A quill pen with a white shaft and a dark, pointed nib lies horizontally across a piece of aged, yellowed parchment paper. The paper has a textured, fibrous appearance and some darker spots. The quill's feathers are dark and fan out to the right.

THE MAJOR
MESSAGE

OF THE MINOR
PROPHETS

Dr. Gregg Marutzky

Hosea: Unconditional Love of God

MAJOR STUDIES

FROM THE

minor prophets

Dr. Gregg Marutzky

Hosea

Unconditional Love

Of God

HOSEA

A STORY OF LOVE, LUST, BETRAYAL AND REDEMPTION. OUR STORY.



GOD'S LOVE

- ✦ Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Judah between **750-715BC**.
- ✦ Hosea's message – time is up for Israel, but there's still a chance for Judah.
- ✦ The book of Hosea is an illustration of **the unconditional love of God**.
- ✦ Hosea married a prostitute, Gomer who would be unfaithful. **Hosea's unconditional love for Gomer illustrates the love of God for his idolatrous people who sought other gods.**

Unbroken Love

Does God Really Love Me?

1. God Sought the Sinner

Harlot

2. God Forgave the Sinner

Adulteress

3. God Redeemed the Sinner

Divorcee

THE LAW

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

HISTORY

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 & 2 Samuel
1 & 2 Kings
1 & 2 Chronicles

POETRY

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

MAJOR PROPHETS

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel

MINOR PROPHETS

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

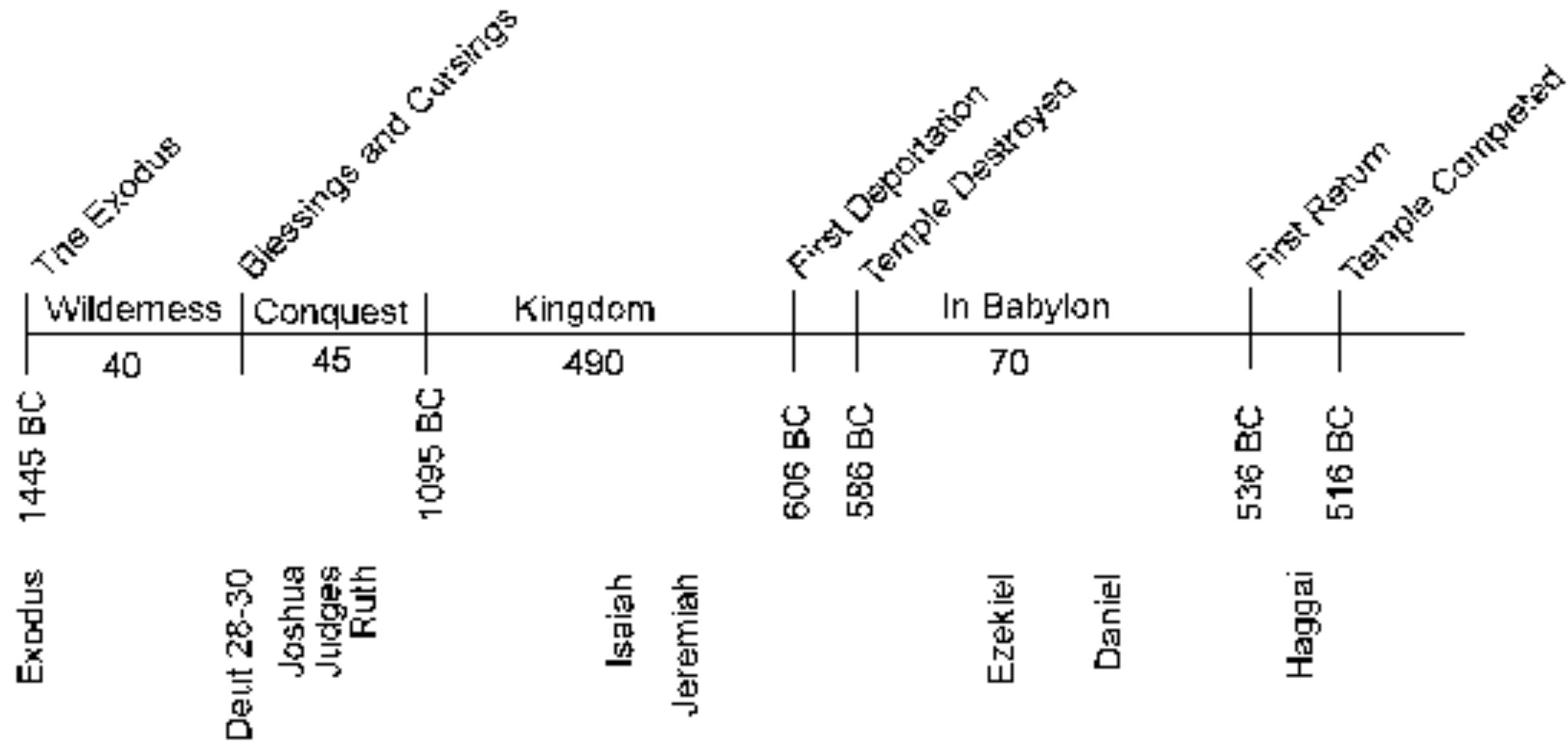
Covenant

Covenant is a contract or promise between parties. A key problem was Israel's unfaithfulness to the covenant. Our relationship with God is covenantal and breaking covenant is huge. Not keeping marriage vows is a breaking of covenant.



Broken Heart

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



Tragic Drama

Hosea 1:1 *When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, "Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD."*

Unfailing Love

Does God Really Love Me?

1. God Loves **Sinners**

2. God Loves **Adulterers**

3. God Loves **Addicts**

Hosea & Gomer's Children

- **Jezreel – God Scatters**
- **Lo-Ruhamah – Not Love**
- **Lo-Ammi – Not My People**

HOSEA 2

- **Vs. 14** Desert-“Place First Met” Rekindle memories, courtship
- **Vs. 14** “Allure” Romantic, “speak tenderly”
- **Vs. 15** Promise Land-Exiles Return, Exodus
- **Vs. 16** “My husband” not “my master” Partners, Friends
- **Vs. 17** “Remove Baals”- idols, other loves
- **Vs. 18** “Secure Home”
- **Vs. 19-20** Vows of Betrothal (Marriage)



God's Love

Marital Vows

✦ **Forever**-Unconditional, Expectations

✦ **Righteousness**-Purity, Spiritual, disciples, advice,

✦ **Justice**-Respect, fair, roles (men-love, women-respect)

✦ **Love**-Romance, sex

✦ **Compassion**-Communication, forgiveness

✦ **Faithfulness**-Covenant, No divorce, permanent

✦ **Knowledge**-Intimacy. Acknowledge the Lord

Issues of Hosea

- ✦ Idolatry – 3:1; 4:12-14; 7:14 (dependence on idols); 8:5-6
- ✦ Moral corruption – 4:1-2; 7:1; 10:4
- ✦ Dependence on other nations instead of depending on God – 7:8-13; 12:1
- ✦ Unfaithfulness – The issue is relationship.

God & Israel – Hosea & Gomer

- ✦ God had married Israel – at the Exodus (2:15; 12:9; 13:4-50)
- ✦ Gomer left Hosea (*not a 2-sided problem*); Israel had forsaken God
- ✦ Both committed adultery – bestowed their devotion on others – foreign gods (*Baals*), nations
- ✦ At a sacrifice to himself, Hosea redeemed Gomer. He is told to “Go” to her (3:1). God’s pursuit of his people.

FREEWILL



God & Israel – Hosea & Gomer

Hosea 14:4-7 “I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily. Like a cedar of Lebanon he will send down his roots; his young shoots will grow. His splendor will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon. **People will dwell again in his shade; they will flourish like the grain; they will blossom like the vine—Israel's fame will be like the wine of Lebanon.**”

God & Israel – Hosea & Gomer

God started cultivating Israel when he brought her up out of Egypt. But instead of producing good fruit, Israel brought forth **bad grapes** – the worship of foreign gods, particularly the Baals. The only thing the husbandman could do was to smite the vine and cut off all corruption in its roots and fruit. But the husbandman **still cared** for the vine, thus he cultivated it again and caused it to bring forth good fruit (14:4-7).

God Love & Israel's Unfaithfulness

Hosea 11:1-4 “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. **But the more they were called, the more they went away from me.** They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. **It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love.** To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, I bent down to feed them.”

God Love & Israel's Unfaithfulness

Hosea 1 1:1-4 God rescues Israel from Egypt Exodus – taught to walk, Israel is an ungrateful child – serving the Baals.

God decides to disown/disinherit his children – names given to Hosea's children: Jezreel - “**God scatters**”; Lo-Ruhamah - “**someone who has not obtained mercy**”; Lo-Ammi - “**not my people**” **Hosea 1 1:8-9** God continues to struggle with what to do with his people – God remains faithful even with Israel's unfaithfulness.

God Love & Israel's Unfaithfulness

Hosea 11:7-9 “My people are determined to turn from me. Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them. How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboyim? **My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused.** I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again. **For I am God, and not a man—the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities.”**



Israel Unfaithful To God

- ✦ Again, looking back to the Exodus – 11:1-4; taught to walk, 11:3
- ✦ Israel is an ungrateful child – 11:2, began serving the Baals
- ✦ God decides to disown /disinherit his children – names given to Hosea's children: **Jezreel** - “God scatters”; **Lo-Ruhamah** - “someone who has not obtained mercy”; **Lo-Ammi** - “not my people”
- ✦ God continued to struggle with what to do with his people – Hosea 11:8-9

Israel Unfaithful but God is Faithful

- ✦ Israel is Unfaithful
- ✦ Israel is Unmerciful
- ✦ Israel is Unforgiving
- ✦ God is Faithful
- ✦ God is Merciful
- ✦ God is Forgiving

O.T. Professor John Willis

*“The prophet uses the husband-wife relationship to explain God's relationship to his people ... because the relationship between God and man is not abstract, but intimate and personal. Religion is much easier if reduced to a group of concrete rules which a man is asked to believe and obey. But such a religion does not come from God, it is not advocated anywhere in the Bible. Rather, the word of God teaches that **religion is like marriage. It is a moment by moment, day by day, year by year personal relationship between God and man.**”*

Heart: Hosea & God



God is **Faithful**



God is **Merciful**



God is **Righteous**

Heart: Hosea & God

- ✦ **God** is always faithful, but we are not always faithful.
- ✦ **We** need the unfailing love of God since unfaithful.
- ✦ **God** pursues us when we do not want pursued.
- ✦ **We** pursue Baals for help instead of trust God.
- ✦ **God** never gives up even after so many failures and falls.
- ✦ **We** do well then relapse and do well and relapse.
- ✦ **God** redeems us after no one wants us anymore.



Religious Unfaithfulness