

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

*A Love That
Will Not
Let Me Go*

A STUDY OF HOSEA

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®
KINGS AND PROPHETS SERIES
Course 8
A LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO
A STUDY OF HOSEA

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Hebrew Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

GAEBELIEN, FRANK E.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 7

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishers, 1990

GARRET, D. A.

The New American Commentary

Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1997

KEIL, C. F.; DELITZSCH, F.

Commentary on the Old Testament

Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers Inc., 1996

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN WE WANT YOU TO KNOW. . .

Beloved, thank you for joining us in the eighth of our ten-course study in the Kings and Prophets series, *A Love That Will Not Let Me Go*. How we pray that this study of Hosea will help you understand the wonder of God's covenant love to all His covenant people. Remember, the Old Testament was written for our instruction, hope, and encouragement (1 Corinthians 10:11; Romans 15:4).

If you're new to this series, it's important for you to know that the Old Testament books we're studying are a mix of history and concurrent prophecy. We designed this series to give you a full picture of events in Israel during a specific period of history.

While we want you to have the full picture of these times, we also want you to be able to separate out the writings of the prophets should you desire. So we divided this series into ten separate courses. This and the fact that the course does not demand an overwhelming commitment should encourage newcomers to join us without hesitation. We trust that you are about our Father's business recruiting others to study God's Word for themselves!

Remember, Beloved: God put sixty-six books into His Book. There is a purpose for each one and we need to study each and every one. To ignore the Word of God is to ignore God, which is the height of pride. The Bible is *the Word* of the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

God has spoken, and what He has spoken is absolute truth. He told us we're to live by every word which comes from His mouth (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4). Therefore we must not neglect the Word of God or prefer the words of men (books authored by human beings) over the very words of God. The content of each book of the Bible is critical to our lives; otherwise, God would not have included it in His eternal Word.

You're doing what you ought to be doing and we're proud of you for disciplining yourself for the purpose of godliness, for adding to your faith, knowledge—the knowledge of the one and only true God, His ways, His history, His commandments, His ordinances and precepts for life.

It's our prayer that you will see how critically relevant Hosea is to our times and to your life so that you'll confidently know and understand that He loves you with a love that will not let you go. May this love cause you to keep His commandments and honor Him for Who He truly is.

How we look forward to your stories about how God uses these courses to teach you more of Who He is, to conform you more into His Son's image, and to prepare you to be the vessel of righteousness He desires to use for the furtherance of His kingdom. And how we would love to see you face-to-face at one of our training workshops, study courses, tours, or conferences!

Blessings untold,



Kay Arthur for all the Precept Staff

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FIRST-TIMERS

Welcome to Precept Upon Precept Inductive Bible studies. We're excited that you'll be studying with us! Inductive Bible study draws you into personal interaction with God through His Word so that your beliefs are based on a prayerful observation and understanding of the Scriptures—truth that will transform your life. Studying this way is summed up in the words of the psalmist: “for You Yourself have taught me” (Psalm 119:102). May the Lord bless you richly as you delve into the treasures of His Word.

The following will be helpful to you as you begin your studies:

OBSERVING THE TEXT

In the lessons that follow, you'll be asked to mark key words or phrases on a particular passage using Observation Worksheets.

- Key words or phrases unlock your understanding of the text. Marking them distinctively with colors or symbols helps you quickly locate the word or phrase, see how it's used and how often.
- It's advantageous to keep markings simple; colors and color combinations are easiest least cluttering.
- You'll find suggestions on the back cover of your Precept book; however, colors and symbols are your choice.
- When you have several words or phrases to mark, it's helpful to read the chapter more than once, marking a couple of words each time.
- It's also helpful to make a bookmark (e.g., an index card) and list all the key words, marking them the way you want to mark them in the text.

FILLING IN THE AT A GLANCE CHART

As you finish observing a chapter, you'll be asked to record its theme (main subject) on an **At a Glance** chart specifically designed for the book you're studying. This chart provides space to list each chapter's theme and places for recording other pertinent information on the book. When completed, this chart provides a synopsis of the book at a glance.

We have three sources that will show you how to do the above and more (all available at www.precept.org or by calling 800-763-8280):

How to Study Your Bible by Kay Arthur, David Arthur, and Pete DeLacy: Chapter 2, “Getting the Big Picture.”

The New Inductive Study Bible (NISB). See “How to Use the Inductive Study Approach” and “A System for Marking Key Words . . . Throughout Your Bible.”

Discover the Bible for Yourself by Kay Arthur, “Observation.”

WORD STUDIES

You’ll find out how to do word studies by reading the chapter, “It’s All Greek to Me,” in *How to Study Your Bible*.

There are many helpful computer programs. We highly recommend Logos Bible Software’s wide range of products.

We’re so thankful you’ve joined us. You’re about to join hundreds of thousands in an exciting adventure that will help you discover truth for yourself in a way you’ve never done before. Your life will be transformed and strengthened through the Word of God.

However, we want you to remember that it takes time and practice to make these study skills “second nature.” And it does not come without spiritual warfare. The only offensive weapon the child of God has is the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. You need to sharpen this sword and not let anyone or anything discourage you. Precept is not difficult; it simply takes time and discipline, but that’s what discipleship is about!

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, call your Precept Leader for help. We are sure he/she will help you or connect you with another student who can. We also want to urge you to take our training workshops. They will teach you basic inductive study skills and give you an opportunity to practice them. There are also workshops to help prepare you to lead Precept should God so direct. You can find out more about the training workshops by going online to www.precept.org.

Blessings, Beloved. Welcome to the Precept family.

Remember, you too can say with the psalmist, “I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, for You Yourself have taught me.”

LESSON ONE

A Love That Will Not Let Me Go

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of Hosea 1–3
“Hosea at a Glance”
Jezreel Valley map
“The Rulers and Prophets of Hosea’s Time”
Observation Worksheet of Ezekiel 16:1-43, 60-63
Cross-references

How much and how long will You love me, my God?

Surviving the trauma of fractured relationships, the frailty and fickleness of human love make the answer to this question a matter of the greatest security and peace. The study you’re about to embark on could not be more timely or needful.


DAY ONE

If you begin each day’s study with prayer, crying out to the God of heaven for insight, wisdom, and understanding of the pertinence of this book, then God will meet with you in a very profound and personal way. It’s His delight to answer the cry of your heart.

1. Remember the Bible is God’s book, His words—recorded word-for-word under the supervision of the Holy Spirit. So come to God in childlike trust, dear disciple, and listen accordingly. As you learn more and more of His Word, more and more you’ll come to know your God better and watch with amazement and delight as Scripture interprets Scripture and the Spirit teaches you how to live.

Let’s begin our study by reading your Observation Worksheets of Hosea 1–3. Using a pencil, underline every reference to *wife*, *husband*, *mother*. Then write down your first impression of what you think these three chapters are about.

2. Now let’s begin our observations of Hosea 1. Mark the following key words along with their synonyms and pronouns. (As we suggest in other courses, you might want to list these words on a card, mark them as you will mark them in the text, then use the card as a bookmark.)

- a. *the Lord first spoke, the Lord said*
 - b. *harlotry, play the harlot*
 - c. *I will*
 - d. *compassion* (If it's a negative phrase, put a slash through it like this \.)
 - e. *Israel* (the Northern Kingdom—capital, Samaria)
 - f. *Judah* (the Southern Kingdom—capital, Jerusalem)
 - g. *the land* given by God to Israel by covenant as an everlasting possession
 - h. *name him (her)* _____ and include the name in the marking.
3. Read Hosea 1 again and:
- a. Mark references to time. Many of us do this with a green clock like this .
 - b. Double underline geographical references in green. Places are as important in the Word of God as time. You will find a map of the Jezreel Valley in the Appendix.
4. What do you learn from marking “days” in Hosea 1:1? *When* did the Word of the Lord come to Hosea? The answer will give you a clearer understanding of the timing of Hosea’s messages.
5. Let’s see when the kings mentioned in Hosea 1:1 ruled.
- a. Look at the chart “The Rulers and Prophets of Hosea’s Time,” in the Appendix. Locate the names of the kings mentioned in verse 1, then list them under the kingdoms they ruled over with the years of their reigns (as recorded on the chart). (If you’ve been doing our Kings and Prophets Series, this is all review for you. Remember, the more you review and repeat things out loud, the more you’ll remember them.)

THE KINGS OF HOSEA 1:1

Kings of Judah	Years ruled	Kings of Israel	Years ruled

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Lesson 1, Hosea 1-3

- b. Now, using the same chart, what were the names of the kings of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) who ruled during the reigns of the Southern kings listed in Hosea 1:1?
- c. “The Rulers and Prophets of Hosea’s Time” chart shows that Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Note the names of the prophets to the Southern Kingdom during Hosea’s time.

6. Great start! You now have the historical setting of Hosea.

Thank you, Beloved, for joining “Preceptors” all over the world who are hungry to discover truth for themselves so they know that they know. What a testimony this bears to the Word of God! Your willingness to discipline your time shows you are serious about knowing Him by studying His Word. Your actions say, “Lord, I believe that I am to live by every word that comes from Your mouth.” That, Beloved, is huge!

DAY
TWO

1. Today we are going to dig a little deeper into Hosea 1:1-9. One of the phrases you marked yesterday was *the Lord first spoke* and *the Lord said*. Look at each place you marked these synonymous phrases. How many times did the Lord speak to Hosea in this first chapter?
2. Now, asking the 5 Ws and H: who, what, when, where, why and how, list everything you learn about God’s messages to Hosea in the order they are spoken by God. Watch the *I wills* of God you marked.

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Lesson 1, Hosea 1-3

3. The marginal notes in the *New American Standard Bible (NASB)* give the meaning of the names of the children born to Gomer except for *Jezreel* which means “God sows”; *Lo-ruhamah* means “she has not obtained compassion”; *Lo-ammi* means “not my people.” (The *Lo* is the “not.”)
4. Let’s stop for a moment and think about God’s command to Hosea to name his first son Jezreel, “God sows.”
 - a. What were the two reasons given for naming his son Jezreel, and when would God sow?
 - b. Now look at *when* God put an end to the kingdom of Israel. Consult the chart “The Rulers and Prophets of Hosea’s Time,” and record the year the last part of the Northern Kingdom was taken into captivity. _____
 - c. Second Kings 15:27-29 describes the first captivity of the Northern Kingdom which occurred about 733 B.C. Read it to become familiar with the events. This displacement left Ephraim alone in the Northern Kingdom.
 - d. Now read 2 Kings 17:5-6, 18, 22-23. These verses sum up the Northern Kingdom’s final captivity into Assyria. Second Kings 17:7-18 tells you *why* God did this.
 - e. Now put on your thinking caps! In light of all you observed, was the birth of Jezreel before or after the Assyrian captivity of Israel?
5. *Harlotry* is a key word used from Hosea 1 all the way into the ninth chapter. You’ll want to learn everything you can from God’s use of this word since it is used often in connection with His people. What do you learn from marking *harlotry* in Hosea 1?

6. Hosea 1:2 tells us the *why* of God's command to Hosea. God often had His prophets do something symbolic. Let's look up only two instances out of many. See what each was told to do and why. Be succinct.

a. Isaiah 20:1-4

b. Jeremiah 13:1-11 (Jeremiah and Ezekiel's prophecies focus on the Babylonian captivity of Judah but also stretch out to the millennial kingdom.)

7. Like the prophets of old there are times when we have opportunities to show people what God is all about, the way we live picturing truth about God. We do this when we walk in obedience in the midst of trial, suffering, and need. There are also times when God calls us to set aside one of the freedoms He gives us, in order to be a more effective witness, or to prevent us from being a stumbling block to the people we're seeking to reach for Christ.

In *our* times of egocentric philosophy ("*it's all about me*") creeping into the church, it's vital we understand that sometimes we have to sacrifice, even as Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and others did. Look up the following verses, note what they say, and then think about them. Is God saying anything to your heart? Any application to be made?

a. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

b. Romans 14:13-21

c. Romans 15:1-3

Well, Beloved, this is enough for today. Since Hosea 1:10 is the beginning of Hosea 2 in the Hebrew Bible, we're going to wait until tomorrow to look at these verses, which fit better with the content of Hosea 2.

Our prayer for you and for us, Beloved, is that our lives will be living testimonies of the One whose name we bear. May the message of His "so great a salvation" be seen fleshed out in us.

DAY
THREE

Are you ready to hang on to God's every word? To discover God's purpose in including Hosea's message in His book? To be spoken to, in truth, by the Spirit of God?

Good! Your heavenly Bridegroom, who sits right now at the right hand of the Father, asked the Father, when He was on earth, to sanctify you through His Word. Tell Him you want to be sanctified—to be holy as He is holy—cleansed by the washing of the water of His Word.

1. Begin your study by reading Hosea 1 and 2 straight through. Then, since the Hebrew Bible starts Hosea 2 at 1:10, begin your observations at Hosea 1:10 and move all the way through Hosea 2.
 - a. Add *covenant* to your bookmark. Because covenant is an important theme in the Bible, it's always wise to mark this word wherever you come across it in your Bible.
 - b. When you mark references to time, mark *in that day* in a special way. You can still mark it the way you mark time, but add a special embellishment. As you will see, it truly deserves it!
2. Now look at what you've observed from Hosea 1:10 through chapter 2. Note what's being said in each of the following segments and summarize the content of each.
 - a. Hosea 1:10–2:1

b. Hosea 2:2-7

c. Hosea 2:8-13

d. Hosea 2:14-23

3. Quite possibly after observing Hosea 1 and 2 you've noticed a pattern in God's message through Hosea. First God deals with Israel's sin, then the consequences of the sin, and then their future. This is typical with other prophets.
4. Keeping this pattern in mind, read Hosea 1 and 2 again. Then think about what this tells you about God. God has said some hard things to Israel (called her a harlot), but is He finished with her? If not, what does this tell you about God's dealings with *you*?

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Lesson 1, Hosea 1-3

2. Now, summarize what you learn from this chapter about God and about Jerusalem (Israel). Be as brief as possible.

3. Do you see similarities between Ezekiel 16 and Hosea 1-2? If so, list them.

You've done well, faithful one. We'll call it a day. Tomorrow we'll see how this applies to us.

DAY
FIVE

We've come to our final chapter of study, Hosea 3. It's short but oh so sweet once you understand what God is saying. Ask Him to open your eyes so that you will see the wonder of His gracious love.

1. Observe Hosea 3.
 - a. Again, don't miss marking time. As a matter of fact, note the first word in verse 3.
 - b. Mark *even as*—a phrase that introduces important comparisons.
 - c. Mark *return, seek, and love* distinctively. Add these to your bookmark.
2. List the order of events in this chapter. Then, if there are parallel events with the sons of Israel, record them in the comparison column.

Hosea and Gomer

Comparison with Israel

Hosea and Gomer	Comparison with Israel

*A Love That Will Not
Let Me Go*

Lesson 1, Hosea 1–3

8. Let's dig a little deeper. What are you doing if you're acting immorally *in any way*? What does God call this? (When we say "acting immorally in any way," we're talking about God's definition of immorality (not society's)—no sexual activity outside of marriage. If you're not married, all sexual activity is out of bounds.¹)

9. If you've sinned against God, is all lost? Was all lost for Israel? What did you learn from marking the *I will*'s of Hosea 2:14-23 and from observing Hosea 3?

How can these messages be applied to you and to others? Immense pain comes from adultery—both immediate and long-term consequences. What is God's heart toward those who are physically or spiritually unfaithful? Is there hope for reconciliation and redemption? What does it take?

10. Finally, Beloved, in light of what you observed, how much and how long will God love you? And what is your prayer?

Please feel free to consult your commentaries on Hosea.

¹ Kay Arthur has written a very comprehensive book on the subject, *The Truth About Sex*, published by Waterbrook Press. It has been translated into several languages already and is being used not only in churches but in secular schools and universities, among teens and adults. What makes *The Truth About Sex* so powerful is that you mark scriptures that are in the book text, so that you see for yourself exactly what God says. Consequently many lives are being impacted. People are saying, "I didn't know the Bible says this. Why didn't someone tell me sooner?"

HOSEA 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THE word of the LORD which came to Hosea the son of Beeri, during the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz *and* Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

- 2 When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry and *have* children of harlotry; for the land commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking the LORD.”
- 3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.
- 4 And the LORD said to him, “Name him Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.
- 5 “On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.”
- 6 Then she conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. And the LORD said to him, “Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have compassion on the house of Israel, that I would ever forgive them.
- 7 “But I will have compassion on the house of Judah and deliver them by the LORD their God, and will not deliver them by bow, sword, battle, horses or horsemen.”
- 8 When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and gave birth to a son.
- 9 And the LORD said, “Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not My people and I am not your God.”
- 10 Yet the number of the sons of Israel
Will be like the sand of the sea,
Which cannot be measured or numbered;
And in the place
Where it is said to them,

“You are not My people,”

It will be said to them,

“*You are* the sons of the living God.”

11 And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel will be gathered
together,

And they will appoint for themselves one leader,

And they will go up from the land,

For great will be the day of Jezreel.

HOSEA 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

SAY to your brothers, “Ammi,” and to your sisters, “Ruhamah.”

- 2 “Contend with your mother, contend,
For she is not my wife, and I am not her husband;
And let her put away her harlotry from her face
And her adultery from between her breasts,
- 3 Or I will strip her naked
And expose her as on the day when she was born.
I will also make her like a wilderness,
Make her like desert land
And slay her with thirst.
- 4 “Also, I will have no compassion on her children,
Because they are children of harlotry.
- 5 “For their mother has played the harlot;
She who conceived them has acted shamefully.
For she said, ‘I will go after my lovers,
Who give *me* my bread and my water,
My wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.’
- 6 “Therefore, behold, I will hedge up her way with thorns,
And I will build a wall against her so that she cannot find her
paths.
- 7 “She will pursue her lovers, but she will not overtake them;
And she will seek them, but will not find *them*.
Then she will say, ‘I will go back to my first husband,
For it was better for me then than now!’
- 8 “For she does not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the
new wine and the oil,

And lavished on her silver and gold,
Which they used for Baal.

- 9 “Therefore, I will take back My grain at harvest time
And My new wine in its season.
I will also take away My wool and My flax
Given to cover her nakedness.
- 10 “And then I will uncover her lewdness
In the sight of her lovers,
And no one will rescue her out of My hand.
- 11 “I will also put an end to all her gaiety,
Her feasts, her new moons, her sabbaths
And all her festal assemblies.
- 12 “I will destroy her vines and fig trees,
Of which she said, ‘These are my wages
Which my lovers have given me.’
And I will make them a forest,
And the beasts of the field will devour them.
- 13 “I will punish her for the days of the Baals
When she used to offer sacrifices to them
And adorn herself with her earrings and jewelry,
And follow her lovers, so that she forgot Me,”
declares the LORD.
- 14 “Therefore, behold, I will allure her,
Bring her into the wilderness
And speak kindly to her.
- 15 “Then I will give her her vineyards from there,
And the valley of Achor as a door of hope.
And she will sing there as in the days of her youth,
As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.
- 16 “It will come about in that day,” declares the LORD,
“That you will call Me Ishi
And will no longer call Me Baali.

- 17 “For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth,
So that they will be mentioned by their names no more.
- 18 “In that day I will also make a covenant for them
With the beasts of the field,
The birds of the sky
And the creeping things of the ground.
And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land,
And will make them lie down in safety.
- 19 “I will betroth you to Me forever;
Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice,
In lovingkindness and in compassion,
- 20 And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness.
Then you will know the LORD.
- 21 “It will come about in that day that I will respond,”
declares the LORD.
“I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the
earth,
- 22 And the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine and to
the oil,
And they will respond to Jezreel.
- 23 “I will sow her for Myself in the land.
I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained
compassion,
And I will say to those who were not My people,
‘You are My people!’
And they will say, ‘*You are my God!*’ ”

HOSEA 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THEN the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman *who* is loved by *her* husband, yet an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes.”

- 2 So I bought her for myself for fifteen *shekels* of silver and a homer and a half of barley.
- 3 Then I said to her, “You shall stay with me for many days. You shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man; so I will also be toward you.”
- 4 For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or *sacred* pillar and without ephod or household idols.
- 5 Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.

HOSEA AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

	Message Themes	Chapter Themes
Author:		1
		2
Date:		3
		4
Purpose:		5
		6
Key Words:		7
		8
		9
		10
		11
		12
		13
		14

EZEKIEL 16:1-43, 60-63

THEN the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

- 2 “Son of man, make known to Jerusalem her abominations
- 3 and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem, “Your origin and your birth are from the land of the Canaanite, your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite.
- 4 “As for your birth, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water for cleansing; you were not rubbed with salt or even wrapped in cloths.
- 5 “No eye looked with pity on you to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you. Rather you were thrown out into the open field, for you were abhorred on the day you were born.
- 6 “When I passed by you and saw you squirming in your blood, I said to you *while you were* in your blood, ‘Live!’ Yes, I said to you *while you were* in your blood, ‘Live!’
- 7 “I made you numerous like plants of the field. Then you grew up, became tall and reached the age for fine ornaments; *your* breasts were formed and your hair had grown. Yet you were naked and bare.
- 8 “Then I passed by you and saw you, and behold, you were at the time for love; so I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness. I also swore to you and entered into a covenant with you so that you became Mine,” declares the Lord GOD.
- 9 “Then I bathed you with water, washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil.
- 10 “I also clothed you with embroidered cloth and put sandals of porpoise skin on your feet; and I wrapped you with fine linen and covered you with silk.
- 11 “I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your hands and a necklace around your neck.
- 12 “I also put a ring in your nostril, earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head.

- 13 “Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your dress was of fine linen, silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour, honey and oil; so you were exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty.
- 14 “Then your fame went forth among the nations on account of your beauty, for it was perfect because of My splendor which I bestowed on you,” declares the Lord GOD.
- 15 “But you trusted in your beauty and played the harlot because of your fame, and you poured out your harlotries on every passer-by who might be *willing*.
- 16 “You took some of your clothes, made for yourself high places of various colors and played the harlot on them, which should never come about nor happen.
- 17 “You also took your beautiful jewels *made* of My gold and of My silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself male images that you might play the harlot with them.
- 18 “Then you took your embroidered cloth and covered them, and offered My oil and My incense before them.
- 19 “Also My bread which I gave you, fine flour, oil and honey with which I fed you, you would offer before them for a soothing aroma; so it happened,” declares the Lord GOD.
- 20 “Moreover, you took your sons and daughters whom you had borne to Me and sacrificed them to idols to be devoured. Were your harlotries so small a matter?
- 21 “You slaughtered My children and offered them up to idols by causing them to pass through *the fire*.
- 22 “Besides all your abominations and harlotries you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare and squirming in your blood.
- 23 “Then it came about after all your wickedness (‘Woe, woe to you!’ declares the Lord GOD),
- 24 that you built yourself a shrine and made yourself a high place in every square.
- 25 “You built yourself a high place at the top of every street and made your beauty abominable, and you spread your legs to every passer-by to multiply your harlotry.
- 26 “You also played the harlot with the Egyptians, your lustful neighbors, and multiplied your harlotry to make Me angry.

- 27 “Behold now, I have stretched out My hand against you and diminished your rations. And I delivered you up to the desire of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, who are ashamed of your lewd conduct.
- 28 “Moreover, you played the harlot with the Assyrians because you were not satisfied; you played the harlot with them and still were not satisfied.
- 29 “You also multiplied your harlotry with the land of merchants, Chaldea, yet even with this you were not satisfied.” ’ ’ ”
- 30 “How languishing is your heart,” declares the Lord GOD, “while you do all these things, the actions of a bold-faced harlot.
- 31 “When you built your shrine at the beginning of every street and made your high place in every square, in disdain of money, you were not like a harlot.
- 32 “You adulteress wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband!
- 33 “Men give gifts to all harlots, but you give your gifts to all your lovers to bribe them to come to you from every direction for your harlotries.
- 34 “Thus you are different from those women in your harlotries, in that no one plays the harlot as you do, because you give money and no money is given you; thus you are different.”
- 35 Therefore, O harlot, hear the word of the LORD.
- 36 Thus says the Lord GOD, “Because your lewdness was poured out and your nakedness uncovered through your harlotries with your lovers and with all your detestable idols, and because of the blood of your sons which you gave to idols,
- 37 therefore, behold, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, even all those whom you loved *and* all those whom you hated. So I will gather them against you from every direction and expose your nakedness to them that they may see all your nakedness.
- 38 “Thus I will judge you like women who commit adultery or shed blood are judged; and I will bring on you the blood of wrath and jealousy.
- 39 “I will also give you into the hands of your lovers, and they will tear down your shrines, demolish your high places, strip you of your clothing, take away your jewels, and will leave you naked and bare.
- 40 “They will incite a crowd against you and they will stone you and cut you to pieces with their swords.

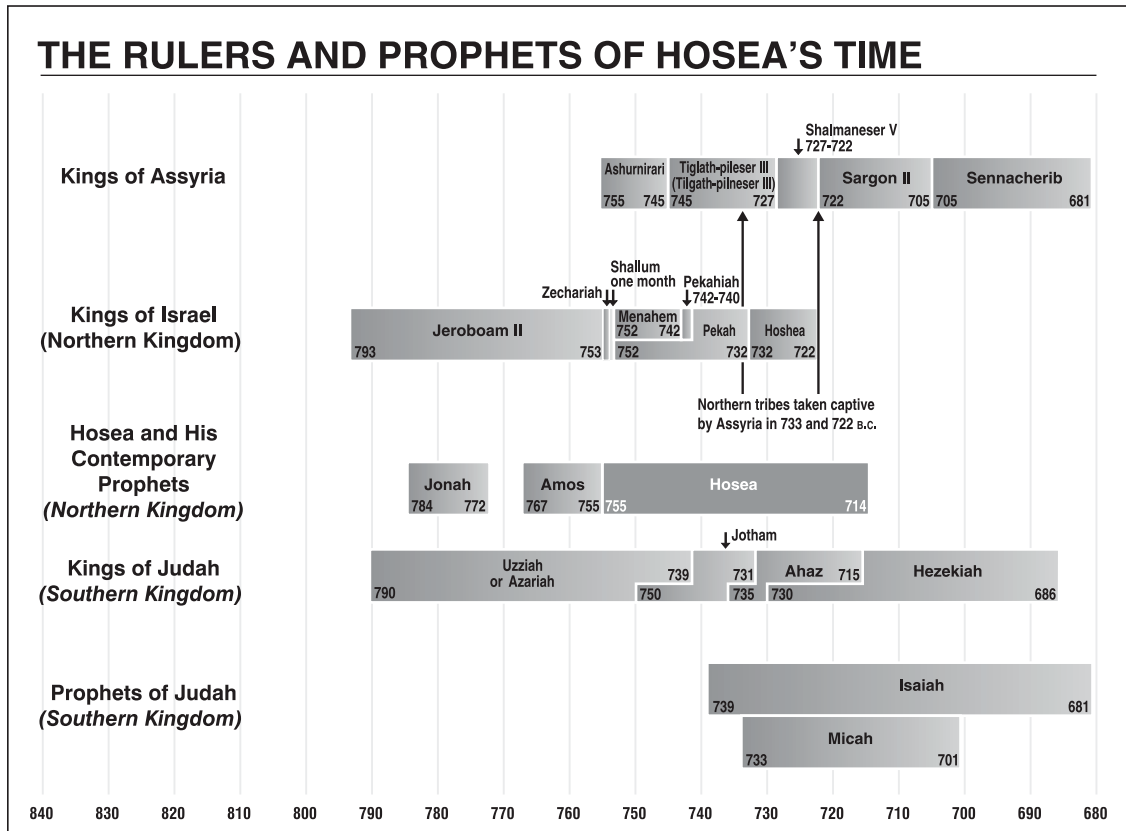
***A Love That Will Not
Let Me Go***

Ezekiel 16:1-43, 60-63

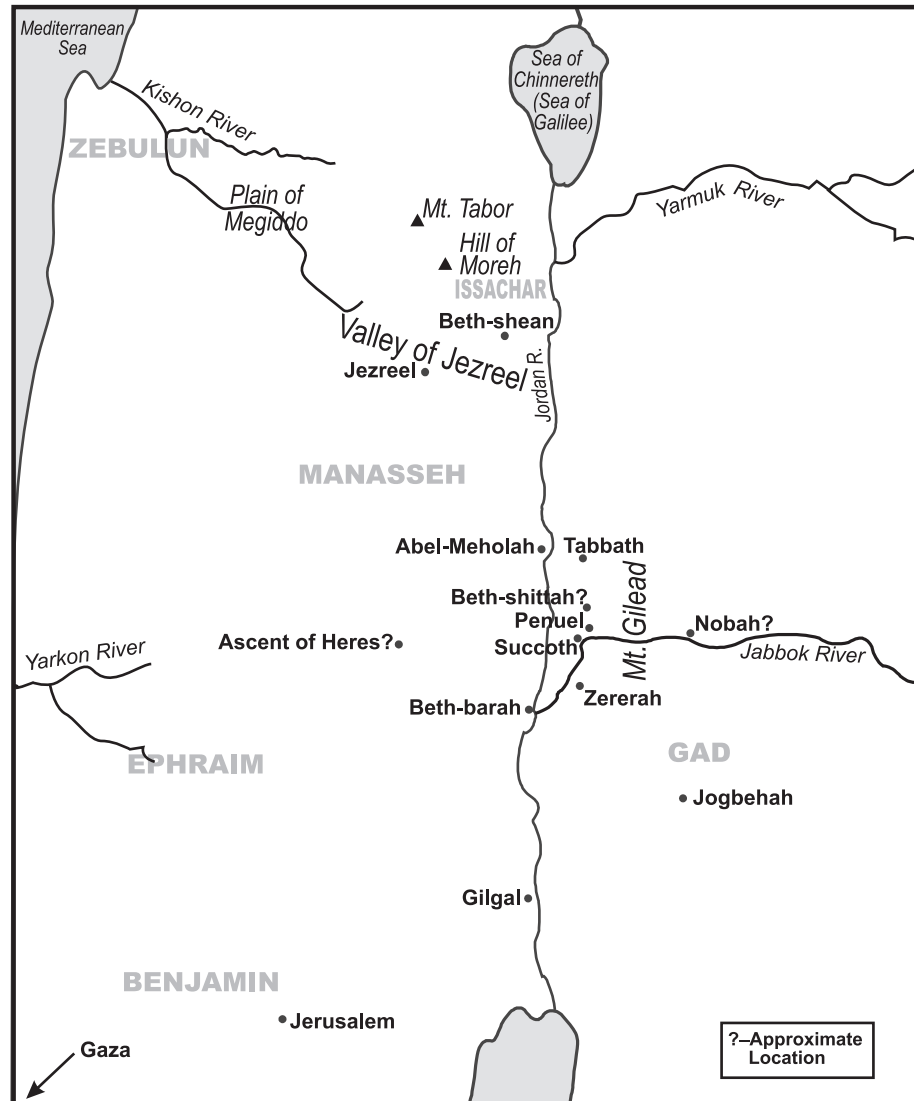
- 41 “They will burn your houses with fire and execute judgments on you in the sight of many women. Then I will stop you from playing the harlot, and you will also no longer pay your lovers.
- 42 “So I will calm My fury against you and My jealousy will depart from you, and I will be pacified and angry no more.
- 43 “Because you have not remembered the days of your youth but have enraged Me by all these things, behold, I in turn will bring your conduct down on your own head,” declares the Lord GOD, “so that you will not commit this lewdness on top of all your *other* abominations.
- 60 “Nevertheless, I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you.
- 61 “Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you receive your sisters, *both* your older and your younger; and I will give them to you as daughters, but not because of your covenant.
- 62 “Thus I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the LORD,
- 63 so that you may remember and be ashamed and never open your mouth anymore because of your humiliation, when I have forgiven you for all that you have done,” the Lord GOD declares.

*A Love That Will Not
Let Me Go*

The Rulers and Prophets of Hosea's Time



*A Love That Will Not
Let Me Go*
Jezreel Valley map



Jezreel is the name of northern **and** southern cities in Israel. Locate the northern city on the map since this is the one you need to focus on. Look also for the valley of Jezreel. This valley is also called the valley of Armageddon (Har-Magedon) named for the mountains (Har) or city of Megiddo. It is lush, beautiful and green—breathtaking when you look at it from the top of the Tel of Megiddo, one of Solomon’s chariot cities. When Napoleon saw it, he said it was the greatest battlefield he’d seen. It’s awesome to stand there and realize this is where all the nations will someday gather themselves to go to war against Israel and against her God.

