

Old Testament Survey

February 20, 2022

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

David A. Dumpe

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question 28:

Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?

A. Christ's exaltation consisteth in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.

Hosea

SIN – JUDGEMENT – FORGIVING LOVE

I. Introduction

A. Background and Context

1. First of the "Book of Twelve" – twelve minor prophets
 - a. 8th century to 4th century B.C.
 - b. Some say the "shape" (order) of the book has hermeneutical (interpretive) significance ... others not so much. Hence, Hosea being the first may ... or may not be of significance.
 - c. Becomes easier to read the prophets if we realize that their primary purpose is not to foretell the future, but rather to call God's people to be faithful to his covenant in the present.

B. Author - Written by Hosea, son of Beer

1. Extent of the information we have about Hosea
2. Name fairly common – means "salvation" or "he saves"
3. Mostly poetic with a little prose (primarily chs 1-3) thrown in ... (elevated prose?)
4. One of only two prophets to write from the northern kingdom
 - a. Thought to be rather affluent
 - b. Book shows great familiarity with the history, circumstances, and topography of Israel

C. Date – Prophesied from approximately 755-710 BC

1. Northern kingdom was overrun and destroyed by Assyrians in 722BC
2. Ministered during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah in Judah; during the reign of Jeroboam in Israel
 - a. Actually, during the reign of the last 6 kings of Israel
3. Overlapped slightly (but essentially just after) Amos
4. Contemporary of Isaiah and Micah

- D. Theme - God's faithful love towards His unfaithful covenant people in spite of their idolatry.
1. Stresses divine sovereignty. God speaks in the first person, "I", almost 100 times in 14 chapters.
 2. Northern kingdom is politically peaceful and materially prosperous yet engaged in sinful pleasures and idol worship. They are both morally corrupt and spiritually bankrupt.
 3. Four reasons to study Hosea (Ryan):
 - a. To see God's long-suffering nature
 - b. To learn that we are all spiritually adulterers gravitating to other idols
 - c. To witness God's willingness to consistently call us to repentance and welcome us back
 - d. To compel us to joyfully submit to God

II. Section One - Chapters 1-3 (Hosea's Family)

- A. Parable in the context of a "trying" husband-wife relationship
1. Agony of an unfaithful mate (adulterous wife, faithful husband).
 2. Chapter 1: God asks Hosea to not just preach and prophesy, but to actually experience the betrayal he has felt.
 - a. ... take a wife of harlotry, of whoredom, a prostitute and have children with her for the land is committing great whoredom by forsaking the Lord (Hos 1:2)
 - b. Three children – "she bore him" (Hos 1:3) versus "she conceived" (Hos 1:6,8)
 - "God sows" or "God will scatter" – looks forward to the exile of Israel to Assyria from which it will never return
 - "Not pitied" – Israel will be sacrificed, but Judah will be delivered (from the Assyrians)
 - "Not My People" – You are not my people and I am not your God; depicts the rejection of Israel
 - c. Hos 1:10-11 – Hosea foretells a reconciliation which begins during the reign of Hezekiah (1&2 Chronicles) when the remnant of the north is rejoined to the southern kingdom. Reveals and highlights the absolute grace of God.
 3. Chapter 2: Focus shifts to Gomer.
 - i. "Plead with the mother ... for she is not my wife and I am not her husband" (Hos 2:2)
 - ii. "she has played the harlot (5)
 - iii. ... for a harlot's hire" (12).
 - She is in this for the money, that which she can earn.
 - "And she did not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the wine, and the oil and lavished upon her silver and gold which they used for Baal." (Hos 2:8)
 - Verses 9-13 delineate the punishment to be imposed on Gomer/Israel. Intense misery short of death.
 - Verses 14-19 grant us a peek at the script. Is there any hope of restoration for the people of Israel?
 - Verses 20-23 begins with one of the ultimate promises of the new covenant. Leads to the conclusion that we will not only "know him", but "we will be like him." (1 JN 3:1-2)

4. Chapter 3: A mere five verses.

- Recounts Hosea's reconciliation with Gomer as an anticipation of God's reconciliation with Israel.
- God told Hosea to "love her again".
- Hosea bought her back at auction for fifteen shekels of silver.
- Truly unbelievable at a human level, but truly reflective of God's unshakeable love for us!

(Derek Kidner, The Message of Hosea) "Hosea captures, as no other writer does, the tension within God's love for His elect – for he refuses to ease the pain of the relationship either by compromise or by quitting. He loves these people despite their blatant unfaithfulness which he cannot for a moment condone."

III. Section Two - Chapters 4-14: Accusations, Warnings, and Promises for Israel

- "Recapitulates" chapters 1-3 from a different perspective, with much greater detail and more imagery.
 - Deeper tragedy of an unfaithful people (adulterous people who forsake a faithful, loving God).
 - Same message; God will redeem his covenant people.
 - Generally adopts a father-son/family point of view rather than that of husband-wife.
 - God is the father and Ephraim (largest tribe of the northern kingdom) becomes the proxy/surrogate for the people of Israel.
1. Chapter 4: Entire chapter (especially vs 1-14) reads as an indictment, by God, of his covenant people.
 - a. Hos 4:15-16 – Judah is given a warning
 - b. Hos 4:17-19 – Ephraim is beyond help
 2. Chapter 5: Clearly warns of the punishment to come upon both Judah and Israel.
 - a. Israel's condition is incurable
 3. Chapter 6 & 7: People of Judah and Israel thumb their noses at God. They are clearly unrepentant.
 - God longs for a reunion
 4. Chapter 8: Illustrates the dire cause and effect relationship between sin and punishment.
 - Hos 8:7 "They sow the wind and they shall reap the whirlwind."
 - When will they realize their danger and God's anger?
 5. Chapter 9: How the Lord will punish Israel.
 - Time to seek the Lord
 6. Chapter 10: The prophet provides some color commentary and the Lord continues to let them know what's in store.
 - Days of reckoning; Choice of harvests

7. Chapter 11: Delineates the Lord's love for Israel.
 - Hos 11:1 "When Israel was a child I loved him and out of Egypt I called my son."
 - God proclaims his compassion in spite of Israel's rebellion
8. Chapter 12: Further charges against Israel and Judah.
9. Chapter 13: More judgement upon Israel.
 - Delineates the unmaking of the kingdom
 - The climax of Hosea's prophecies of doom
10. Chapter 14: Prophet urges the people to repent and then conveys God's promise of blessing. Essentially ... here is your safe path or, if you insist, the path to your downfall.
 - a. Requirements:
 - i. Conversion (return)
 - ii. Confession
 - iii. Contrition
 - b. Hos 14:9: Epilogue
 - i. "Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

IV. Finding Christ in Hosea

- a. Jesus comes to initiate the new covenant which is like the new betrothal prophesied in Hos 2: 14-23
- b. Hosea bought Gomer back from bondage in Hos 3:2 just as Christ bought his bride, the church, back from slavery to sin
- c. After the exile, Yahweh will raise his people from the dead on the third day – Hos 6:2
- d. Hos 11:1 "... out of Egypt I called my son ..." Israel failed miserably, but Christ prevails as the true son of Israel.

Conclusion: (Bryce Sandlin_ - "It is firmly believed that the pastor who takes seriously the opportunity to teach the message of Hosea in this culture will find his efforts relevant, but difficult, as did the prophet."