

A close-up photograph of a person's hands, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, holding a single red rose with green leaves. The person's fingers are wrapped around the stem of the rose. The background is dark and out of focus.

**“My People Are Destroyed”**  
**Hosea 4:1-6:3**

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**Curt Deming**  
**Melbourne Community Church**  
**June 23, 2019**

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is holding a red rose with green leaves. The person's hands are visible, and the rose is held in front of their chest. The background is dark and out of focus.

## What will we learn?

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- ❖ Ignorance leads to destruction.
- ❖ The wrath of God = natural consequences of sinful choices
- ❖ God uses our circumstances to turn us to him.

# Old Testament prophets

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- ❖ Mediated the Covenant
- ❖ Poetry > prose
- ❖ Symbolic words AND actions

# Israel's sins confronted by Hosea:

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- ❖ Infidelity
- ❖ Social injustice
- ❖ Violent crime
- ❖ Religious hypocrisy
- ❖ Political revolt
- ❖ Foreign alliances
- ❖ Selfish arrogance
- ❖ Spiritual ingratitude

# The Divided Kingdom of Israel and Judah



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A person wearing a white shirt is holding a red rose with green leaves. The background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Three children of Gomer:

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- ❖ Jezreel
- ❖ Lo-Ruhamah (not loved)
- ❖ Lo-Ammí (not my people)



A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is shown from the chest down, holding a red rose in their left hand and a green leafy branch in their right hand. The background is dark. The text 'Hosea 1' is centered over the image, with a red horizontal line below it.

# Hosea 1

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- ❖ **Our unfaithfulness breaks the heart of God.**
- ❖ **The love of God overcomes our unrighteousness.**

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is shown from the chest down, holding two roses. The rose in the left hand is red, and the rose in the right hand is white. The background is dark. The text 'Hosea 2-3' is centered over the image, with a red horizontal line below it.

## Hosea 2-3

- ❖ God's betrothal to His people is forever.
- ❖ God is our provider.

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is holding a vibrant red rose with green leaves. The person's hands are visible, and the background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Hosea 4:1

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Hear the word of the LORD, you Israelites,  
because the LORD has a charge to bring  
against you who live in the land:  
“There is no faithfulness, no love,  
no acknowledgment of God in the land.”

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is holding a bouquet of red roses. The person's hands are visible, and the roses are in the foreground. The background is dark and out of focus.

## Isaiah 62:5

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As a young man marries a young woman,  
so will your Builder marry you;  
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,  
so will your God rejoice over you.

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is holding a single red rose with green leaves. The background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Revelation 21:2

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I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

# The charge against Israel:

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## Absent virtues

- ❖ Faithfulness
- ❖ Love (hesed)
- ❖ Acknowledgment of God

## Abundant vices

- ❖ Cursing
- ❖ Lying
- ❖ Murder
- ❖ Stealing
- ❖ Adultery

## Ephesians 4:14

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Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.



## Ephesians 4:15

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Instead, speaking the truth in love,  
we will grow to become in every respect  
the mature body of him who is the head,  
that is, Christ.



A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is shown from the chest down. They are holding a red rose in their left hand and a green stem with leaves in their right hand. The background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

**Jerome:**

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**“Truth without love leads to hardness,  
love without truth to weakness.”**

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is shown from the chest down, holding two roses. The rose on the left is a vibrant red, and the one on the right is a soft pink. The person's hands are positioned in front of their chest, and the background is a dark, solid color. The text of the Bible verse is overlaid on the image.

## Hosea 4:6

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**“So I will destroy your mother —  
my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.”**



# Who is to blame?

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- ❖ Priests
- ❖ Prophets
- ❖ People

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is shown from the chest up, holding a single red rose with green leaves. The background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Hosea 4:7

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**“The more priests there were,  
the more they sinned against me;  
they exchanged their glorious God  
for something disgraceful.”**

A person wearing a white shirt is holding a bouquet of flowers, including a prominent red rose. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Romans 1:22-23

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Although they claimed to be wise,  
they became fools and exchanged the  
glory of the immortal God for images  
made to look like a mortal human being  
and birds and animals and reptiles.



## Hosea 4:10-11

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**“They will eat but not have enough;  
they will engage in prostitution but not flourish,  
because they have deserted the LORD  
to give themselves to prostitution;  
old wine and new wine  
take away their understanding.**

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is shown from the chest up. They are holding a vibrant red rose in their left hand and a thin wooden rod in their right hand. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Hosea 4:12

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**“My people consult a wooden idol,  
and a diviner’s rod speaks to them.  
A spirit of prostitution leads them astray;  
they are unfaithful to their God.”**

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is shown from the chest down. They are holding a red rose in their right hand and a green leafy branch in their left hand. The background is dark. The text 'Israel = harlot' is overlaid on the image in a white, outlined font. Below the title is a red horizontal line. To the left of the line is a list of Bible verses, each preceded by a diamond symbol.

## Israel = harlot

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- ❖ Nine times in Hosea
- ❖ Isaiah 1:21
- ❖ Jeremiah 2:20
- ❖ Ezekiel 16:15



A person wearing a white shirt is shown from the chest down, holding a bouquet of flowers. The background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Hosea 4:13

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**“They sacrifice on the mountaintops  
and burn offerings on the hills,  
under oak, poplar and terebinth,  
where the shade is pleasant.**

**Therefore your daughters turn to prostitution  
and your daughters-in-law to adultery.**

A person wearing a white shirt is holding a bouquet of flowers, including a prominent red rose and several green leaves. The background is dark and out of focus.

## Hosea 4:14

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**“I will not punish your daughters  
when they turn to prostitution,  
nor your daughters-in-law  
when they commit adultery,  
because the men themselves consort with harlots  
and sacrifice with shrine prostitutes—  
a people without understanding will come to ruin!**

A person wearing a white shirt is shown from the chest down, holding a red rose and green leaves. The background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Hosea 4:15

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“Though you, Israel, commit adultery,  
do not let Judah become guilty.

Do not go to Gílgal;

do not go up to Beth Aven.

And do not swear, ‘As surely as the LORD lives!’”



## What's in a name?

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- ❖ Beth-el = house of God
- ❖ Beth Aven = house of wickedness

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## Hosea 4:16-17

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**“The Israelites are stubborn,  
like a stubborn heifer.  
How then can the LORD pasture them  
like lambs in a meadow?  
Ephraim is joined to idols;  
leave him alone!”**

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is holding a red rose with both hands. The background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

# Leave him alone!

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- ❖ “Therefore God gave them over ...”  
(Romans 1:24)
- ❖ “Because of this, God gave them over ...”  
(Romans 1:26)

A person wearing a white shirt is holding a bouquet of red roses. The background is dark, and the person's hands are visible as they hold the flowers. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Hosea 4:18-19

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**“Even when their drinks are gone,  
they continue their prostitution;  
their rulers dearly love shameful ways.  
A whirlwind will sweep them away,  
and their sacrifices will bring them shame.”**

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## Hosea 5:1

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**“Hear this, you priests!**

**Pay attention, you Israelites!**

**Listen, royal house!**

**This judgment is against you:**

**You have been a snare at Mizpah,  
a net spread out on Tabor.**



A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is shown from the chest down, holding two roses. The rose on the left is a vibrant red, and the one on the right is a soft pink. The person's hands are positioned in front of their chest, holding the stems of the roses. The background is a dark, solid color, possibly black or dark blue. The text is overlaid on the image, centered horizontally.

## Hosea 5:2

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**“The rebels are knee-deep in slaughter.  
I will discipline all of them.”**

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is shown from the chest up, holding a red rose in their left hand and a green leafy branch in their right hand. The background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Hosea 5:3

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**“I know all about Ephraim;  
Israel is not hidden from me.  
Ephraim, you have now turned to prostitution;  
Israel is corrupt.**

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is holding a bouquet of flowers. The flowers include a prominent red rose and several green leaves. The person's hands are visible, and the background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Hosea 5:4

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**“Their deeds do not permit them  
to return to their God.**

**A spirit of prostitution is in their heart;  
they do not acknowledge the LORD.**

A person wearing a white shirt is holding a bouquet of red roses. The background is dark, and the person's hands are visible holding the stems of the flowers. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Hosea 5:5-6

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“Israel’s arrogance testifies against them;  
the Israelites, even Ephraim, stumble in their sin;  
Judah also stumbles with them.  
When they go with their flocks and herds  
to seek the LORD,  
they will not find him;  
he has withdrawn himself from them.”



## Jeremiah 29:13

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**“You will seek me and find me when  
you seek me with all your heart.”**

A person wearing a white shirt is holding a bouquet of red roses. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Hosea 5:7

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**“They are unfaithful to the LORD;  
they give birth to illegitimate children.  
When they celebrate their New Moon feasts,  
he will devour their fields.**



## Hosea 5:8

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“Sound the trumpet in Gibeah,  
the horn in Ramah.  
Raise the battle cry in Beth Aven;  
lead on, Benjamin.

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## Hosea 5:9

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**“Ephraim will be laid waste  
on the day of reckoning.  
Among the tribes of Israel  
I proclaim what is certain.**



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## Hosea 5:10

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**“Judah’s leaders are like those  
who move boundary stones.  
I will pour out my wrath on them  
like a flood of water.”**

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## Hosea 5:11-12

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“Ephraim is oppressed,  
trampled in judgment,  
intent on pursuing idols.  
I am like a moth to Ephraim,  
like rot to the people of Judah.”

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## Hosea 5:13

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**“When Ephraim saw his sickness,  
and Judah his sores,  
then Ephraim turned to Assyria,  
and sent to the great king for help.  
But he is not able to cure you,  
not able to heal your sores.**

A person wearing a white shirt is holding a bouquet of red roses. The background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Hosea 5:14

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**“For I will be like a lion to Ephraim,  
like a great lion to Judah.  
I will tear them to pieces and go away;  
I will carry them off, with no one to rescue them.**

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is shown from the chest up, holding a red rose in their left hand and a green leafy stem in their right hand. The background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Hosea 5:15

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**“Then I will return to my lair  
until they have borne their guilt  
and seek my face —  
in their misery  
they will earnestly seek me.”**



## The Lord's wrath:

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- ❖ A moth
- ❖ Rot
- ❖ A lion

A person wearing a white shirt is holding a red rose with both hands. The background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Assyrian invasions:

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- ❖ Tigleth-Pileser III vs. Israel, 743 BC and 734-732 BC
- ❖ Shalmaneser V vs. Israel, 722 BC
- ❖ Sennacherib vs. Judah, 701 BC

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## Hosea 6:1

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**“Come, let us return to the LORD.  
He has torn us to pieces  
but he will heal us;  
he has injured us  
but he will bind up our wounds.**



A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is shown from the chest up, holding two red roses with green leaves. The background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Hosea 6:2

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**“After two days he will revive us;  
on the third day he will restore us,  
that we may live in his presence.**

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## Hosea 6:3

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**“Let us acknowledge the LORD;  
let us press on to acknowledge him.  
As surely as the sun rises,  
he will appear;  
he will come to us like the winter rains,  
like the spring rains that water the earth.”**

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## Corporate laments:

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- ❖ Hosea 6:1-3
- ❖ Psalm 12, 44, 60, 74, 80, 90
- ❖ Jeremiah 14:1-10; 14:19-15:4
- ❖ Isaiah 63:15-64:11

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## What did we learn?

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- ❖ Ignorance leads to destruction.
- ❖ The wrath of God = natural consequences of sinful choices
- ❖ God uses our circumstances to turn us to him.



A person wearing a white shirt is shown from the chest down, holding a red rose with green leaves. The background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

# Are you being called?

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- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper

# Life Begins in the Womb

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- ❖ Luke 1:15
- ❖ Luke 1:41
- ❖ Psalm 22:9-10
- ❖ Psalm 139:13
- ❖ Isaiah 49:1
- ❖ Jeremiah 1:4-5