**Hosea**

*The Road to Unfaithfulness*

*Hosea 1*

Background

* Hosea means “deliverance.”
* Hosea is a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel. The last few years of Jeroboam II and the unauthorized kings to follow (Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea – II Kings 14-17).
* Matthew Henry: Outwardly, Israel was prosperous. Syria and Moab had been conquered, the borders of the land had been extended, temple offerings were fine. Inwardly, there was decay. Baal worship. They turned to Egypt versus God.
* Contemporary of Isaiah and Micah (southern kingdom of Judah) and likely with Jonah (Nineveh).
* Followed Amos who was also a prophet to Jeroboam II.

Begins with Departure from the Lord

* Refusal to Obey the Hard Commands (v 2)
* Partial Obedience
  + 30 And the LORD said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing *that which is* right in mine eyes, *and* hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that  *was* in mine heart, thy children of the fourth *generation* shall sit on the throne of Israel. 31 But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin. (2 Kings 10:30-31)
* Confusing Convenience for Worship

Greatly Impacts Our Children

* Jezreel - Castaway
* Loruhamah - No More Mercy
* Loammi – Not My People

God Will Choose to Work Through Others (v 10)

* 22 *What* if God, willing to shew *his* wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: 23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, 24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? 25 ¶ As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. 26 And it shall come to pass, *that* in the place where it was said unto them, Ye *are* not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God. (Rom 9:22-26)

Only One Way to Restoration – Turn to Jesus (v 11)

32 Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. 33 By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD. 34 For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David’s sake. 35 ¶ And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they *were* all dead corpses. 36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. 37 And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and they escaped into the land of Armenia. And Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead. (2 Kings 19:32-37)