

The Book of Hosea

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Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we study the book of **Hosea**, which is the first of the last twelve books of the Old Testament. These twelve books are collectively called “The Minor Prophets, not because they are insignificant, but because they are comparatively smaller in size. In the Hebrew Canon, the twelve Minor Prophets originally made up just one book called “The Twelve Prophets,” and were probably written on one scroll. In our Bible, they are divided into twelve separate books, as follows:

- **Hosea**
- **Joel**
- **Amos**
- **Obadiah**
- **Jonah**
- **Micah**
- **Nahum**
- **Habakkuk**
- **Zephaniah**
- **Haggai**
- **Zechariah**
- **Malachi**

Little is known of the prophet Hosea outside his book. He prophesied during the eighth century BC, during the final days of the northern kingdom of Israel. He began his ministry either during or shortly after the ministry of Amos. Whereas Amos prophesied of a coming invasion of the northern kingdom by an unnamed enemy, Hosea identifies that enemy as being Assyria (**7:11; 8:9; 10:6; 11:1**).

Like Ezekiel, Hosea’s life becomes symbolic of his prophetic message. God instructs Hosea to marry an adulterous wife, Gomer, and the story of their relationship, as it unfolds, is a mirror of the relationship between God and Israel.

Let’s pull up a comfortable chair and read the entire book of **Hosea** in one sitting.

Memory Verse

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:10

Your Fishing Kit

This is the thirteenth verse in your fishing kit. **1 John 4:10** expands on the last memory verse, further describing the love of God and qualifying the death of Jesus as “an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” This language draws upon the rich covenantal terminology of the Old Testament, whereby a lamb would be sacrificed as a substitute for the sinner. No wonder John the Baptist called Jesus “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (**John 1:29**).

Here are the other verses in your “fishing kit”:

John 3:16	Isaiah 55:6-7	John 1:12	2 Corinthians 5:17
John 3:18	Romans 5:8	John 3:3	2 Corinthians 5:21
John 3:36	1 John 4:10	John 5:24	Matthew 10:32-33
Ephesians 1:7-8	Acts 2:38	John 6:37	Romans 2:4-5
Romans 3:23	Acts 3:19	John 8:32	Acts 17:30
Romans 6:23	Acts 4:12	John 8:36	1 John 5:10
Isaiah 53:5	John 14:6	John 10:10	1 John 5:11-12
Isaiah 53:6	1 John 1:8	John 10:28	John 14:1-3
Isaiah 59:1-2	1 John 1:9	Romans 10:9	John 16:33
Isaiah 64:6	1 John 1:10	Romans 10:13	Revelation 3:20

Store these verses in your heart. Memorize them until they have an “on the tip of your tongue” familiarity. You will find them of immeasurable value as you cooperate with the Lord in his mission of bringing the Gospel to this lost world.