the orphan finds mercy.” Hosea 14:1-3

# If we repent, what might God say?

I will heal their apostasy, **I will love them freely**, for My anger has turned away from them. Hosea 14:4

## Notice Punishments in Chapter 13 vs. Blessings in Chapter 14

- Though he flourishes among the reeds, an east wind will come, the wind of the Lord coming up from the wilderness; and his fountain will become dry and his spring will be dried up; it will plunder his treasury of every precious article. Hosea 13:15
- I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like the lily, and he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon. His shoots will sprout, and his beauty will be like the olive tree and his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon. Hosea 14:5-6

# Wisdom and Understanding

Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them. For **the ways of the Lord are right**, and the righteous will walk in them, but transgressors will stumble in them.

Hosea 14:9

# Lessons from the Book of Hosea

- Sin destroys the sensitive nerves of the conscience and takes away the tenderness of the heart. (Pastor Charles Swindoll)
- Running from God is an absolute possibility. (Pastor Charles Swindoll) See the life of Jonah.
- When we sin, we sever our relationship with God, breaking our commitment to Him. While all must answer to God for their sins, those who seek God's forgiveness are spared eternal judgment. (Life Application Bible)
- When we break God's law in full awareness of what we are doing, our hearts become hardened to the sin and our relationship with God is broken. (Life Application Bible)
- God hates sin but loves His people. He hates sin so much because it is opposed to His divine plans and hurts His people.
- God punishes sin and restores those who repent and come back to Him.
- No one has yet sinned bad enough or long enough to be outside the love and will of God.

# What if we have hurt or been hurt?

- The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18
- Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken. Psalm 55:22
- My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Psalm 73:26
- He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Psalm 147:3

# What if we have hurt or been hurt?

- If you have walked away from Jesus, His forgiveness is available.
- If you have hurt someone else, forgiveness and restoration are possible. Will you repent and apologize? Will you come home?
- If you have been hurt by someone else, can you forgive and restore as you have been forgiven and restored by Jesus?
- “Your most profound and intimate experiences of worship will likely be in your darkest days – when your heart is broken, when you feel abandoned, when you’re out of options, when the pain is great – and you turn to God alone.” - Pastor Rick Warren
- Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”  
John 14:27

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