

FOR YOUR PROPHET

THE BOOK OF HOSEA

LESSONS FROM A PROPHET AND A PROSTITUTE

These are all warning markers--DANGER!--in our history books, written down so that we don't repeat their mistakes. 1 Corinthians 10:11

➤ TO PROFIT FROM HOSEA I MUST KNOW THE CHARACTERS IN HIS BOOK:

Player 1: The Lord God. – The Author.

The LORD gave this message... **Hosea 1:1a** (NLT)

Player 2: The Prophet Hosea. – God's Communicator.

The LORD gave this message to Hosea son of Beeri during the years when Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah were kings of Judah, and Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel. **Hosea 1:1** (NLT)

Player 3. The Nation of Israel – God's People.

When the LORD first began speaking to Israel through Hosea... **Hosea 1:2a** (NLT)

Player 4. The Prostitute Gomer – Hosea's Wife

He said to him, "Go and marry a prostitute...so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution. ²So Hosea married Gomer... **Hosea 1:2b, 3a** (NLT)

Player 5. Hosea's Son Jezeel – God Scatters

... she became pregnant and gave Hosea a son. ⁴ And the LORD said, "Name the child Jezeel, for I am about to punish King Jehu's dynasty to avenge the murders he committed at Jezreel. In fact, I will bring an end to Israel's independence. ⁵ I will break its military power in the Jezreel Valley." **Hosea 1:3b-5** (NLT)

Player 6. A Daughter -Lo-ruhamah – Not Loved

Soon Gomer became pregnant again and gave birth to a daughter. And the LORD said to Hosea, "Name your daughter Lo-ruhamah—'Not loved'—for I will no longer show love to the people of Israel or forgive them. **Hosea 1:6** (NLT)

Player 7. A Daughter Son - Lo-ruhammi – Not my people

After Gomer had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she again became pregnant and gave birth to a second son. ⁹ And the LORD said, "Name him Lo-ammi—'Not My people'—for Israel is not My people, and I am not their God. **Hosea 1:8, 9** (NLT)

➤ TO PROFIT FROM HOSEA I MUST KNOW THE CHARACTERS PURPOSE:

1. Hosea pictures our faithful God.

2. Gomer pictures the unfaithful people of God (including myself).
3. Their children picture the generational curse unfaithfulness brings.

➤ TO PROFIT FROM HOSEA I MUST PERSONALLY APPLY HOSEA:

1. God will not accept second place in my life.

*You have become spiritual adulterers who are having an affair, an unholy relationship with the world. Don't you know that flirting with the world's values places you at odds with God? Whoever chooses to be the world's friend makes himself God's enemy! **James 4:4** (TPT)*

2. God is faithful and wants to restore our relationship. .

*I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion. ²⁰I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as LORD." **Hosea 2:19, 20** (NIV)*

*Then GOD ordered me, "Start all over: Love your wife again, your wife who's in bed with her latest boyfriend, your cheating wife. Love her the way I, GOD, love the Israelite people..." **Hosea 3:1** (MP)*

3. Repentance is required if our relationship to be restored.

*Don't point your finger at someone else and try to pass the blame... **Hosea 4:4a** (NLT)*

*... return to the LORD your God, because your sins have made you fall. ²Come back ...and say these words to him: "Take away all our sin and kindly receive us, **and** we will keep the promises we made to you." **Hosea 14:1-3** (NCV)*

- Repentance requires that I accept responsibility.
- Repentance requires that I request forgiveness.
- Repentance requires that I recommit to faithfulness.

4. God will discipline me until I repent or get to the point of no return.

*She doesn't realize it was I who gave her everything she has—the grain, the new wine, the olive oil; I even gave her silver and gold. But she gave all My gifts to Baal. ⁹ "But now I will take back the ripened grain and new wine I generously provided each harvest season. I will take away the wool and linen clothing I gave her to cover her nakedness. ¹² ...things she claims her lovers gave her. **Hosea 2:8, 9, 12** (NLT)*

*That is why I'm going to win her back. I will lead her into the desert. I will speak tenderly to her. ¹⁵ I will give her vineyards there. I will make the valley of Anchor [Disaster] a door of hope. **Hosea 2:8, 9, 12** (NLT)*

*Judah also saw that I divorced Israel and sent her away because she had turned from me and had become a prostitute. But Judah, Israel's unfaithful sister, was not afraid. She too became a prostitute. **Jeremiah 3: 8** (GNB)*

5. I am better off with God.

*She will run after her lovers but will not catch them. She will look for them but will not find them. Then she will say, "I am going back to my first husband---I was better off then than I am now." **Hosea 2:9** (GNB)*