

Read Hosea 1:1. **Brief background of Hosea.**

*During the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah,
and during the reign of Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel*
Hosea 1:1

- Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah - kings of Judah from 790 BC to 686 BC.
- Jeroboam II - king of Israel from 782 BC to 753 BC.

Were these kings good or evil? [Hint: 2 Chronicles 26:3-4, 2 Kings 15:32-34, 2 Kings 16:2, 2 Kings 18:1-6, 2 Kings 14:23-24]

Read Hosea 1:2-11, 3:1-5. **Hosea has 3 children. What are their names and what do they mean?**

God is going to use Hosea as a prophetic symbol of His relationship with Israel. Complete the following table of parallels between Hosea's personal life and God's relationship with Israel.

Agony of an Unfaithful Mate	Tragedy of an Unfaithful People
Marriage with Gomer	
Gomer is an adulterous woman	
Redeemed his wife for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley	

Hosea 4-10. **I have listed down some of the main points of Hosea's accusations and warnings for Israel corresponding to the theme of the chapters. The list is not exhaustive, please feel free to add more as you read.**

Chapter 4: Charge against Israel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bloodshed• Rejected knowledge of (i.e. relationship with) God• Idolatry• Immorality
-------------------------------------	--

Chapter 5: Judgement against Israel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel's priests/kings will be punished • Israel, as a nation will lay in ruins • God will turn away from the Israelites
Chapter 6-7: Israel Unrepentant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel continues to reject the knowledge of God • Continues bloodshed (Gilead, Shechem) • Rely on political alliances with Egypt and Assyria
Chapter 8-10: Punishment for Israel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God will remember and punish • God will reject current Israel • Israelites will be wanders among nations • Cities will be destroyed

In summary (Chapters 4-10), God's judgement and consequence for Israel's sin comes in three parts:

Scan through Hosea 12-13. Hosea mentioned three historic events that is closely linked to Israel. Which are the historic events?

What is the significance of Hosea making mention of these historic events?

Hosea 11 & 14. In these 2 chapters, we shall answer the question 'What hope does Israel have?'. Hosea uses 2 images, one in each chapter to show the relationship between God and Israel. What is the image and what is God's promise of hope for Israel.

	Chapter 11	Chapter 14
Image		
God's promise		

Base on this overview, what would be a personal theme that you assign to the Book of Hosea?

The final verse in Hosea (14:9) reminds us that the Scriptures are far from a mere collection of abstract statements or historic prophecies locked up in the past. Hosea's poetry reveals deep truths about God's character and His ultimate purpose is to heal and save his people.