

QT Questions—for Hosea

(Here's a short introduction to the book of Hosea from my Study Bibles.)

- Hosea prophesied during the eighth century BC, an eventful period in the history of Israel and Judah. In 722 BC, the Assyrians conquered the northern kingdom of Israel and took the people into exile.
- The prophet Hosea intentionally marries an unfaithful woman to symbolically portray God's relationship with unfaithful Israel. Hosea's prophecies elaborate on this metaphor, calling Israel to account for idolatry and foretelling judgment, but also promising God's faithfulness despite Israel's mistakes.
- Hosea's hard-hitting depiction of Israel as a cheating wife reveals the depth of God's pain—and His love. More than anything, He wants intimacy with His people, but they continually reject Him. The metaphor challenges us to consider our own unfaithfulness to God; it asks us to seriously examine the ways in which we cheat on God. The metaphor also reveals God's enduring faithfulness toward us: He calls us back to Him and to a more fulfilling life marked by faithfulness.

Hos 1 (4/3/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. Whom did God command Hosea to marry and why; what were the names of Hosea's children and yet what will God eventually do and why; what do you learn?
- At this time, God's people were divided into two nations, the north called Israel and the south called Judah. Moreover, Israel was about to be conquered by Assyria and taken captive. So, the present reality looked extremely bleak. And to such people, God's message sounds unusual, "Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' they will be called 'children of the living God.' The people of Judah and the people of Israel will come together; they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel" (vv. 10-11). Wow, everything they knew, in fact, everything they were presently experiencing went contrary to God's word given here. Which will prevail, the present reality or God's word so radically different than what they were seeing and experiencing? Did you know, in some sense, both will be true? The present reality is not fake; it's real; it's happening; what they were experiencing was true and real and painful. However, what God promised will also be true and real, but not today, but it will be true soon. The power of God's word gives us strength and grace to endure today's struggles, because they will not last forever, for the truth of God's word will also become our reality, when it's time. May the power of God's word lift us and carry us through our present troubles of life until the truth of His word is all that remains.

Hos 2 (4/4/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. In what ways was Israel sinning against God; yet, what will God do for His people and why; what do you learn?
- This chapter ends with, "I will plant her for Myself in the land' I will show My love to the one I called, 'Not My loved one.' I will say to those called 'Not My people,' 'You are My people'; and

they will say, ‘You are my God.’” The incredible transformation that God will produce in His faithless people is for them to ultimately and truly believe and confess, “You are my God.” From His rebukes, to disciplines, to pleading, to comforting and to tenderly loving them is for the people to truly believe and genuinely confess, “You are my God.” When we truly believe and can confess that our God is our God alone, then the faithlessness, the unfaithfulness, the idolatry, the wandering away, the apathy, the distraction, the lure from the world, all that leads us to sin will humbly bow and surrender before our sovereign God. Oh, to know and believe and live under our God alone being our only God will produce showers of unconditional and never ending love that our good God delights to pour to His children, whom He loves more than His own life. May we drink from His love so abundantly, that it will fill us and overflow graciously to many people around us. Yes, may they taste God’s love as it spills over from us. Yes, Lord, use us as Your kettle, to pour to the many cups all around us.

Hos 3 (4/5/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What is God calling Hosea to do and why; what does Hosea do because of God’s word and why and where can you apply this in your life; what do you learn?
- At a quick glance, God’s command in v. 1 may seem very unnatural and contradictory to our human nature, “... Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites....” How can we love someone who has betrayed us? How do you love a spouse who ran off from you? Moreover, how can we manufacture a love; isn’t it suppose to come more naturally, than simply obey a command, albeit be from God? In our world, we are often told, if it isn’t natural, if it doesn’t feel natural, then it’s not genuine; it’s not real; it’s not authentic. The barometer for true authentic love must feel natural, we are told. That may be the standard of the world, including our own. But, let’s again humbly pay attention and listen to God’s word, “Go, show your love to your wife (husband or other people) again,” even though she ran off with another person and has betrayed us most terribly. God knows there will be no real feeling in us to love a person who hurt us badly, but His command comes to us loud and clear, “Go, show your love to your wife/ person again.” Oh, that’s hard. But, God wants us to learn, to love others must not be determined by our feelings or how much they hurt us or what kind of experience we had. Loving others comes from our God. In fact, we are taught to “Go, show your love to your wife again.... Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites.” To love the unfaithful people should and can be done, as we see what our Lord did, “Love her as the Lord loves the (unfaithful) Israelites.” As the Lord loves is the determining factor and strength and grace that can bless us to love our unfaithful spouse or friend or all others. He is the reason why we can and we should. No wonder we are taught to have our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author of our faith.

Hos 4 (4/7/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What is God’s charge against His people and in what practical ways do you see them present in your life; what does it mean that there’s a lack of knowledge and what happens and how can we remedy that in our lives (vv. 6 & 14); what do you learn?

- V. 9 is frighteningly wrong, “And it will be: Like people, like priests.” It’s usually, like priests, like people, just as it is like parents, like children. But, the flow is reversed. It’s not the priests who were helping shape the people, but the priests were following the ways of the people. It’s like the pastors preaching to tickle the ears of the people, so they can hear what they want and he can speak what they want to hear, rather than to preach God’s truth. The preaching of God’s word is meant to cut off the lies we hold on to, but instead, the pastors are preaching to relish the sinful wickedness they see in the people. We all need to seriously and earnestly ask ourselves, who are we going to follow, who are we willing to please, whose ears are we willing to have? If we want the approval of the people around us, then their ears we will want to tickle. I pray that what we desire most is to stand and to sit and to follow and to delight in our God most, and because of that, if the people around us should not want us, may we desire our God more than them. May we be like the people who the people will follow to meet our God.

Hos 5 (4/8/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What do you think v. 4 means and how does it apply to you; in vv. 12-14, how does God describe Himself before His people and what do they mean and why would God do that; what do you learn?
- This chapter ends with, “in their misery they will earnestly seek Me” (v. 15). This chapter began with God calling out His people to listen because they were acting in ways that dug themselves so far deeper into evil that it became nearly impossible to get out. They seem to go to the point of no return. As God has taught us through John, they did not want their evil to be exposed because they loved their evil more than God (Jn 3:19). Though they looked hopelessly lost, yet, God did not leave them alone. In fact, He sought them in ways they understood, through severe and painful discipline. And as painful God’s ways can be, yet, His purpose is always to discipline His children “for our good, in order that we may share in His holiness” (Heb 12:10). Therefore, through pain and misery, God brings His people back to Himself, “in their misery, they will earnestly seek Me.” Our God is gracious; He is the Good Shepherd who goes to seek His lost sheep, and brings us back. How wonderful it would be, if we learn to earnestly seek our God through our good days. However, if we have fallen deep into our foolishness and only seek evil, may we learn that He will bless us to suffer miserably, so that we will earnestly seek Him. Oh Father, may we earnestly seek You through the good and bad days. May everything be a reason to earnestly seek You more! In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Hos 6 (4/9/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What has the Lord done to His people and yet what should the people still do and why (vv. 1-3); what is our love like, so what does God want us to do and why (vv. 4-6); what do you learn about yourself and about God?
- The way this chapter closes is very strange. God points out how terribly sinful His people were living, “Israel is defiled” (vv. 7-10). And the final verse begins, “Also for you, Judah,” so I expected for God to continue to point out Judah’s horrible sins. Unexpectedly, though He said, also for you, God did not continue to list Judah’s sins as He did for Israel, rather, God seemed

to make a turn and spoke from a very different view, “A harvest is appointed. ‘Whenever I would restore the fortunes of My people.’ Rather than a terrible judgment, God spoke of a harvest coming and the restoration of His people’s fortune, though what they really deserved was His wrath. Instead of punishment, they would receive His fortunes because that is what He chooses to give, to His people who truly did not deserve such goodness. That’s the strange love of our God. But, that’s who our God is. He gives grace, for grace is a gift to the people who did not merit it, because we are not deserving. So, we see, we don’t get what we deserve, but we get what He chooses to give, and that is His grace. It is right for us to call our God, a God of grace to a people like Israel, but He treats us like Judah. Oh, what wonder of grace we receive from our Gracious God. May we drink and taste His grace, so that we can spill His grace to the people around us, that they too may taste how gracious our God truly is.

Hos 7 (4/10/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What do the references to—an oven, wine, flat loaf and a dove—mean and in what ways can you relate; why is God pronouncing woe to them and how does this apply to you; what do you learn?
- In v. 13, God says, “I long to redeem them but they speak about Me falsely.” Of course, despite our foolishness, God can still redeem us. In fact, it was while we were still sinners, that God demonstrated His love and sacrificed Himself on the cross for us (Rom 5:8). Our God came to save sinners. And saved sinners are now His children. And as His children, He will nourish and train us in His ways, and not allow us to continue in the sinful ways we once lived. As children of His light, we are now, to no longer to speak falsely, as we once did while in our darkness. When we sinned, we must own up our sins and confess them truthfully, before God and the people we have wronged. As we confess our sins truthfully, may we experience how incredible His forgiveness truly is (1Jn 1:8-10).

Hos 8 (4/11/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What did God want His people to hear; what are some of things you should also hear from this chapter; what do you learn?
- In v. 12, we read, “I wrote for them the many things of My law, but they regarded them as something foreign.” The people were so accustomed doing evil, making idols, and relishing in their sinfulness, that God’s holy ways became very abnormal, uncomfortable and foreign. They knew evil, but holiness was foreign to them. They studied and practiced idol making, but to devote and learn and obey God’s truth, they would not commit to. Many people today will devote themselves to do their thing, but when it comes to learning God’s truth, they cannot make time for it. God’s word is too hard for them; God’s word is too foreign to them, so they will rather not give their whole hearts to learn, even though it is God’s word. They choose to ignore, or if they tried, the attempt is too small, easily giving up instead of digging for like hidden treasures. Perhaps, many people do not see how incredible the treasures are, so they won’t dig for something they don’t value. Oh, Lord, please open our eyes to see how incredibly valuable and precious Your words and Your ways are. May Your words be the sweetest and most precious thing to us, as we always delight to eat more of Your law.

Hos 9 (4/12/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. Why did God not want His people to rejoice; what happens to us with the things we love (2Kgs 17:15); what do you love that's not right and do you see yourself changing accordingly; what do you learn?
- In vv. 7-8, we see the attitude of the people, "... the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired person a maniac. The prophet, along with my God, is the watchman over Ephraim, yet snares await him on all his paths, and hostility in the house of his God." It's terrible to treat God's servants with such contempt. But what shocks me even more is, where it is happening, "hostility in the house of his God." The people were acting out their hostility against God's servants in the house of God. This hostility can be open contempt, but it can also be subtle, it can be passive, by not listening well to God's word, and steering other people away from hearing and learning God's word with other "good" things, and by not wanting to fill the House of Prayer with our prayers. By turning the focus and hearts of the people away from God's word, that's hostility against God. Let's pray that we will not be the hostile people that turns people away from God, and may we not be the type of people that are also led astray from God's word by others. Let's neither influence others astray or be influenced by others to go astray.

Hos 10 (4/21/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What were some of the sins God says Israel were guilty of; what did God want His people to sow and break up and how could they do that in their lives (v. 12); how could you do that in your life; what do you learn?
- In v. 13, we are taught, "... you (we) have eaten the fruit of deception because you (we) have depended on your (our) own strength..." As I watch sports, the repeated message we are often told is, that you got to bet on yourself, to trust yourself, to believe in yourself. But, God's word tells us, to depend on our own strength is eating the fruit of deception. God's message to His people is, we are not to trust ourselves, but our trust must lay in our God, not us, but God is the message we should hear, we should learn, we should obey (Prov 3:5-7). I pray that the message of the world will not have your ears or hearts, but may God's word be our strength, our joy, to which we love to obey. May we love our God more than ourselves. May we love to listen and obey our God more than ourselves. May God be first, and ourselves a far, far, farther still second or third, but never compete with Number One, our God, our first Love.

Hos 11 (4/22/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. How were God's people responding to God's loving call for them (vv. 1-7); despite the way the people acted, how was God going to respond to them and why (vv. 8-11); what do you learn?

- God's response to His people's sinfulness is truly amazing, so very unlike us. As much as His people deserve to be forsaken because of their unrelenting sinful ways, the way God responds to them in v. 8 is simply unbelievable, "How can I give you up, Ephraim?" They deserve to be discarded, to be rejected, but God says, "How can I hand you over, Israel?" In His fatherly love for His children, as terribly sinful His children are, God cannot give up on them, He will not hand them over to what they deserve, for "all My compassion is aroused," He confesses. To love when we are not lovable, to forgive when we are guilty, to be kind when we are so ungrateful, the love of our Father is not like anything we can experience in our world. (I want to so much live and love like our Lord Jesus, but I must confess, I fail more than I succeed. But, I want to grow more like Him. So, I will continue to pray that He will bless me more to grow more like Him. Not as a duty but in love with joy, just like Him). Truly, God's love for us is not because we have earned it in any way, but it is who He is, and that is why, His love is so amazing, for He will freely love us because He simply loves His children because we are His children. No other reason needed. That's the comfort of His children, for we know our Father loves us because He delights to love His children. May we bask in His love, rejoice in Him, and drinking much of His love, let's pray that His love and goodness will fill us and also overflow from us unto others, so they too can taste God's love in us through us unto them.

Hos 12 (4/23/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What does the name Bethel mean and what happened there (Gen 28:10-22); can you try to explain vv. 6-8; what do you learn?
- In order to help us understand what we are doing, God will use imageries and examples in life that will help us. In v. 1, God says, "Ephraim feeds on the wind." If ever we are outside on a windy day, we should try to open up our mouths and see what the wind can feed us. Of course, it can't, and actually the few things that do enter our mouths, they would be mostly dirt, leaves, pollens and other undesirables. Ephraim, that is Israel, and now us, if we are fed on the wind, then we will never be satisfied. Moreover, we will be harmed not only by what the wind brings to our mouths, but also by standing outside against the wind. Just as our bodies must be fed with food, so our souls must be fed with God's food, His word. Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of our God (Matt 4:4). When our souls are not fed by God's word, then it is like being fed on the wind. I pray, not the wind, but God's word is what we open our mouths to be fed. May we not simply understand and explain truths, but may we truly eat well God's word daily, so that our souls will be well nourished.

Hos 13 (4/24/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. Who makes the idols and for whom and have you seen it in your life (v. 2); what is the danger with our satisfaction and have you seen it in your life (v. 6); what do you learn?
- Through v. 4, we hear God's heart, "But I have been the Lord your God ever since you came out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but Me, no Savior except Me." In our lives, we like to keep all options open. So, we have people who will pray to all the gods he may know, and then pray even to the unknown god, in case he missed someone. The thought is, it can't

hurt. Hopefully, some one can help. Such attitude is not praying to God; it's using God to do his will. God exists to do his will. Truth be told, this attitude is more real and prevalent in our own lives as well. The good news is that even with our true God, He does work to save us. However, the difference is, that God does not exist to serve me, but it's the other way around, we exist to serve God. He is first; we are not. There are no Saviors except our God, Christ Jesus. There is no other Lord for us, except Christ Jesus. God is exclusive. He is the only one, and no other. Let's pray that our God will bless us to truly understand and believe that God alone is our only God; that God alone is our only Savior; and that God alone is our only Lord.

Hos 14 (4/25/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What caused Israel's downfall and how does God say they should return (vv. 1-3); what will God do for His wayward people and why; how is this applicable to you; what do you learn?
- The book ends with the words, "The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them." Why are the righteous able to walk in the ways of the Lord and why would the rebellious stumble in the ways of the Lord? The righteous are able to walk in the ways of the Lord because we are learning and growing more in our new nature, like the new wine in the new wineskin. We are getting more comfortable and learning to love more of who we are. So, we are loving to become more into who we are called to be, in the likeness of our Lord. So, the more we walk in the ways of the Lord, the more natural it becomes to us, and we are loving more and desiring to grow more like our Lord. However, for the rebellious, trying to walk in the ways of the Lord is foreign, unnatural, and thus, the longer they walk in His ways, the more they hate it because they know they are in the wrong place. This isn't them. This is not what they want. So, they will naturally rebel in the ways of the Lord, and take no delight walking with the Lord, because His holiness exposes their evil, and they love their evil more than God's holiness. Simply said, if we love our Lord, then learning to walk with Him, becomes more pleasurable, and the longer we do, the more we will delight. On the other hand, if we don't love the Lord, then trying to walk with the Lord goes against what we love, and wanting to walk with our evil, we will stumble and rebel against God's holy ways. It's all about God's love for us and our love for Him. If there's such love, then it's good to walk with Him. But, if there's no such love, then rebellion and stumbling will be theirs. I pray that each of us will taste and experience God's love "for me" in Jesus' cross for me. God says we should find true love in Jesus' love for us on the cross.