

I. Hosea – General Information

- A. Hosea is the last voice to address the Northern Kingdom
 - 1. Hosea holds the same position in the Northern Kingdom as Jeremiah does in the Southern Kingdom
 - a) Jeremiah is known as the *Weeping Prophet*
 - b) Hosea is known as the *Prophet of a Broken Heart*
- B. Hosea, Amos, and Micah
 - 1. Amos and Micah focus on social injustice
 - 2. Hosea focuses on disloyalty to God
 - 3. All three ultimately speak of the need to restore a right relationship with God

II. Reminder of Deuteronomy

- A. Love – Obedience – Blessing – *Light*
- B. Amos, Micah, and Hosea all call for a return to a true relationship with God
- C. Hosea is particularly helpful in teaching us about the nature of true love
 - 1. Theme: **God's love and Israel's unfaithfulness**

III. Hosea's Experience

- A. Two important points of cultural background:
 - 1. Most marriages during the Old Testament period were arranged
 - 2. There was no place in society for a single woman

Assignment:

Read Hosea.

B. Cultural definition of a woman who has found fulfillment:

- Marriage
- Children
- Sons
- Firstborn son
- Love of husband

Important to make sense of Hosea's experience

C. Hosea's marriage

1. Hosea was not told to marry a sinful woman
 - a) God would violate His own law by doing so
2. Hosea marries Gomer
3. Gomer has a son with Hosea
4. Gomer has a daughter (no mention of Hosea)
5. Gomer has a son (no mention of Hosea)
6. Gomer deserts it all to enter a life of sin
7. Gomer finally ends up in slavery
8. Hosea buys her back and brings her home

IV. Nature of *Hesed* Love

- A. Ordered, not accidental
- B. The essence of *hesed* is commitment to the one loved
- C. The expression of that love varies depending on the role one plays in the relationship