

Hosea 1

Hosea 1:1 – “The word of the Lord that came to Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.”

1. Kings of Judah:
 - a. Uzziah (792-740)
 - b. Jotham (750-735)
 - c. Ahaz (735-715)
 - d. Hezekiah (715-686) (or, co-reign with father began 728/727)
2. King of Israel:
 - a. Jeroboam II (793-753)
 - b. Israel falls in 722
3. Hosea prophesied from about 760-710 BC for a total of 50 years (or, shortest option would be 753-728, or 25 years)
4. “word”
 - a. Indicates prophetic nature
 - b. Hebrew is *dabar*
 - i. Singular
 - ii. Indicates communication
5. Hosea’s father’s name Beeri is *b’r* in Hebrew and means “well” or “pit”. The importance of this name, as with the listing of Gomer’s father is:
 - a. These are historical people
 - b. Beeri and Diblaim would have negotiated the marriage and the price for the bride if this was to be a typical marriage of this time.
6. Hosea is a name formed from *yasa* which is the word used to for “save” it means “help” or “deliver”. The name Hosea means “YHWH has saved”

1:2 – “When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord.” ”

1. This would have been about 760 BC late in Jeroboam’s reign
2. “first spoke” means this was the Lord’s first revelation to Hosea. And, his ministry as a prophet began.
3. “Go, take for yourself” includes the common verb “take” – *laqah* – which is used to describe the act of getting a bride.
 - a. There would have been negotiations between the families
 - b. The bride would be taken by the husband to be his
4. “harlotry” – *zenunim* – refers to Gomer’s sexual history
5. This marriage is to bring attention to Israel’s unfaithfulness. Israel’s relationship with the Lord is the focus. Israel is unfaithful and disobedient to her husband, the Lord.
6. “children of whoredom” is an exact parallel with “wife of whoredom”. This could mean:
 - a. The children will become just like their mother which fits the imagery reflecting Israel. Each generation merely becomes like the previous and there is no hope.
 - b. Hosea 2:4 – “Upon her children also I will have no mercy, because they are children of whoredom.”

- c. This seems to be the meaning, the children would become like their mother (unfaithful) instead of saying the children were born from another man.
- d. Several options are possible:
 - i. All Hosea's children
 - ii. All (not Jezreel) were children of other men
 - iii. Jezreel was Hosea's; the other two were not
 - iv. The details are not known and are not provided because the emphasis is on the names the Lord gave Hosea to use in naming the children. The focus is the prophetic message.

1:3 – “So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.”

1. The birth of this first child, a boy, named Jezreel would have been around 759 BC.
2. “bore him a son”
 - a. This indicates Hosea was the father of Jezreel
 - b. This information is not included in the next two children which means:
 - i. It is assumed they were also Hosea's children and the written record is merely condensed and does not include this detail.
 - ii. That the 2nd and 3rd children were not Hosea's, but another man's children

1:4 – “And the Lord said to him, “Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.” ”

6485 [e]	4592 [e]	5750 [e]	3588 [e]	3157 [e]	8034 [e]	7121 [e]	413 [e]	3068 [e]	559 [e]
ū·pā·qad·tī	mə·'at,	'ō·wḏ	kī-	yiz·re·'el;	šə·mōw	qə·rā	'ê·lāw,	Yah·weh	way·yō·mer
וּפְקַדְתִּי	מְעַט	עוֹד	כִּי	יִזְרְעֵאל	שְׁמוֹ	קְרָא	אֵלָיו	יְהוָה	וַיֹּאמֶר 4
and I will avenge	in a little [while]	yet	for	Jezreel	his name	Call	to him	Yahweh	And said
Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-1cs	Adj-ms	Adv	Conj	N-proper-ms	N-msc 3ms	V-Qal-Imp-ms	Prep 3ms	N-proper-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms

3478 [e]	1004 [e]	4468 [e]	7673 [e]	3058 [e]	1004 [e]	5921 [e]	3157 [e]	1818 [e]	853 [e]
yis·rā·'ēl.	bêt	mam·lə·kūṭ	wə·hiš·bat·tī,	yê·hū,	bêt	'al-	yiz·re·'el	də·mê	'et-
יִשְׂרָאֵל:	בֵּית	מַמְלַכּוֹת	וְהִשְׁבַּתִּי	יְהוּא	בֵּית	עַל-	יִזְרְעֵאל	דַּמִּי	אֶת-
of Israel	of the house	the kingdom	and bring to an end	of Jehu	the house	on	of Jezreel	the bloodshed	-
N-proper-ms	N-msc	N-fsc	Conj-w V-Hifil-ConjPerf-1cs	N-proper-ms	N-msc	Prep	N-proper-fs	N-mpc	DirObjM

1. Jehu's dynasty - Jeroboam II was the 4th generation of the Jehu dynasty:
 - a. 1st generation - **Jehu** – 28 years
 - b. 2nd generation - **Jehoahaz** – 17 years
 - c. 3rd generation - **Jehoash** – 16 years
 - d. 4th generation - **Jeroboam II** – 41 years
 - e. end - **Zechariah** – ½ year or six months
2. “Jezreel”
 - a. Means “God sows” and is the name of the fertile valley, Jezreel Valley and a city of Omri where Ahab had a palace.
 - b. Hosea may be using a reference to “sowing” to point out the principle of sowing and reaping your actions. This is seen in:

- i. Hosea 8:7 where they sow the wind, but reap the whirlwind
 - ii. Hosea 10:12 the people of Israel are encouraged to sow righteousness and reap steadfast love.
 - c. “Jezreel” is grammatically and phonetically similar to the word “Israel” which makes a connection in the way it is read and the way it sounds.
3. “bring” or “punish” or “avenge” is the Hebrew phrase **paqad ‘al** and literally means “visit” or “inspect”
- a. Exodus 34:7 – has the same word *poqed /paw-kad/* meaning “to attend to”, “visit”, “muster” “appoint”

5352 [e]	3808 [e]	5352 [e]	2403 [e]	6588 [e]	5771 [e]	5375 [e]	505 [e]	2617 [e]	5341 [e]
yə-naq-qeh,	lō	wə-naq-qêh	wə-ḥat-ṭā-‘āh;	wā-pe-ša’	‘ā-wōn	nō-sé	lā-‘ā-lā-pīm,	ḥe-seḏ	nō-ṣêr
יִנְקֶה	לֹא	וַיִּנְקֶה	וַחֲטָאָה	וַפְשָׁע	עֲוֹן	נִשְׂא	לְאֲלָפִים	חֶסֶד	נֹצֵר 7
by means	no	and clearing [the guilty]	and sin	and transgression	iniquity	forgiving	for thousands	mercy	keeping
V-Piel-Imperf-3ms	Adv-NegPrt	Conj-w V-Piel-InfAbs	Conj-w N-fs	Conj-w N-ms	N-cs	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	Prep-l, Art Number-mp	N-ms	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms

7256 [e]	5921 [e]	8029 [e]	5921 [e]	1121 [e]	1121 [e]	5921 [e]	1121 [e]	5921 [e]	1 [e]	5771 [e]	6485 [e]
rib-bê-‘îm.	wə-‘al-	šil-lê-šîm	‘al-	bā-nîm,	bē-nê	wə-‘al-	bā-nîm	‘al-	‘ā-bō-wî,	‘ā-wōn	pō-qêḏ
רִבְעִים:	וְעַל-	שְׁלִישִׁים	עַל-	בָּנִים	בְּנֵי	וְעַל-	בָּנִים	עַל-	אָבוֹת	עֲוֹן	פְּקֹדֵי
the fourth [generation]	and	the third	to	of the sons	children	and	the sons	upon	of the fathers	the iniquity	visiting
N-mp	Conj-w Prep	N-mp	Prep	N-mp	N-mpc	Conj-w Prep	N-mp	Prep	N-mp	N-csc	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms

- b. This may indicate punishment for Jehu’s murdering of Ahab’s house in the Jezreel Valley – 2 Kings 9-10. But, this was supported by
 - c. Or, more likely, Jezreel Valley is the place where kingdoms and dynasties are overthrown
4. “blood of Jezreel” shed by the house of Jehu most likely refers to corrupt activities since the day Jehu took over

1:5 – **“And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”** ”

- 1. This verse takes the prophecy of the fall of the dynasty of Jehu to also refer to the fall of the entire nation of Israel in a “Valley of Jezreel” like event.
- 2. “break the bow” is a clear reference to military defeat.
- 3. This was fulfilled in:
 - a. 733 when Tiglath-pileser took the Jezreel Valley and the surrounding area
 - b. 722 when Shalmaneser V had laid siege on Samaria for 3 years and it finally fell to his brother Sargon (both were sons of Tiglath-pileser)

1:6 – **“She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the Lord said to him, “Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all.””**

- 1. The birth of this second child, a girl, named No Mercy would have been around 757-756 BC
- 2. ...

1:7 – **“But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen.”** ”

1:8 – **“When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son.”**

- 1. The birth of this third child, another boy, named Not My People would have been around 755-754 BC.

2. Jeroboam II died in 753 and his son Zechariah was assassinated six months later in 752 ending the dynasty of Jehu. The prophecies attached to the children named by Hosea are fulfilled, yet there is a greater fulfillment of this prophecy developing in the current events of the nation of Israel. Thirty years later in 722 the whole nation will face Assyria to:
- a. Fall by the sword
 - b. Receive no mercy
 - c. And, no longer be the people of the Lord

1:9 – **“And the Lord said, “Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God.” ”**

1:10 – **““Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, “You are not my people,” it shall be said to them, “Children of the living God.” ” ”**

1:11 – **““And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.” ”**