

- Recap of last week not available in detail. We covered Hoshea the last King of Israel before God finally had enough and fulfilled His promise to punish Israel through the Assyrian captivity and the prophet Jonah including how he tried to run from God, spent 3 nights in a large fish's belly, successfully preached at Nineveh then was bitter about the fact that it worked.
- Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel while Jeroboam II was king there and while the kings in the South were Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. (Hosea 1:1)
- God told Hosea to take a prostitute for a wife to symbolize Israel adultery before God in idol worship. (Hosea 1:2)
- Society looks down on a prostitute but from some reason we tend to forget why this job even exists in the first place. The men who visit prostitutes are to blame also. That is exactly why God is using this marriage to make the analogy. By worshipping other Gods, Israel has become like men who visit prostitutes.
- Hosea marries a woman named Gomer as a result. Gomer bears him three children we read about. God tells Hosea what to name the children and why. First is a son named Jezreel because that is the name of the valley where God will end the Israeli kingdom once and for all. The second is a daughter named Lo-Ruhana which means "She has not received mercy" ("No mercy") because God will have no more mercy on Israel. The third is a son named Lo-Ammi which means "Not my people" because Israel is no longer God's people and they are not His. (Hosea 1:3-11)
- God tells Hosea what to prophecy in the form of a song to the people. This same format will last through the end of our lesson today. He tells them because they have turned their back on Him and He will turn their back on Him they will be conquered and suffer. (Hosea 2:1-13)
- God also tells Hosea to mention that after they have been conquered and suffer for a great time he will finally have mercy on them again. They will again want to be His people and His God so we will restore them. (Hosea 2:14-23)
- Gomer seems to return to her old ways just as Israel repeatedly came back to God and wandered off after other idols again. This time Hosea actually buys her back for 15 shekels of silver and a homer and letech of barley. This is about 6 ounces of silver and about 430 pounds of barley. It is not a lot, but it is not a little either and Hosea tells Gomer not to do it again (just like God kept reminding Israel). (Hosea 3)
- God reiterates the things from before with some specific grievances including their cursing, lying, stealing, murder, alcoholism and prostitution, which has become the rule throughout the whole land. (Hosea 4)
- God specifically says they are guilty of persecution, spiritual whoredom, pride, apostasy from God and embracing tyrannical rule. God says a result he will be like a moth eating away at their stuff and like a lion who will come and ravage the land. (Hosea 5)
- God tells Hosea to prophecy that an internal debate will eventually rage within Israel about whether or not to return to God. (Hosea 6)
- We read specifically that "For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings." (Hosea 6:6) Jesus will eventually quote this back to the Pharisees and

urges them to “go and figure out what his means.” (Matthew 9:13) Jesus later tells them that if they had known what that meant they would not condemn the guiltless. (Matthew 12:7).

- God wants our acts of obedience. Coming to church and going to class is not enough. Not even close. One of the main reasons we come together is to remind ourselves that it is what we do during the week that matters. Isaiah mentioned helping orphans and widows specifically as what God wants rather than sacrifice. (Isaiah 1:11-17) In the New Testament book of James, we read that true and undefiled religion consists of helping the helpless and the exact same two groups of people are mentioned. (James 1:27)
- God mentions that Israel has tried to turn to other nations like Egypt and Assyria for help but it won't matter. (Hosea 7)
- Incidentally, Ephraim is used throughout Hosea to represent Israel. That is because it is the largest tribe in Israel and is often used to symbolically represent Israel (Ezekiel 37:19)
- God says Israel will eventually pay for all its crimes very significantly. (Hosea 8)

Questions

1. Why did God tell Hosea to marry a prostitute?
2. What was the name of the prostitute God told Hosea to marry?
3. How many children did the prostitute bear Hosea that we read about?
4. What were the names and gender of the children the prostitute bore Hosea?
5. What did the prostitute do after bearing the children to Hosea?
6. What did Hosea use to redeem the prostitute?
7. What are six things God specifically mentions have become commonplace in Israel?
8. What five things did God specifically accuse the entire nation of Israel of?
9. What two animals does God compare his wrath against Israel to in Hosea 5?
10. What does it mean “I desire mercy and not sacrifice?”
11. Who likes to quote Hosea 6:6?
12. What is true and undefiled religion?
13. What two nations had Israel turn to for help? Did it work?
14. Why is Ephraim used to represent Israel?