

## Dr. Marv Wilson, Prophets, Session 16, Hosea, Part 3

### Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

#### 1. Abstract of Wilson, Prophets, Session 16, Hosea, Part 3, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Marv Wilson's "Prophets, Session 16, Hosea, Part 3" offers an in-depth exploration of the Book of Hosea. The lecture examines key concepts like *hesed* (steadfast love) and *Da'at Elohim* (knowledge of God), emphasizing their significance within the covenantal relationship between God and Israel. **Wilson elucidates Hosea's biographical narrative, particularly the prophet's marriage to Gomer, as a symbolic representation of God's unwavering pursuit of His unfaithful people.** He connects Hosea's prophecies to Jewish wedding traditions and underscores the messianic implications embedded in the text. **The discussion encompasses themes of exile, restoration, and the future Messianic age, further drawing parallels between Old Testament prophecies and their fulfillment in the New Testament, specifically referencing Paul's use of Hosea in his teachings on the resurrection.** The lecture highlights the essential link between knowledge of God and practical obedience, emphasizing that true understanding leads to righteous living.

**2. 15 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of  
Dr. Wilson, Prophets, Session 16 – Double click icon to play in  
Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL]  
Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament →  
Major Prophets → Prophetic Literature).**



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ession 16.mp3**

### **3. Briefing Document: Wilson, Prophets, Session 16, Hosea, Part 3**

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. Marv Wilson's lecture on Hosea, Part 3:

#### **Briefing Document: Dr. Marv Wilson on Hosea, Part 3**

##### **Introduction:**

This document summarizes the key themes and concepts presented in Dr. Marv Wilson's lecture (Session 16) on the Book of Hosea, specifically part 3. Wilson explores Hosea's prophetic message through the lens of God's unwavering love and covenant faithfulness to an unfaithful Israel, drawing parallels to the relationship between Hosea and his adulterous wife, Gomer. He also examines key Hebrew concepts and their implications within the text and for later biblical interpretation.

##### **Key Themes and Concepts:**

##### **1. God's Unwavering Love and Pursuit:**

- The core message of Hosea is that God is relentlessly pursuing Israel, despite their repeated infidelity. Wilson emphasizes, "God is pursuing us always. He never lets go and never gives up." This is mirrored in Hosea's own pursuit of Gomer.
- This pursuit is an example of God's "steadfast love" (Hesed), which is not merely affection, but a determined loyalty rooted in covenant. Wilson states, "Hesed is tied to covenant, and as for Israel, hesed was a response to God's hesed." It is a love that "will not let us go."
- God's persistence is because "His purposes for Israel are greater, even than Israel's maintaining faithfulness." God's commitment is "firm," "unwavering," and "constant" (Emunah).

##### **1. Covenant Relationship and Marriage:**

- Wilson highlights the concept of marriage as a covenant, directly referencing Hosea 2 as a passage recited in traditional Jewish wedding ceremonies. The phrase "I will betroth you to me forever" is cited as an example of this permanent relationship.

- The marriage of Hosea and Gomer serves as an analogy for God's relationship with Israel. He uses the example of Hosea buying back Gomer to illustrate God's efforts to redeem Israel, just like the Goel. Wilson explains that Goel "means to exert an effort or pay a price in order to liberate somebody or champion the cause of someone."
- This relationship highlights the concept of reciprocity and "mishpat" (justice) that is "always a two-way street in the Bible." It isn't about "what I'm entitled to, what's fair and just for me," but rather "what's fair for the other guy."

#### 1. **Hesed, Emunah, and Rahamim:**

- **Hesed:** More than love; it is "dogged fidelity, determined loyalty" within a covenantal relationship. It involves loving kindness, mercy and is a response to God's own hesed.
- **Emunah:** Constant and unwavering commitment, like a "pillar" that supports and provides stability. Related to the concept of a "nurse" giving support to a child.
- **Rahamim:** Compassion, which is another attribute of God's love toward his people.

#### 1. **Israel's Unfaithfulness and Idolatry:**

- The book of Hosea describes Israel's "adultery" through the lens of their spiritual forsaking of God for idols and the worship of Baal. Wilson quotes Hosea's language of Israel "whoring after other idols."
- This idolatry is directly connected to their involvement with the Baal cult, particularly through the offering of "raisin cakes," highlighting the economic and agricultural aspects of this false worship.
- The consequences of Israel's unfaithfulness include exile and a disruption of their relationship with God, symbolized by the births of Jezreel, Lo-Ruhamah, and Lo-Ammi, alluding to a severing of the relationship between the Northern Kingdom and God.

#### 1. **Redemption and Restoration:**

- Although exile and discipline are in store for Israel, God's steadfast love endures, and the end of chapter 1 contains a promise of restoration.

- The book speaks of a "period of many days, maybe a period of discipline and testing," followed by a messianic restoration, identified by the text as a return to "seek David their king" (a "code word for the Messiah").
- This future restoration is described as a "golden age" characterized by Shalom (peace), Tzedakah (righteousness), and Mishpat (justice).
- Wilson connects this to the idea of both Jews and Christians being co-partners "awaiting the redemption of the world," as the ultimate fulfillment of these prophecies is yet to come. He highlights the dialogue between Jews and Christians, with Jews seeking evidence of redemption in the present world, while Christians understand that ultimate redemption won't happen until the Messiah returns.

#### 1. **"Da'at Elohim" (Knowledge of God):**

- Wilson emphasizes that the knowledge of God (Da'at Elohim) is more than intellectual understanding; it is "to have a personal, intimate relationship with someone who is indeed authentic." It's tied to "obedience to God, where belief and behavior go together."
- This involves "practicing" and "living" in accordance with God's will, contrasting the Greek focus on conceptual knowledge with the Hebrew emphasis on lived experience.
- Hosea criticizes the people for having "no knowledge of God" in this sense, despite having access to theological information.

#### 1. **Figurative Language and Interpretation:**

- Wilson stresses the importance of interpreting scripture according to its literary type.
- He notes that "Egypt" is often used figuratively as a "code word for exile" or "enslavement."
- Figures from nature are used (such as God as a lion) to communicate God's actions and attributes, showing how the prophets used these images to reach the people where they were at.

#### 1. **Messianic and Typological Interpretations:**

- The return to seek "David their king" is interpreted messianically.

- Wilson connects Hosea to New Testament passages, including Matthew 2:15, where Hosea 11:1 ("Out of Egypt I called my son") is seen as a fulfillment in Jesus, not as a proof text but as an allusion to a "broader theme or idea." This demonstrates a typological relationship between the exodus of Israel and the life of Jesus.
- Paul's use of Hosea 13:14 in 1 Corinthians 15:55 ("O death, where are your plagues? O grave, where is your destruction?") is cited as another example of how Hosea's prophecy finds a deeper, fuller significance in the New Testament in terms of Christ's triumph over death.

#### 1. **Practical Application:**

- Wilson connects the themes of Hosea to practical Christian living by drawing on how Paul lays out his epistles - beginning with doctrine and then moving into deeds or lifestyle. "The information has to lead to a lifestyle."
- He emphasizes the importance of avoiding assimilation, which he describes as one of the greatest challenges for God's people throughout history.

#### 1. **The Book's Conclusion:**

- The book ends with a call to repentance ("return"), reflecting the Hebrew word "shuv," and emphasizing a return to God.
- The book closes by emphasizing that the "knowledge of God" involves walking in his paths and obeying, demonstrating the connection between belief and behavior.

#### **Quotes:**

- "God is pursuing us always. He never lets go and never gives up."
- "I will betroth you to me forever."
- "Hesed is tied to covenant, and as for Israel, hesed was a response to God's hesed."
- "To pay a price, to exert an effort, to free somebody from some kind of bondage."
- "The information has to lead to a lifestyle."
- "Egypt" is often used figuratively as a "code word for exile."

**Conclusion:**

Dr. Wilson's lecture provides a detailed analysis of Hosea, highlighting the intertwined themes of God's enduring love, covenant faithfulness, Israel's infidelity, and the promise of future messianic restoration. He emphasizes that "Da'at Elohim" (knowledge of God) is not passive knowledge, but requires action and obedience. Wilson also reveals the prophetic nature of the text and its application in the New Testament.

This briefing document should provide a comprehensive overview of the main ideas and facts from the given text, suitable for further discussion or research.

## 4. Study Guide: Wilson, Prophets, Session 16, Hosea, Part 3

### Hosea Study Guide

#### Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What is the significance of the word "hesed" in the book of Hosea, and what two primary concepts does it encompass?
2. How does the marriage of Hosea and Gomer serve as an allegory for the relationship between God and Israel?
3. What is the meaning of "Goel" in the Hebrew Bible, and how is it exemplified in the story of Hosea and Gomer?
4. What is the symbolic significance of raisin cakes in the context of Hosea's prophecy?
5. How does the prophet use the image of a "lion" to describe God in Hosea 5:14?
6. What does Hosea mean by the phrase "Da'at Elohim," and why is it lacking in Israel according to the prophet?
7. Explain the significance of the phrase "return to Egypt" in the book of Hosea, and is it meant to be taken literally?
8. What is the connection between the book of Hosea and the apostle Paul's discussion of the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15?
9. What is the significance of the olive tree in Hosea, and how does it relate to Paul's view of Israel?
10. What is the final exhortation of Hosea, and how does it relate to the concept of "Da'at Elohim" discussed earlier in the book?

#### Answer Key

1. "Hesed" in Hosea represents more than just love, primarily meaning steadfast love or loyal love, and it encompasses two main ideas: the context of a covenantal relationship and the idea of dogged fidelity within that covenant. It's not just a feeling but a commitment.
2. Hosea's marriage to Gomer, an unfaithful wife, symbolizes God's relationship with Israel. Just as Gomer was unfaithful to Hosea, Israel was unfaithful to God,

constantly straying to other gods, thus mirroring the broken covenant between God and His chosen people.

3. "Goel" means to redeem or liberate by exerting effort or paying a price and is exemplified by Hosea's act of buying back his unfaithful wife. This mirrors God's redemptive actions, such as freeing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, and His pursuit of them even when they are unfaithful to the covenant.
4. Raisin cakes represent Israel's participation in pagan worship, especially the Baal cult. They were offered to Baal, a nature deity associated with agriculture, and signify Israel's turning away from Yahweh to follow other gods.
5. God is likened to a "lion" in Hosea 5:14 to illustrate His strength and the inevitability of His judgment on both Israel and Judah. This image underscores God's power to carry off His prey, highlighting the severe consequences of unfaithfulness.
6. "Da'at Elohim" is more than intellectual knowledge of God, but a deep, personal, and intimate understanding of God that is expressed through obedience and right living, which Hosea claims is lacking in Israel because the people are not practicing true faithfulness. It is a knowing that leads to right behavior.
7. The phrase "return to Egypt" is not meant to be taken literally; rather, it is a figurative term representing exile and enslavement, symbolizing the Assyrian captivity as a consequence for Israel's unfaithfulness. It emphasizes Israel's return to a state of bondage as a result of their actions.
8. Paul quotes Hosea 13:14 in 1 Corinthians 15 to describe Christ's victory over death and the resurrection of believers. Although in Hosea it was a restoration for Israel, Paul utilizes it to speak of the ultimate defeat of death through Jesus.
9. The olive tree in Hosea 14:6 symbolizes Israel's beauty and fruitfulness and is used to connect with Paul's metaphor of Israel as an olive tree in his writings. It is used to emphasize the potential for restoration and life within Israel that is tied with their relation to God.
10. The final exhortation is for people to understand and live out the ways of God, returning full circle to the theme that "knowing God" is not just about learning but about embodying the divine will, which ties directly with "Da'at Elohim." The upright will walk in them.



## Essay Questions

1. Analyze the ways in which the prophet Hosea uses the imagery of marriage, adultery, and family relationships to convey the broken covenant between God and Israel. How effective is this imagery in communicating the nature of God's love and Israel's unfaithfulness?
2. Discuss the concept of "Da'at Elohim" in the book of Hosea. How does this understanding of knowledge differ from a purely intellectual pursuit, and why is it crucial to understanding Hosea's message?
3. Explore the themes of exile and restoration in the book of Hosea, considering how these themes are presented in the context of both immediate historical circumstances and future hopes. How do these ideas connect to the Messianic concept introduced in the text?
4. Examine the ways Hosea employs agricultural and nature-based imagery in his prophecy and consider how these images effectively relate to God's relationship with Israel. How does Hosea move from the familiar context of nature to communicate profound spiritual truths?
5. Contrast the way Hosea emphasizes both God's judgment and His unwavering love and compassion for Israel. How does the prophet manage to hold these seeming opposites in tension, and what does this reveal about the character of God according to Hosea?

## Glossary of Key Terms

**Anthropomorphism:** Attributing human characteristics or qualities to God.

**Anthropopathism:** Attributing human-like emotions or feelings to God.

**Baal:** A Canaanite god of nature, fertility, and agriculture, often worshipped in opposition to Yahweh.

**Bartering System:** An economic system that uses direct exchange of goods and services without using money.

**Beth-Avon:** Literally "house of iniquity," a euphemism used by Hosea for Bethel, the "house of God," to critique its idolatrous practices.

**Covenant:** A binding agreement or solemn promise between two parties, specifically between God and His people.

**Da'at Elohim:** "Knowledge of God," which in the Hebrew sense involves intimate, personal knowledge leading to obedience and right living.

**Emunah:** Faithfulness, steadiness, and firmness, often used to describe God's enduring commitment to His people.

**Goel:** Redeemer, someone who liberates another by paying a price or exerting effort.

**Hesed:** Steadfast love, loyal love, or loving-kindness, a central attribute of God in the Old Testament; includes the concepts of covenant and dogged fidelity.

**Homer:** A unit of dry measure in the Old Testament, approximately five to six bushels, often associated with the amount a donkey could carry.

**Lethic:** A unit of dry measure in the Old Testament, half of a homer.

**Mishpat:** Justice; fairness and sharing, particularly with consideration for the other person, not just oneself.

**Rahamim:** Compassion or deep empathy, often used to describe God's tender mercies.

**Sheol:** The realm of the dead in the Old Testament.

**Shalom:** Peace, completeness, wholeness, and well-being.

**Shub/Shuv:** The Hebrew word for repent; to return or turn back.

**Sukkah:** A temporary dwelling or booth, often made of branches; in Amos 9, it refers to the "hut of David."

**Tzedakah:** Righteousness, justice, or acts of charity; doing what is right and fair.

**Typology:** A theological approach that sees events or people in the Old Testament as foreshadowing or prefiguring events or figures in the New Testament.

## 5. FAQs on Wilson, Prophets, Session 16, Hosea, Part 3, Biblelearning.org (BeL)

### FAQ on the Book of Hosea and Related Themes

- **What is the significance of the marriage metaphor used in Hosea, and what does it reveal about God's relationship with Israel?**
- The marriage of Hosea and Gomer serves as a powerful metaphor for God's covenant relationship with Israel. Gomer's unfaithfulness to Hosea mirrors Israel's idolatry and turning away from God. Despite this betrayal, Hosea's relentless pursuit of Gomer exemplifies God's steadfast love and commitment to His people. This metaphor highlights God's persistent love, even in the face of rejection, and underscores the idea that God's covenant with Israel is unbreakable, despite Israel's repeated infidelity. This covenant is described through the Hebrew word *hesed*, which implies a dogged fidelity and loyal love. This loving pursuit is also described through the idea of *Goel* which means to redeem or pay a price in order to liberate someone.
- **How does the concept of *hesed* inform our understanding of God's character, and how does it relate to covenant?**
- *Hesed*, often translated as steadfast love, loving-kindness, or loyal love, is a key concept in Hosea and the Hebrew Bible. It's more than just love; it's tied to the context of a covenant relationship and implies dogged fidelity. *Hesed* describes God's unwavering commitment and loyalty to His covenant with Israel, even when they are unfaithful. It signifies a determined, constant love that will not let go. In the context of covenant, *hesed* is also a two-way street, where the response to God's *hesed* is a mirroring steadfast love from Israel.
- **What is "Da'at Elohim," and why is its absence significant in the book of Hosea?**
- *Da'at Elohim* (knowledge of God) is not merely intellectual understanding but rather an intimate, personal relationship with God that manifests in obedience and right living. Hosea criticizes the people of Israel for their lack of *Da'at Elohim*, indicating that while they may have known about God, they did not truly *know* Him in a way that transformed their behavior. This lack of relational knowledge is the reason for Israel's infidelity to God. This is related to the Hebrew verb *yadah* which is used to describe an intimate relationship between two people, like the

relationship of Adam and Eve. Hosea calls for a knowledge that results in action, an alignment of belief and behavior.

- **What is the significance of the imagery of Israel as a prostitute in the book of Hosea?**
- The imagery of Israel as a prostitute is used to depict the spiritual adultery of Israel. Just as a prostitute is unfaithful to her spouse, Israel is unfaithful to God by worshipping other idols, particularly Baal. This unfaithfulness includes literal prostitution and cultic practices associated with pagan worship. This image is not just about physical adultery, but about the deep betrayal of the covenant with God through idolatry. This is further connected to the literal cakes of raisin offered to Baal as a representation of unfaithfulness to Yahweh.
- **How is the concept of redemption presented in Hosea, and what does it mean for Israel and us?**
- Redemption in Hosea is portrayed through the imagery of Hosea buying back Gomer from slavery. This parallels God's effort to redeem Israel from her waywardness, which is a demonstration of the Goel principle. God exerts Himself and pays a price to liberate and champion the cause of His people. This redemption also has a messianic overtone, pointing to a future restoration of Israel, under a Davidic Messiah. The concept of redemption as presented in Hosea speaks to the promise of a future hope, restoration, and intimate relationship with God and His Messiah.
- **What is the meaning of the phrase "in the latter days" in Hosea, and how does it relate to the Messiah?**
- The phrase "in the latter days" in Hosea refers to a future time of restoration for Israel that is connected to the coming Messiah. Specifically, it points towards the hope of the people seeking David their king which is understood as the Davidic Messiah. This concept represents a period where God's Messiah will rule over the world, bringing ultimate restoration and vindication to His people. While Christians see the reign as initiated in the New Testament, Jews and Christians together await a future culmination of God's full reign and the Messianic age. This is connected to the idea that through the Messiah, the earth will be covered with *shalom* (peace), *tzedakah* (righteousness) and *mishpat* (justice).

- **How does Hosea use imagery from nature and the agricultural world to connect with the people and their spiritual state?**
- Hosea frequently uses images from nature and agriculture to connect with the people, as many in the northern kingdom worshiped nature gods, like Baal. He uses the imagery of sowing and reaping, the breaking up of fallow ground, and the rain to describe how they should be seeking God and living righteously. This imagery is a point of contact for them because they are already steeped in the agricultural world. He uses their familiarity with the natural world to convey spiritual truths, calling them to a spiritual harvest of righteousness and steadfast love, ultimately leading them to a relationship with the living God.
- **How does the book of Hosea connect to the New Testament, and what examples of this are highlighted?** The book of Hosea is used in the New Testament to expand on its message through the lens of Christ. One example is Matthew 2:15, which quotes Hosea 11:1 in the context of the return of the child Jesus from Egypt. This is understood as a fulfillment that goes beyond the original context, showing the history of Israel recapitulated in Jesus, who is the greater exodus. Also, Paul quotes Hosea 13:14 in 1 Corinthians 15 to describe the triumph over death through Christ, extending the original promise of restoration to Israel. Further, the imagery of the olive tree is found in Hosea and also in Paul's description of Israel as an olive tree. These connections highlight how Hosea provides a framework for understanding the life and ministry of Jesus, and the future hope of all believers.