OLD TESTAMENT · MINOR PROPHETS · BOOK 28 OF 66

Hosea

I will love them freely (14:4)

14	Hosea	c. 755–715 B.C.	722 B.C.
Chapters, 197 Verses	Son of Beeri	To the Northern Kingdom	Samaria Falls

STRUCTURE

The Book in Three Parts

Hosea's home life (1–3) shows in a picture what the rest of the book (4–14) says in words.



Each bar shows that part's share of the 197 verses.

I 1–3 · 39 verses

The Marriage

An unfaithful wife, three named children, a love that buys her back.

II 4:1–11:11 · 118 verses

God's Charges

No truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God; yet "How shall I give thee up?"

III 11:12–14:9 · 40 verses

Return

Jacob's example, Samaria's fall, and healing for the backslider.

HOSEA 1–2

Names That Preach

Each of Hosea's children carried a message, and God promised to turn every name around.

THE NAME	TURNED AROUND
Jezreel: "God scatters", judgment on Jehu's house 1:4	**"Great shall be the day of Jezreel": God sows** 1:11; 2:22
Lo-ruhamah: "no more mercy" 1:6	**"I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy"** 2:23
Lo-ammi: "Ye are not My people" 1:9	**"Thou art My people; and they shall say, Thou art my God"** 2:23

HOSEA 1–3

A Picture of God's Love

Hosea's marriage showed Israel what its unfaithfulness looked like to God, and how far His love would go.

1 1:2–3

Married

Hosea takes Gomer as his wife

2 2:5

Unfaithful

She goes after her lovers

3 3:1

Loved Still

"Go yet, love a woman"

4 3:2

Bought Back

Fifteen pieces of silver and barley

> *"And I will betroth thee unto Me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto Me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies."*
>
> Hosea 2:19 (KJV)

The LORD’s Controversy and the Father’s Love

HOSEA 4–10

The LORD’s Controversy

God brings His case against Israel like a lawsuit.

4:1
No Knowledge of God
No truth, nor mercy in the land.

4:6
Destroyed
“For lack of knowledge.”

4:17
Joined to Idols
“Let him alone.”

6:4
A Morning Cloud
Goodness that soon goes away.

7:11
A Silly Dove
Calling to Egypt, going to Assyria.

8:7
The Whirlwind
Sow the wind, reap the whirlwind.

> *“For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.”*
>
> Hosea 6:6 (KJV)

HOSEA 11

How Shall I Give Thee Up?

God speaks of Israel as a father speaks of a wayward son.

11:1
Called
“Called My son out of Egypt”

11:3
Taught
“I taught Ephraim also to go”

11:4
Drawn
“With bands of love”

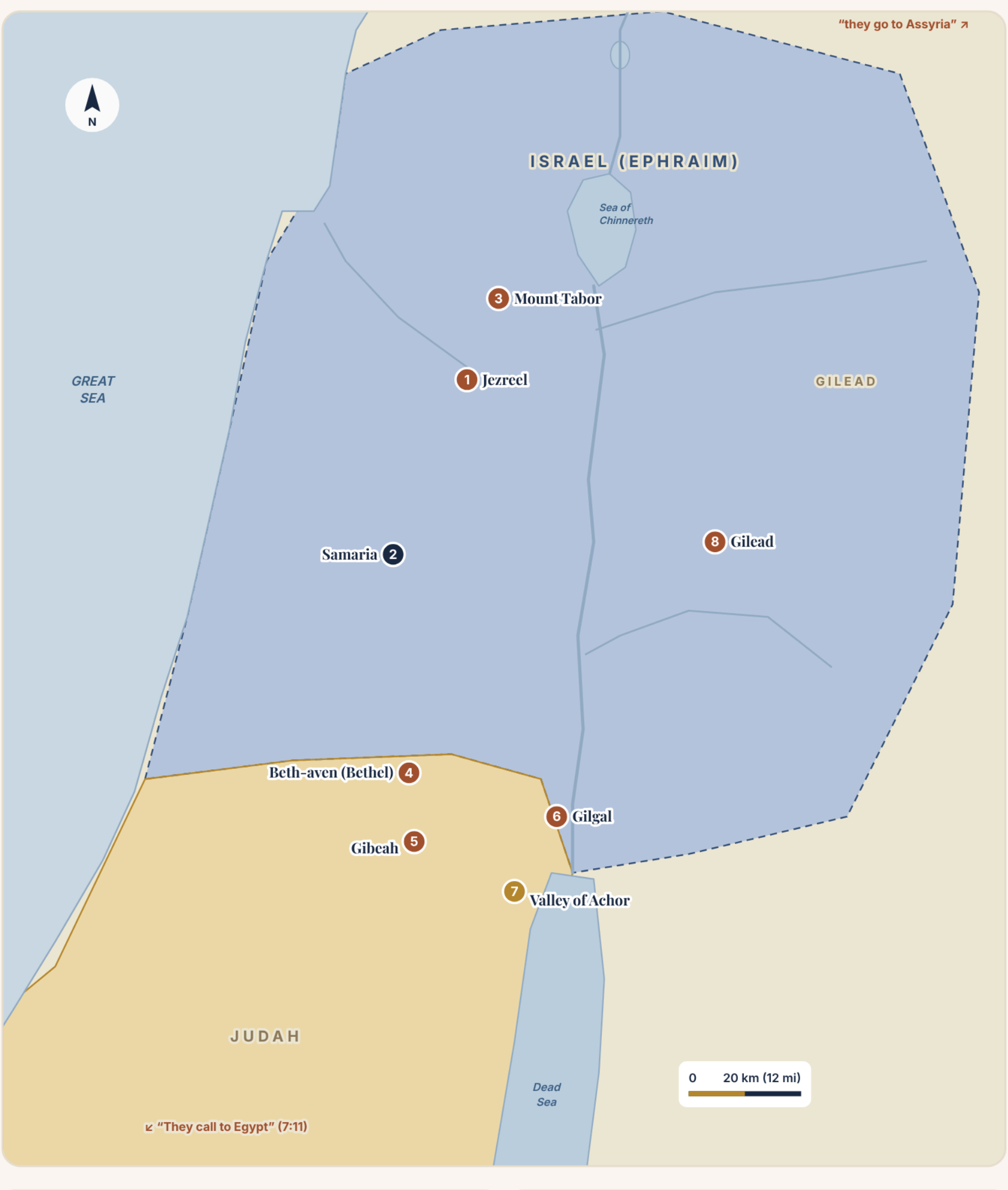
11:8
Yearned Over
“Mine heart is turned within Me”

Places in Hosea

MAP

Places in Hosea

Hosea names the places where Israel sinned, and one where God would open a door of hope. Rust marks places of sin, navy the capital, and gold the valley of Achor. The numbers match the cards below.



Places of Israel's sin
Jezreel, Tabor, Beth-aven, Gibeah, Gilgal, Gilead

The capital
Samaria (8:5)

A door of hope
The valley of Achor (2:15)

Israel (blue), Judah (gold)
The two kingdoms

"I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely."

HOSEA 14:4 (KJV)

Israel is often called Ephraim in Hosea, after its leading tribe.

BibleStudyForAll.com · Map positions approximate · Scripture from the King James Version

1 1:4–5, 11

Jezreel

A place of sin. Hosea's first son was named for the blood Jehu shed here; "great shall be the day of Jezreel."

2 8:5–6; 13:16

Samaria

The capital. Israel's capital: "Thy calf, O Samaria, hath cast thee off."

3 5:1

Mount Tabor

A place of sin. The rulers were "a net spread upon Tabor."

4 4:15; 10:5

Beth-aven (Bethel)

A place of sin. Bethel, "house of God," became Beth-aven, "house of vanity," for its golden calf.

5 9:9; 10:9

Gibeah

A place of sin. "Thou hast sinned from the days of Gibeah" (Judges 19–20).

6 4:15; 9:15

Gilgal

A place of sin. "All their wickedness is in Gilgal."

7 2:15

Valley of Achor

A door of hope. Once the place of Achan's trouble, made "a door of hope."

8 6:8; 12:11

Gilead

A place of sin. "Gilead is a city of them that work iniquity."

Return, and Christ in Hosea

HOSEA 14

Return unto the LORD

The book closes with an invitation, the words to pray, and God’s promise.

ISRAEL PRAYS	GOD ANSWERS
“Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously” 14:2	“I will heal their backsliding” 14:4
ISRAEL PRAYS	GOD ANSWERS
“Asshur shall not save us” 14:3	“I will love them freely” 14:4
ISRAEL PRAYS	GOD ANSWERS
“In Thee the fatherless findeth mercy” 14:3	“I will be as the dew unto Israel” 14:5

LOOKING FORWARD

Christ in Hosea

Hosea’s message of a love that redeems the unfaithful is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

11:1 · MATTHEW 2:15

Out of Egypt

“Out of Egypt have I called My son,” fulfilled in the child Jesus.

6:6 · MATTHEW 9:13

Mercy, Not Sacrifice

Jesus said, “Go ye and learn what that meaneth.”

1:10; 2:23 · ROMANS 9:25–26

My People

Paul quotes Hosea of all God calls in Christ, Jews and Gentiles.

13:14 · 1 CORINTHIANS 15:55

Death Defeated

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

Key Themes and Key Verse

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

God's Faithful Love
He loves the unfaithful.
3:1; 11:8

Spiritual Adultery
Idolatry is unfaithfulness.
1:2; 4:12

Knowing God
Destroyed for lack of knowledge.
4:6; 6:3

Mercy over Ritual
Not sacrifice.
6:6

Reaping What Is Sown
Wind and whirlwind.
8:7; 10:12

False Trust
Egypt and Assyria cannot save.
7:11; 14:3

Repentance
Return unto the LORD.
6:1; 14:1

Healing
I will heal their backsliding.
14:4

Victory over Death
O death, I will be thy plagues.
13:14

KEY VERSE

"For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings."

Hosea 6:6 (KJV)