

I. When GOD has a PURPOSE for a FAMILY IN CRISIS



Hosea 1-3

Keswick Week 3, 2021

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1. A Heaven-Sent NIGHTMARE (Hosea 1)

Israel Divided after King Solomon

	Northern Kingdom		Southern Kingdom
Name	Israel-Ephraim		Judah
Capital	Samaria		Jerusalem
Rulers	String of different rulers and dynasties		David's Line
Prophetic voices	Elijah & Elisha - 9thC BC Amos & Hosea - 8thC BC		Isaiah - 8thC BC Jeremiah & Ezekiel: 7th/6thC BC
History	Falls in 722 BC to Assyria: "the lost tribes of Israel"		Falls in 597/586 BC to Babylon - Exiled until 538 BC

(i) God's Command To Marry (1:2)

(ii) God's Command to Have Children

- ◆ Jezreel 1:4
- ◆ Lo-Ruhamah / 'unloved' 1:6
- ◆ Lo-Ammi / 'not my people' 1:8

2. A Heaven-Felt **HEARTBREAK** (*Hosea 2*)

3. A Heaven-Minted **RESTORATION** (*Hosea 1:1:7, 10-11; Hosea 3*)

II. When GOD is NOT the LION you thought he was

Hosea 4-5

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There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land. (Hosea 4:1)



1. There is NO KNOWLEDGE

- ✦ not just **knowledge ABOUT God** (attributes and actions) but **knowledge OF God** (in ongoing relationship with him)
- ✦ compare Luke 19:20-21 - Parable of the Talents

2. There is NO LOVE

- ✦ Deuteronomy 6:5
- ✦ Leviticus 19:18

3. There is NO FAITHFULNESS

- ✦ 4:3-9 like priests...
- ✦ 4:10-18 ... like people

- ✦ Letter to James

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. James 4:4.

21st Century's tempting idols:

- ✦ the god **INDULGENCE**

- ✦ the god **INSURANCE**

- ✦ the god **INFLUENCE**

- ✦ the god **INDEPENDENCE**

Why this matters

- ✦ The Warning for the South (Hosea 5:5)

- ✦ The Nature of God
 - ❖ God the **caring shepherd** (Hosea 4:16)

AND

- ❖ God like a **whirlwind** (Hosea 4:19)

- ❖ God like the **invading army** (Hosea 5:8-9)

- ❖ God like the **ravenous lion** (Hosea 5:14-15)

Why Does He Do This?

- ✦ The **Whole Point** (Hosea 5:15)

III. When God's Heart Gets Broken

Hosea 6-7

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The greatest break-up songs ever?!

- ✦ Sinead O'Connor *Nothing Compares 2 U* (1990)
- ✦ The Righteous Brothers *You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'* (1964)
- ✦ Alanis Morissette *You Oughta Know* (1995)
- ✦ Miley Cyrus *Wrecking Ball* (2013)
- ✦ Gloria Gaynor *I Will Survive* (1978)
- ✦ Fleetwood Mac *Go Your Own Way* (1976)

- ✦ Olivia Rodrigo *good 4 u* (2021)

Hosea 6:4

1. Hosea's Reasoned Appeal (*Hosea 6:1-3*)

Your **love** is like the morning mist

Andrew Peterson, **Hosea**, *Resurrection Letters (Vol II)* - 2008

2. Your Religion is NOT the answer

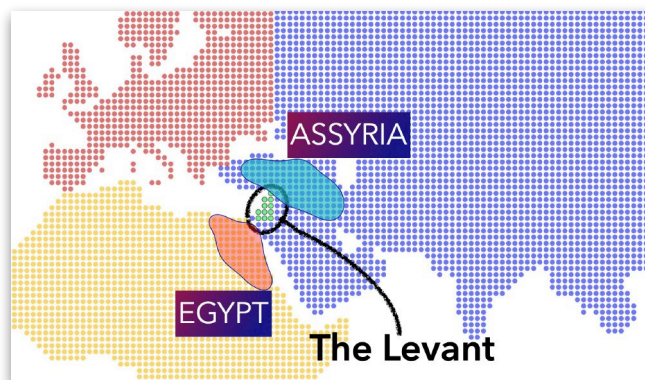
- ✦ Hosea 6:9-10

Solomon's son, King Rehoboam VS Jeroboam, later Jeroboam I of Israel-Ephraim (1 Kings 12)

- ✦ Hosea 7:3-7
- ✦ Hosea 7:14



3. **Your *Realpolitik* is NOT the answer**



4. **Your Return is the ONLY answer (6:1-3, 6; 7:7, 10, 13)**

- ✦ Hosea 7:13

- ✦ Matthew 9:12-13

IV. When God Must Hand His People Over

Hosea 8-10

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Henrik Ibsen (1828-1902, Norwegian playwright). *His best known plays:*

- ◆ 1867 *Peer Gynt*
- ◆ 1879 *A Doll's House*
- ◆ 1881 *Ghosts*
- ◆ 1882 *An Enemy of the People*
- ◆ 1890 *Hedda Gabler*

The Lone Voice of the Prophet

- ◆ Hosea 9:7-8

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.
Martin Luther King, Jr

1. The Whirlwind: Face the Consequences for the Future

- ◆ Hosea 8:7

God's Covenant 'pre-nuptial' agreement	
<i>Deuteronomy 28:1-4 etc</i>	<i>Deuteronomy 28: 14-18 etc</i>
If you full obey all these commands...	If you do NOT full obey all these commands ...
... all these blessings	... all these curses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ fruit of your womb... ◆ crops of your land... ◆ livestock... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ fruit of your womb... ◆ crops of your land... ◆ livestock...

2. The Calf: Remember the Lessons of History

(i) Israel's Critical Error

- ✦ Hosea 8:2-4

You Know Lord, How I Serve You (Ruth Harms Calkin)

- ✦ cf Aaron Exodus 32:2-4

- ✦ Hosea 8:11-13

- ✦ Hosea 9:10



(ii) Israel's Crucial Distinctive

- ✦ Hosea 8:4

- ✦ Hosea 10:3

3. The Lord: Trust the Covenant-Maker

- ✦ Hosea 10:12



V. When God Pleads For Wisdom

Hosea 11-14

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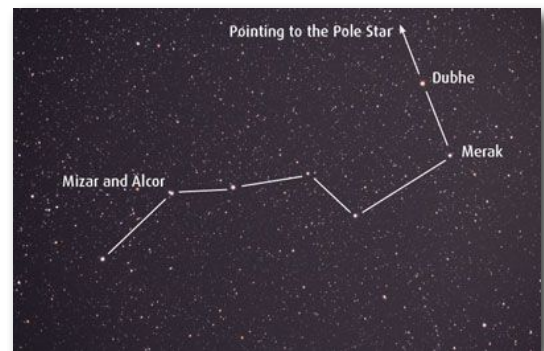
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If you think handling the dilemmas from slap-down sceptics is hard...

... How about God's cosmic dilemma...?

Biblical Fulfilment, Biblical Constellations

- ◆ The Plough & Ursa Major (*The Great Bear*)
- ◆ Polaris (*The North Star*)



Constellation 1: Jesus Identifies with God's People

<i>Hosea 11:1</i> <i>Hosea 12:9</i> <i>Hosea 13:4</i>	Out of Egypt ◆ 1st Exodus	<i>Matthew 2:14-15</i>	Out of Egypt ◆ 2nd Exodus
<i>Hosea 13:5-6</i>	Desert sustaining	<i>Matthew 4</i>	Desert sustaining
	People forgot God		Jesus obeyed God (hence Deut 6, 8)
		<i>Matthew 5:17</i>	Fulfil not abolish

Constellation 2: Jesus's View from God's Throne

<i>Hosea 11:7</i>	People determined to turn	<i>Matthew 9:4</i>	Why entertain evil thoughts?
		<i>Matthew 7:21</i>	Not all who say, 'Lord, Lord'
<i>Hosea 13:9-11</i>	your king to save you?	<i>Matthew 24:16-21</i>	There will be great distress...

Constellation 3: Jesus Displays God's Heart

<i>Hosea 11:8-9</i>	How can I give you up	<i>Matthew 23:37</i>	How often I have longed...
<i>Hosea 11:11</i>	They will return trembling		

Constellation 4: Jesus Resolves God's Dilemma

<i>Hosea 14:4-5</i>	I will heal ... and love them freely	<i>Matthew 1:21</i>	He will be called Jesus...
<i>Hosea 13:14</i> <i>Hosea 14:9</i>	Who is Wise?	<i>1 Corinthians 1-2</i>	The Wisdom and Folly of God

HOSEA - Further Reading

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Helpful Commentaries

- ◆ **Hosea: An Introduction & Comm.** Robin Routledge *Tyndale OT comm.*, IVP
- ◆ **The Message of Hosea** Derek Kidner *Bible Speaks Today*, IVP
- ◆ **Hosea: The Passion of God** Tim Chester *Focus on Bible*, Christian Focus

Useful Background

- ◆ **Love Divine & Unfailing** Michael P V Barrett *Gospel ac. to OT*, P&R
- ◆ **God's Unfaithful Wife** Ray Ortlund *NSBT*, IVP

Within the Whole Bible

- ◆ **According to Plan** Graeme Goldsworthy IVP
- ◆ **God's Big Picture** Vaughan Roberts IVP
- ◆ **God's Story: The Bible Explained** Matt Searles Lion

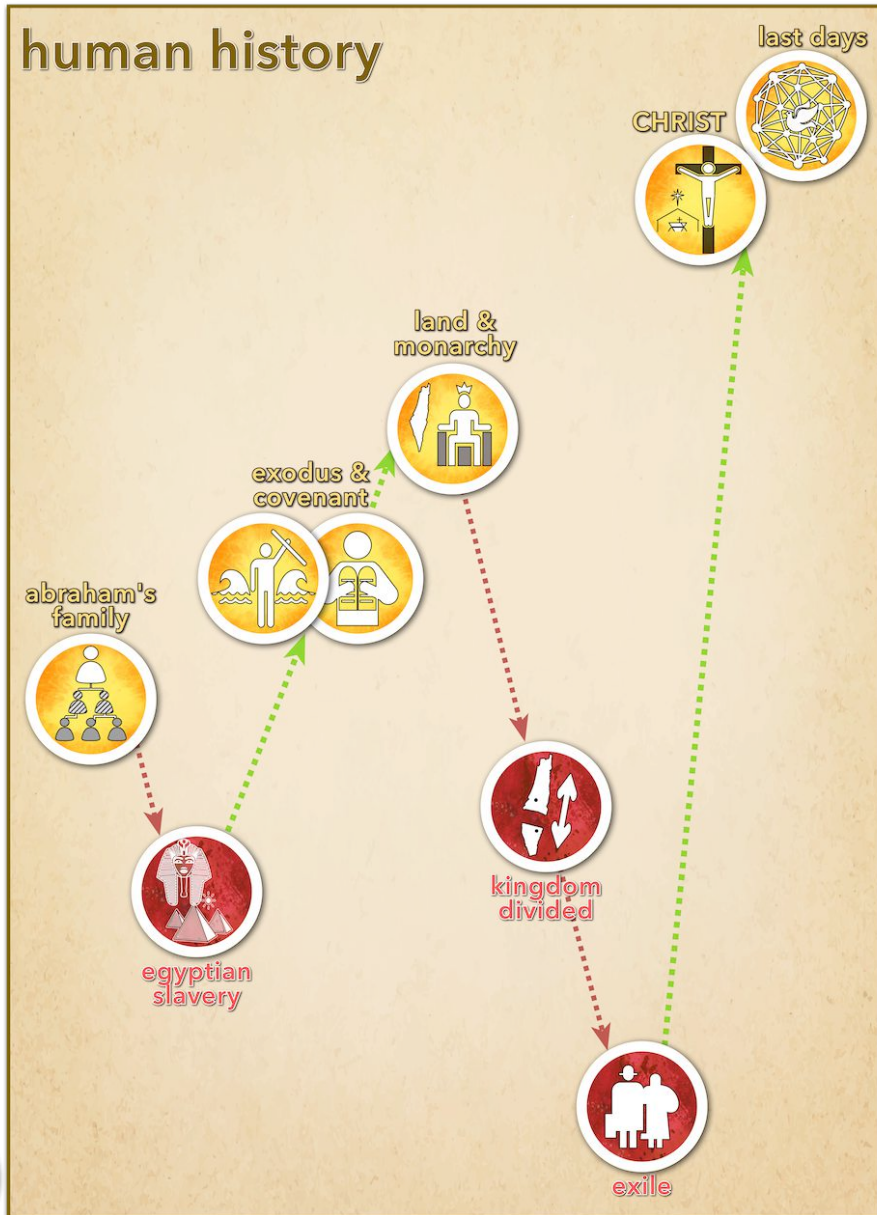
Studying the Bible for yourself

- ◆ **How to read the Bible for all its worth** Fee & Stuart Zondervan
- ◆ **How to read the Bible Book by Book** Fee & Stuart Zondervan
- ◆ **Sweeter than Honey: Preaching the OT** Christopher JH Wright Langham Preaching Res.
- ◆ **What Angels Long to Read: Reading NT** Mark Meynell Langham Preaching Res.

COSMIC HISTORY

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