

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

ISRAEL: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

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PART 5: HOSEA & THE WHORE

THE PROPHET HOSEA

In this message we are going to look at the third prophet sent to warn the people of Israel. Hosea started his ministry around 748 B.C., when King Jeroboam was still ruling over the northern kingdom. Jeroboam was the first king after King Solomon died; he was not a descendant of King David.

According to historical records, Hosea was active for 58 years until 690 B.C. Israel was invaded by the Assyrians and the people were removed from the land in 727 B.C., 21 years after Hosea began prophesying. The Bible does not record what happened to Hosea after the Assyrians conquered the land of Israel.

Little is known about Hosea except that his father's name was Beeri and he was born in northern Israel. His name means "Yahweh is help," which was also interpreted by others to mean "deliverer."

FAMILY LIFE

God directed Hosea to marry a whore in order for Hosea to understand the relationship God had with Israel, who had turned into a whore by going after other gods. **Hosea 1:1-3**

Gomer bore him three children which were given prophetic names as a warning to Israel:

1. His first son was named "Jezreel," which means "God sows." This was interpreted as "for a little while." God was telling the people that judgment would befall upon Jehu. **verses 4-5**
2. The second child was a daughter named "Loruhamah," which in Hebrew means "not pitied" or "no more mercy." **verse 6**
3. The third child was a boy named "Loammi," which means "not my people." **verses 8-9**

Hosea does not tell what happened to Gomer, but sometime later God told him to purchase a woman who was an adulteress and marry her. The people of Israel were likened to a woman committing adultery, yet God kept loving them and trying to bring them back. **Hosea 3:1-3**

THE PATIENCE OF GOD

There was a period of 195 years from the time Jeroboam began to reign over Israel until its destruction in 727 B.C. Before the creation, God knew that Abraham's descendants would lose the land because of their idolatry.



In order to be fair, God let the sins of the northern kingdom accumulate for 195 years, during which time He sent prophets with the message of repentance and catastrophic judgment if they continued in their ways.

Jesus gave an assessment before His crucifixion. **Matthew 23:29-38**

HIGHLIGHTS OF HOSEA'S PROPHECIES

Here are the highlights of Hosea's prophecies:

1. There was no truth, mercy and knowledge of God in the land. As a result, the people were destroyed for lack of knowledge. **Hosea 4:1-6**
2. The people in Israel had idols made of wood from which they sought advice and they used divining rods to foretell the future. They were heavily into witchcraft. **verse 12**
3. God wants people to show mercy to others. **Hosea 6:6**
4. The priests in the land were like a band of robbers, lying in wait to devour the people who came to them. **verses 7-10**
5. The political leadership in Israel set up the kings they wanted, but not once had they asked the Lord what He wanted. **Hosea 8:4-7**
6. God would judge them for embracing the Kabbalah and the judgment would be like poison. **Hosea 10:4-7**

FUTURE EVENTS

God gave Hosea a prophecy about the 1,000 year kingdom. **Hosea 1:10-11; 2:14-23**

Israel would be without a king for a long time. It has not now been 2,744 years since the last king of northern kingdom. **Hosea 3:4-5**

The children of Israel will be cast away and they were to be wanderers among the nations. This prophecy is true and they are still wandering today. **Hosea 9:17**

There will come a day when Israel returns to the Lord and He will heal them from their backsliding. This is a prophecy that refers to the 1,000 year kingdom. **Hosea 14:1-9**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?