

Insights From Hosea

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Insights From Hosea

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Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
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Hosea

- God commanded Hosea to marry a sexually immoral woman (Hosea 1:2). The reason God did this was because the Jews were guilty of great immorality, and He wanted to use Hosea to communicate this. God was holy, but His wife (the Israelites) was deeply immoral. The Lord illustrated that by having Hosea marry a woman who was also deeply immoral.
- There were times when God used prophets as illustrations, to teach things to others (Hosea 1:2).
- There were times when the prophets had to suffer greatly to serve the Lord, and had to do very unpleasant things to proclaim the message that God gave them (Hosea 1:2).
- Even though Hosea was faithful, God gave him an awful wife because He wanted to use that situation to teach His people an important lesson (Hosea 1:2).
- Sometimes the things that God does to us is painful, and makes our lives extremely hard (Hosea 1:2).
- Hosea obeyed the Lord. He did what God commanded him to do (Hosea 1:3).
- The name of Hosea's son was prophetic, and revealed what God was going to do in the near future (Hosea 1:4). This means that sometimes God gave people prophetic names.
- Innocent blood had been shed in Jezreel by the house of Jehu (Hosea 1:4). God cared about that innocent blood and was going to avenge it.
- God was so angry at the shedding of innocent blood that He was going to destroy the kingdom of Israel over it

(Hosea 1:4).

- God warned the Israelites in advance that He was going to destroy their nation, and He told them why He was going to do it. The Lord didn't destroy the kingdom of Israel without warning (Hosea 1:4).
- A nation's military might isn't enough to save it, because God can destroy any military if He chooses to do so (Hosea 1:5).
- The reason God named Hosea's daughter "Loruhamah" was because He was no longer going to have mercy upon the kingdom of Israel (Hosea 1:6).
- God gave Israel multiple warnings that He was going to destroy the kingdom, and He told them why He was going to do it. Yet in spite of that the Israelites didn't repent of their sins (Hosea 1:6). They could have avoided the judgment if they repented, but they refused.
- God chose to show mercy to Judah, but not Israel (Hosea 1:7).
- The reason God commanded Hosea to name his son "Loammi" was because the Israelites were wicked. Since they departed from God and refused to serve Him, He wouldn't be their God. Since they rejected Him, He rejected them (Hosea 1:9).
- God's primary concern isn't our comfort or happiness. There may be times we have to suffer in order to serve Him (Hosea 1:9).
- Although the Israelites rejected God, this rejection wouldn't last forever. One day they would be God's people and would faithfully serve Him (Hosea 1:10).

- God wasn't going to utterly destroy the Israelites. He will never allow them to be utterly wiped out (Hosea 1:10).
- At this point in history the Israelites were no longer the wife of God. In the past they had been God's wife, but He put them away because they were unfaithful to Him (Hosea 2:2, Jeremiah 3:8).
- God treats the children of the righteous differently than He treats the children of the wicked (Hosea 2:4). If we want God to have mercy on our children then we need to repent, seek the Lord, and do what's right in His sight. (This teaching can also be found in 1 Corinthians 7:14.)
- The Israelites believed that idols were responsible for their prosperity (Hosea 2:5).
- It's evil to give idols credit for the blessings that God has given us (Hosea 2:5).
- Since the Israelites had gone after idols, God was going to put thorns in their path so they couldn't keep pursuing idols (Hosea 2:6).
- In the future, the Israelites would seek after idols but wouldn't find them (Hosea 2:7).
- The reason the Israelites will one day return to God is because they'll realize their lives were better when they served Him (Hosea 2:7).
- Wine is a blessing from God (Hosea 2:8).
- The Israelites took the blessings that God gave them and used them to worship Baal (Hosea 2:8-9). Because of this, God was going to take those blessings away.
- There are times when God punishes nations by taking

away their wine (Hosea 2:9).

- In order to punish the Israelites, God was going to expose their wickedness to other nations (Hosea 2:10). This means one of the ways God punishes nations is by exposing their sin to others.
- There are times when God punishes nations by taking away their gladness (Hosea 2:11).
- God was going to take away Israel's food supply and give it to animals. Animals would enjoy them instead of the children of Israel (Hosea 2:12).
- The Israelites sang to the Lord when He delivered them from slavery in Egypt (Hosea 2:15).
- In the end times, God will make a covenant with animals, birds, and insects (Hosea 2:18). There will be peace in the animal kingdom, and animals will no longer harm people.
- In the end times, God will remove the bow and the sword from the world. Nations will no longer have weapons, or have any need for weapons (Hosea 2:18).
- God is the one who will bring peace to the animal kingdom (Hosea 2:18).
- God is the one who will bring peace to the nations (Hosea 2:18).
- When Israel repents in the end times, the nation will never stray from God again. They will never again serve idols but will remain faithful to God forever (Hosea 2:19).
- The Israelites won't always be separated from God. One day they'll be saved (Hosea 2:20).
- God loved the Israelites, even though they were wicked

and idolatrous (Hosea 3:1).

- Hosea bought his adulterous wife back. He paid 15 pieces of silver and 1.5 homers of barley for her (Hosea 3:2).
- Hosea had to buy his wife back, even though she was the one who wronged him. She was the one who sinned, but he had to pay the price to redeem her (Hosea 3:2).
- In the future, the Israelites wouldn't have a king for a long time (Hosea 3:4).
- In the future, the Israelites wouldn't have the ability to make sacrifices for a long time (Hosea 3:4).
- After these things come to pass, the Israelites will seek the Lord their God and David their king (Hosea 3:5). This will be fulfilled in the latter days.
- God becomes angry with nations when they lack truth, mercy, and knowledge of Him (Hosea 4:1).
- God punishes nations for swearing (Hosea 4:2).
- God punishes nations for lying (Hosea 4:2).
- God punishes nations for shedding innocent blood (Hosea 4:2).
- God punishes nations for stealing (Hosea 4:2).
- God punishes nations for adultery (Hosea 4:2).
- When the people of a nation are guilty of swearing, lying, shedding innocent blood, stealing, or committing adultery, the very land itself is affected. The livestock, birds, and fish will die, and those who live in the land will languish (Hosea 4:3).
- The sins of a nation can impact the animals who live there

(Hosea 4:3).

- The nation of Israel would fall in the daytime (Hosea 4:5). Since the priests did their work during the day, that's when the nation would fall.
- The false prophets of Israel would fall in the nighttime (Hosea 4:5). Since prophets received their visions in the night, that's when they would fall.
- The reason the Israelites lacked knowledge was because they rejected knowledge (Hosea 4:6).
- Since the Israelites had forgotten God's law, He was going to forget them. He would no longer watch over them or care for them, because the people cared nothing for Him or His law (Hosea 4:6).
- The Israelites had their heart set on iniquity. They loved sin and desired it with their heart (Hosea 4:8).
- There are times when God punishes nations by taking away their food supply (Hosea 4:10).
- Since the Israelites worshiped idols, the Lord was going to punish them by turning their daughters and wives into whores (Hosea 4:13). This means rampant sexual immorality is actually a judgment from God.
- There are times when God punishes a nation for sin by turning it over to more sin (Hosea 4:13).
- If God isn't punishing the sins of individuals then that's a very bad sign. It means that nation is so wicked in His sight that He's turned it over to sin as a judgment against it (Hosea 4:14). This also means that *sin itself* is a judgment against a nation.

- The sins of nations aren't hidden from God. He knows what they're doing (Hosea 5:3).
- Those who worship other gods defile themselves (Hosea 5:3).
- Because Israel was proud of its sin, the nation would fall (Hosea 5:5).
- It's wicked to remove boundaries (Hosea 5:10).
- God holds princes accountable for their actions (Hosea 5:10).
- God said that He was going to return to the place where He came from, until the people acknowledged their sins and repented (Hosea 5:15). The Lord Jesus Christ said the same thing when the Jews rejected Him. He told them that He was going to leave, and they wouldn't see Him again until they said "blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" (Matthew 23:39).
- The Lord wouldn't always be against Israel. One day He will heal the nation (Hosea 6:1).
- God will revive the nation of Israel after two days, and will raise them up on the third day (Hosea 6:2).
- God doesn't want us to have the sort of goodness that quickly evaporates. Instead He commands us to *continue* to walk in righteousness (Hosea 6:4). Obedience that doesn't last very long isn't worth very much.
- The judgments of God are a shining light (Hosea 6:5).
- What God wants isn't gifts and sacrifices. Instead He desires mercy (Hosea 6:6).
- God is against cities that shed innocent blood (Hosea 6:8).

- When a city sheds innocent blood, that blood pollutes the city (Hosea 6:8).
- In ancient Israel, some of the priests were murderers (Hosea 6:9).
- Sin defiles nations (Hosea 6:10).
- One day God would return the captive Jews to the promised land. They wouldn't always be in exile (Hosea 6:11).
- God won't heal a wicked nation (Hosea 7:1). Wicked nations must first repent before God will heal them.
- It's a terrible thing when the leaders of a nation love evil (Hosea 7:3).
- God didn't hide the sins of the leaders of Israel. Instead He made them public and rebuked them for it (Hosea 7:5).
- God compared the heart of the rulers of Israel to an oven, which burned hot with wickedness (Hosea 7:6). The rulers slept through the night, and then woke up with a burning desire to do evil.
- God punished the nation of Ephraim by sending strangers to them who devoured their strength (Hosea 7:9). It's a bad thing when strangers take the strength of a nation for themselves. That's a judgment from God.
- There are times when God judges nations, but the nation doesn't realize it (Hosea 7:9). This means nations don't always perceive what God has done to them.
- The reason God was going to kill the princes of Ephraim was because of the wicked things they had said (Hosea

7:16). This means God holds rulers accountable for their words.

- One of the ways God punishes rulers is by making them an object of ridicule (Hosea 7:16).
- God said that He was going to come against the house of the Lord (Hosea 8:1). He foretold the destruction of the first temple before it happened.
- The reason God was going to destroy the temple was because the people had transgressed His covenant (Hosea 8:1).
- Since the Israelites were unholy and had broken His covenant, God wasn't going to leave His holy temple in their midst. Instead He was going to remove it (Hosea 8:1).
- Since the Israelites rebelled against God and cast off His law, they would be pursued by their enemies (Hosea 8:3).
- The Israelites didn't look to God when selecting their leaders. Since they did whatever they wanted, God was going to destroy them (Hosea 8:4).
- There was a golden calf in Samaria (an idol) which the people worshiped (Hosea 8:5-6). God warned the Israelites that He was going to destroy their nation because of that idolatry, but the people didn't repent.
- God was going to destroy the golden calf and break it into pieces (Hosea 8:6).
- Since the Israelites had sown to the wind, they would reap the whirlwind. They had rebelled against God by worshiping idols, so He was going to destroy their food supply (Hosea 8:7).

- God told the Israelites that if they did find a way to grow food, strangers would come and take it from them. The Lord was against them and wouldn't allow them to be blessed (Hosea 8:7).
- God was going to punish Israel by scattering them to nations that wouldn't like them (Hosea 8:8).
- The tribe of Ephraim ignored the great things that God had told them. They had no interest in the law of God, but instead rejected it (Hosea 8:12).
- God rejects those who worship Him in addition to their idols. He must be worshiped alone (Hosea 8:13).
- God was going to set the cities and palaces of Judah on fire and burn them down (Hosea 8:14).
- The strong defenses of a nation can't protect it from the wrath of God (Hosea 8:14).
- It's possible for wicked nations to be happy (Hosea 9:1).
- God was going to stop the wicked and idolatrous tribe of Ephraim from offering Him drink offerings (Hosea 9:4). The reason He didn't want their offerings was because they were idolatrous.
- Before we can give God offerings we must repent and be saved, and worship Him alone. We can't offer Him gifts while living a wicked life because He won't accept them (Hosea 9:4).
- The offerings of the wicked don't please God (Hosea 9:4). It's impossible for the wicked to purchase God's favor through gifts because He won't accept their offerings.
- It's impossible for those who are unclean in God's sight to

give an offering that's clean. Those who are unclean can only give God things that are unclean, and God doesn't accept unclean offerings (Hosea 9:4).

- The character of a nation impacts the quality of its spiritual leaders. Sinful nations will produce sinful leaders (Hosea 9:7).
- Not all prophets are good. There are evil prophets as well (Hosea 9:8).
- The reason the Israelites were corrupt was because they corrupted themselves (Hosea 9:9).
- Idolatry brings shame upon a nation (Hosea 9:10).
- There are times when God punishes nations by taking away their children (Hosea 9:12).
- God doesn't permit wickedness in His house (Hosea 9:15).
- If Ephraim did have children, God would kill them. He wouldn't allow their children to live because He was angry with that tribe over its terrible wickedness (Hosea 9:16).
- The tribe of Ephraim wouldn't be utterly destroyed. However, they would be scattered among the nations and become wanderers (Hosea 9:17).
- God compared Israel to an empty vine. This is because the Israelites weren't bringing forth the fruit that He desired (the fruits of the Spirit) (Hosea 10:1).
- God requires nations to bring forth fruit to Him (Hosea 10:1).
- God cares about the character of nations (Hosea 10:1).

- Israel used its wealth to create idols (Hosea 10:1).
- Nations must not use God's blessings to sin (Hosea 10:1).
- The heart of Israel was divided. They worshiped idols and they also sacrificed to the Lord (Hosea 10:2).
- God doesn't want our heart to be divided. We must serve Him alone, and not anyone or anything else (Hosea 10:2).
- God was going to destroy the idols that Israel created (Hosea 10:2).
- In the future, Israel wouldn't have a king (Hosea 10:3). The reason God was going to take away their king was because they didn't fear Him.
- There are times when God punishes nations by destroying their government (Hosea 10:3).
- When God removed Samaria's golden calves, the people would mourn. They loved their sin and didn't want to lose it. Instead of fearing God and repenting of their sin, they would mourn over the loss of their sin (Hosea 10:5).
- The golden calf of Samaria was going to be carried to Assyria and given to king Jareb as a present (Hosea 10:6).
- The golden calf of Samaria was powerless. It was unable to save itself from being carried off and given to someone as a gift (Hosea 10:6).
- There are times when God judges idolatry by causing pagan altars to become abandoned and destroyed by nature (Hosea 10:8).
- The sin of the Israelites began in Gibeah (Hosea 10:9). That's where they signed the treaty with the Gibeonites.

- Those who sow righteousness will receive mercy (Hosea 10:12).
- Righteousness comes from God. It doesn't come from ourselves, but is something that God gives us (Hosea 10:12).
- God has the power to rain righteousness upon nations (Hosea 10:12).
- Lies bear evil fruit (Hosea 10:13).
- In the coming judgment, mothers would be dashed to pieces upon the body of their own children (Hosea 10:14).
- God warned Israel that the coming judgment was going to be very severe, but the people didn't repent of their idolatry (Hosea 10:14). If they had repented then God wouldn't have sent His judgment upon them, but they loved their sin too much to forsake it.
- The sins of a nation can destroy the children of that nation (Hosea 10:14).
- In the coming judgment, the king of Israel would be cut off in a single morning (Hosea 10:15).
- God loved Israel from the very beginning (Hosea 11:1).
- God called His Son out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1). Matthew 2:15 says that this is a Messianic prophecy.
- The tribe of Ephraim didn't recognize that God was the one who healed them and gave them good things (Hosea 11:3).
- God wanted Ephraim and Israel to repent and be saved. He didn't want to pour out His wrath upon them (Hosea

11:8).

- God cared about what happened to Israel, even though the nation was evil and loved idolatry (Hosea 11:8).
- Because God loved Israel, He wasn't going to pour out the fierceness of His anger upon them (Hosea 11:9).
- The tribe of Ephraim was feeding on the wind. They were relying on other nations to save them instead of on God, but those nations couldn't save them (Hosea 12:1).
- While Jacob was still in the womb he grabbed his brother by the heel. Jacob had been struggling since before he was born (Hosea 12:3).
- Before Jacob was born, he was still a person (Hosea 12:3).
- God referred to Himself as "us" (Hosea 12:4). This is a reference to the trinity.
- The tribe of Ephraim delighted in wickedness and loved being evil (Hosea 12:7).
- Even though Ephraim obtained its wealth through sin, it claimed that it was sinless and pure (Hosea 12:8). This means there are times when the wicked claim that they're not wicked at all.
- The worship of idols destroys nations. It doesn't exalt them (Hosea 13:1).
- One of the ways the tribe of Ephraim worshiped the golden calves was by kissing them (Hosea 13:2).
- God is the only Savior. There's no one else who can save us (Hosea 13:4).
- Prosperity can be dangerous. It can tempt people to

forget God (Hosea 13:6).

- The only one who could help Israel was the Lord (Hosea 13:9).
- The reason God gave Israel a king was because He was angry with them (Hosea 13:11).
- There are times when God punishes people by granting their wicked prayers (Hosea 13:11).
- The day was coming when God would redeem Ephraim from death (Hosea 13:14). In spite of all that Ephraim had done, one day God would save them.
- Sin destroys nations (Hosea 14:1).
- The only way we can be saved is if God takes away our sin (Hosea 14:2).
- The Bible consistently refers to orphans as children who don't have a father (Hosea 14:3).
- God won't always be angry with Israel. One day He will save them (Hosea 14:4).
- The day is coming when God will expand Israel's territory (Hosea 14:6).
- God compared the beauty of future Israel to the beauty of an olive tree (Hosea 14:6).
- God compared the smell of future Israel to the smell of Lebanon (a place known for its cedar trees) (Hosea 14:6).
- The day is coming when Ephraim will reject idols and seek the Lord (Hosea 14:8).
- Those who understand these things are wise and prudent (Hosea 14:9).

- The ways of the Lord are right (Hosea 14:9).
- Those who are just will walk in the ways of the Lord (Hosea 14:9).