

## **Majoring in the Minors Part 1 - Hosea**

Joseph Carty / General

Majoring in the Minors / Hosea (prophet) / Hosea 2:23

God's grace is incomprehensible. It is so profound that we sinners have a hard time understanding it. For this purpose God asked Hosea to act it out in a real-life charades. This reality show is as shocking and painful to watch as those on TV today.

According to a traditional Hebrew story, Abraham was sitting outside his tent one evening when he saw an old man, weary from age and journey, coming toward him. Abraham rushed out, greeted him, and then invited him into his tent. There he washed the old man's feet and gave him food and drink.

The old man immediately began eating without saying any prayer or blessing. So Abraham asked him, "Don't you worship God?"

The old traveler replied, "I worship fire only and reverence no other god."

When he heard this, Abraham became incensed, grabbed the old man by the shoulders, and threw him out his his tent into the cold night air.

When the old man had departed, God called to his friend Abraham and asked where the stranger was. Abraham replied, "I forced him out because he did not worship you."

God answered, "I have suffered him these eighty years although he dishonors me. Could you not endure him one night?"

Thomas Lindberg.

### **Hosea 1:1 ESV**

The word of the Lord that came to Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of

Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

## Background

- Jeroboam II
- Prophet to Israel
  - unrivaled prosperity
  - spiritual compromise
  - final prophet to Israel
- Grandfather Jehoahaz
  - left left God.

### **2 Kings 13:3 ESV**

And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he gave them continually into the hand of Hazael king of Syria and into the hand of Benhadad the son of Hazael.

- God punished him.
  - Jehoahaz repented...

### **2 Kings 13:4–5 ESV**

Then Jehoahaz sought the favor of the Lord, and the Lord listened to him, for he saw the oppression of Israel, how the king of Syria oppressed them. (Therefore the Lord gave Israel a savior, so that they escaped from the hand of the Syrians, and the people of Israel lived in their homes as formerly.)

- Father Jehoash
  - promised victory
    - from dying Elisha

### **2 Kings 13:24–25 ESV**

When Hazael king of Syria died, Ben-hadad his son became king in his place. Then Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz took again from Ben-hadad the son of Hazael the cities that he had taken from Jehoahaz his father in war. Three times Joash defeated him and recovered the cities of Israel.

- Now Jeroboam II
  - getting stronger

### [2 Kings 14:25](#) (ESV)

He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah...

- Regained kingdom
  - pushed back enemies
  - fully restored kingdom.
  
- Did they turn to God?
  - Did they honor Him?
    - Stop idol worship?
  
- Of course not
  - turned back
    - sinful way.
  
- God allowed them
  - completely destroyed
    - 40 years after
      - Reign of Jeroboam II.

A Palm City man has been arrested for the 34th time! Scott Sutto, with ABC ACTION NEWS, reports:

On Sunday, Martin County deputies said they caught Sammy Luciano, 39, driving a vehicle that had been reported stolen in Okeechobee County. Just after 4 a.m., deputies spotted the vehicle with Luciano driving recklessly at speeds of more than 110 mph.

... Luciano has an extensive criminal history for crimes such as burglary, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, robbery, fleeing and eluding, battery on a law enforcement officer, violation of probation, possession of drugs, driving with a suspended license, reckless driving, and causing serious injury or death by failing to stop. This time he was charged with felony drunk driving, grand theft of a motor vehicle, and resisting arrest. He has now posed for a mug shoot 34 times!

## APPLICATION

What do you do with a man who has posed for his mug shoot 34 times, and counting? Is it time for the system to give up on Mr. Luciano, to consider him a lost cause, to lock him up and throw away the key? Before you register your “Amen,” reflect on how many times you’ve broken God’s moral laws. Are you a repeat offender? Has God ever given up on you?

### **Matthew 18:21 ESV**

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

## Last 6 kings of Israel

- Jeroboam 2

- reign lasted 41 years
  - blessed.
- Next 6 kings
  - combined together
    - lasted ~40 years.
- Hosea's ministry
  - goes from
    - prosperity of Jeroboam 2
      - until final destruction
        - of Israel.
- God turns back on them

#### Last 6 Kings

- Zechariah
- Shallum

- Menahem
- Pekahiah
- Pekah
- Hoshea
  
- Murdered Each other
  
- Zechariah
  - 6 months
  -

**2 Kings 15:10 ESV**

Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him and struck him down at Ibleam and put him to death and reigned in his place.

- Shallum
  - 1 Month

**2 Kings 15:14 ESV**

Then Menahem the son of Gadi came up from Tirzah and came to Samaria, and he struck down Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria and put him to death and reigned in his place.

- Menahem
  - 10 years
  - Only one not murdered
  - or taken captive
  
- Pekahiah
  - 2 years

**2 Kings 15:25 ESV**

And Pekah the son of Remaliah, his captain, conspired against him with fifty men of the people of Gilead, and struck him down in Samaria, in the citadel of the king's house with Argob and Arieah; he put him to death and reigned in his place.

- Pekah
  - 20 years

**2 Kings 15:30 ESV**

Then Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah and struck him down and put him to death and reigned in his place, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.

- Hoshea
  - 9 years

**2 Kings 17:6 ESV**

In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

- taken captive
  
- If you understand
  
- historical context
  - Book of Hosea
    - makes sense.
  
- **Politically**
  
- From prosperity
  - to destruction
  
- **Spiritually**
  
- From compromise
  - to destruction.

# Last Call

Home Depot

30 minutes

15 minutes

5 minutes

closing now!

- Hosea
  - gave last call
    - back to God.
- Sadly,
  - that call was
    - largely ignored
    - leading to
      - destruction of
        - 10 Northern tribes.

# Two Stories

- Book Hosea
  - two parts.
- Personal life of Hosea
  - Chap. 1-3
- Spiritual life of Isreal.
  - Chap. 4-14

# Life of Hosea

- Reality TV
  - drama
  - pride
  - inappropriate relationships
  - sick to stomach

- but keep watching.
- Real life charades
  - Spiritual condition of Israel.

**Hosea 1:2 ESV**

When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord.”

- Extremely unusual
  - not allowed elsewhere
  - equally yoked
  - believers together
  - don't try to win worldlings
    - through marriage.
      - This story shows
        - how it normally goes.
- God illustrating

- His relationship
  - with Israel.

**Jeremiah 6:2 NKJV**

I have likened the daughter of Zion

To a lovely and delicate woman.

- Israel = Woman

**Isaiah 54:5 ESV**

For your Maker is your husband,

the Lord of hosts is his name;

and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,

the God of the whole earth he is called.

- God calls himself husband.
  - closest relationship
    - in this world.
- But God's people

- cheat on Him.

**Jeremiah 3:20 NKJV**

Surely, *as* a wife treacherously departs from her husband,

So have you dealt treacherously with Me,

O house of Israel,” says the Lord.

- To illustrate God’s love
  - He asks Hosea
    - to marry prostitute.

## Newlyweds

**Hosea 1:3 ESV**

So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

- But God decides
  - name of baby...

### Hosea 1:4–5 (ESV)

And the Lord said to him, “Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”

- Names 1st child
  - Jezreel
    - after place of destruction!
  
- Name literally means:
  - “God will sow”
  - God will scatter”
  
- Think about
  - play on words
    - Spiritual meaning
      - to sow
      - to plant
      - to grow...

- good.
- To scatter
  - (seeds are scattered)
  - reference to destruction.
- Story gets worse.

**Hosea 1:6 ESV**

She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the Lord said to him, “Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all.

- You can guess
  - reason for such
    - bad name...

**Hosea 1:7 ESV**

But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen.”

- Again,

- speaking of destruction!
  
- Story gets worse.

**Hosea 1:8–9 ESV**

When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son. And the Lord said, “Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God.”

- Name is “Not Mine”
  - can’t help but wonder...
  
- She is a prostitute.
  - Child’s name is
    - “Not Mine”
  
- Not hard to
  - figure out why...
  
- In spite of

- spiritual adultery
  - God calls Israel
    - back to him.
- Being a prostitute
  - marriage is predictable.
- As with Gomer
  - so with Israel:

A recent poll of 5,000 students concluded that 46 percent of them would cheat on an important test. Thirty-six percent said they would cover for a friend who vandalized school property, while only 24 percent would tell the truth. Five percent would steal money from their parents if given the opportunity.

*Moody Monthly*, June, 1990, p. 8

- Moral fabric of
  - humanity has been
    - same wicked thoughts

- selfishness and sin.

## The Breakup

- There is a consequence
  - to the infidelity...

[Hosea 2:2–6](#) (ESV)

“Plead with your mother, plead—  
for she is not my wife,  
and I am not her husband—  
that she put away her whoring from her face,  
and her adultery from between her breasts;  
lest I strip her naked  
and make her as in the day she was born,  
and make her like a wilderness,  
and make her like a parched land,  
and kill her with thirst.

Upon her children also I will have no mercy,

because they are children of whoredom.

For their mother has played the whore;

she who conceived them has acted shamefully.

For she said, 'I will go after my lovers,

who give me my bread and my water,

my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.'

Therefore I will hedge up her way with thorns,

and I will build a wall against her,

so that she cannot find her paths.

- Notice:
  - who leaves who?
    - Woman leaves man.
  
- As Gomer chases
  - after other lovers.

- So Israel chases
  - after other Gods.
  
- God does not
  - abandon His people.
  
- **Imagine the pain**
  - of Hosea
    - in the marriage.
  
- **Imagine the pain**
  - of God.
  
- More than husband
  - creator
  - savior
  
- A marriage like this

- is not a marriage.
  
- External forms
  
- legal marriage
  - no relationship.
  
- Spiritually
  
- we can go through
  - external forms
  
  - that is not true
    - spiritual relationship.
  
- 
  
- >
  
- > Good moment for illustration.
  
- > about adultery
  
- >
  
-

- Sometimes
  - Christians think.
  
- Consequence of sin
  - isn't coming quickly.
  
- They assume
  - not going to come.
  
- They become
  - more bold in sin.
  
- Let us remember,
  - God is patient
  - merciful
  - judgments don't come quickly.
  
- Remember
  - **they will come!**

- Our God will
  - not be mocked.
  
- Gomer thought
  - life of adultery
    - was better than
      - life with Hosea.
  
- She had:
  - money
  - fun
  - possessions
  
- Let us remember
  - our actions do
    - catch up to us.
      - in this life
      - or the next!

- Time of punishment
  - = Assyrian Captivity

**2 Kings 17:6 ESV**

In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

... more

**2 Kings 17:20 ESV**

And the Lord rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and gave them into the hand of plunderers, until he had cast them out of his sight.

... more

**2 Kings 17:24 ESV**

And the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the people of Israel. And they took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities.

- Justice does eventually come!

There once was a burglar robbing a house in Antwerp, Belgium. The thief fled out the back door, clambered over a nine-foot wall, dropped down the other side, and found himself in the city prison.

# Renewing Vows

- The amazing thing
  - even after punishment
    - God pursues relationship!!!

## **Hosea 3:1-3 ESV**

And the Lord said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.” So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley. And I said to her, “You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you.”

- God says,
  - go get her back
    - from the brothel.
- **He pays his wife**
  - **to be loyal to him!!!**

- This illustration
  - God's amazing
    - love
    - mercy
    - patience.

[Hosea 2:14–16](#) (ESV)

“Therefore, behold, I will allure her,  
and bring her into the wilderness,  
and speak tenderly to her.

And there I will give her her vineyards  
and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.

And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth,  
as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.

“And in that day, declares the Lord, you will call me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer will you call me ‘My Baal.’

- So God pursues

- disloyal people.
  
- God renews
  
- His vows with them.
  
- re-establishes covenant!

A story is told about Fiorello LaGuardia, who, when he was mayor of New York City during the worst days of the Great Depression and all of WWII, was called by adoring New Yorkers 'the Little Flower' because he was only five foot four and always wore a carnation in his lapel. He was a colorful character who used to ride the New York City fire trucks, raid speakeasies with the police department, take entire orphanages to baseball games, and whenever the New York newspapers were on strike, he would go on the radio and read the Sunday funnies to the kids. One bitterly cold night in January of 1935, the mayor turned up at a night court that served the poorest ward of the city. LaGuardia dismissed the judge for the evening and took over the bench himself.

Within a few minutes, a tattered old woman was brought before him, charged with stealing a loaf of bread. She told LaGuardia that her daughter's husband had deserted her, her daughter was sick, and her two grandchildren were starving. But the shopkeeper, from whom the bread was stolen, refused to drop the charges. "It's a real bad neighborhood, your Honor." the man told the mayor. "She's got to be punished to teach other people around here a lesson." LaGuardia sighed. He turned to the woman and said "I've got to punish you. The law makes no exceptions--ten dollars or ten days in jail." But even as he pronounced sentence, the mayor was already reaching into his pocket. He extracted a bill and tossed it into his famous sombrero saying: "Here is the ten dollar fine which I now remit; and furthermore I am going to fine everyone in this courtroom fifty cents

for living in a town where a person has to steal bread so that her grandchildren can eat. Mr. Baliff, collect the fines and give them to the defendant." So the following day the New York City newspapers reported that \$47.50 was turned over to a bewildered old lady who had stolen a loaf of bread to feed her starving grandchildren, fifty cents of that amount being contributed by the red-faced grocery store owner, while some seventy petty criminals, people with traffic violations, and New York City policemen, each of whom had just paid fifty cents for the privilege of doing so, gave the mayor a standing ovation.

- God calls them back
  - offers them love.
  
- After Assyrian Captivity,
  - Israel (10 northern tribes)
    - never returned
      - to their nation.
  
- Some worshiped
  - with Hezekiah
    - after most taken away.
  
- Some did come

- back with Judah
  - after Babylonian Captivity.
  
- Offer of grace
  - still offered.
    - Not as national people...
    - but as part of Judah.
  
- God's grace continues.
  
- You have to wonder
  - paid to be wife?
  
- Really?
  - How that will last???
  
- **She is getting payment**
  - **but you can't**
    - **buy love!!!!**

- Will she stay with him?
- You already know
  - the answer...
- Israel and Judah
  - reject the Messiah
    - Cut off forever.
    - God end covenant
    - Not restored again.
    - No future significance.

## The Easy Way

When I was child

dad used to say:

want to learn your lesson

hard way

or easy way....

- Easy way is
  - learning from
    - mistakes of others.
  
- Don't have to
  - repeat their sins.
  
- Today,
  - we must learn
    - the easy way.
  
- What was failing
  - of Israel?

[Hosea 4:6](#) (ESV)

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge;  
because you have rejected knowledge,  
I reject you from being a priest to me.  
And since you have forgotten the law of your God,  
I also will forget your children.

- Failure to
  - spiritual boundaries
  - believe in coming judgment
  - believe that probation ends.
- Today we must choose
  - God's path
  - not world's path.

[2 Corinthians 6:2](#) (NASB95)

for He says,

“At the acceptable time I listened to you,

And on the day of salvation I helped you.”

Behold, now is “the acceptable time,”

behold, now is “the day of salvation” —

## Appeal

- Revel in the grace of God.
  - Relize...
    - I am Gomer
    - I am the sinner
  
- Praise God for
  - love
  - patience
  - forgiveness
  - grace

- See the depth
  - or our sinfulness
  
- Greater Depth of
  - God's grace.

[Romans 5:20](#) (HCSB)

... But where sin multiplied, grace multiplied even more...