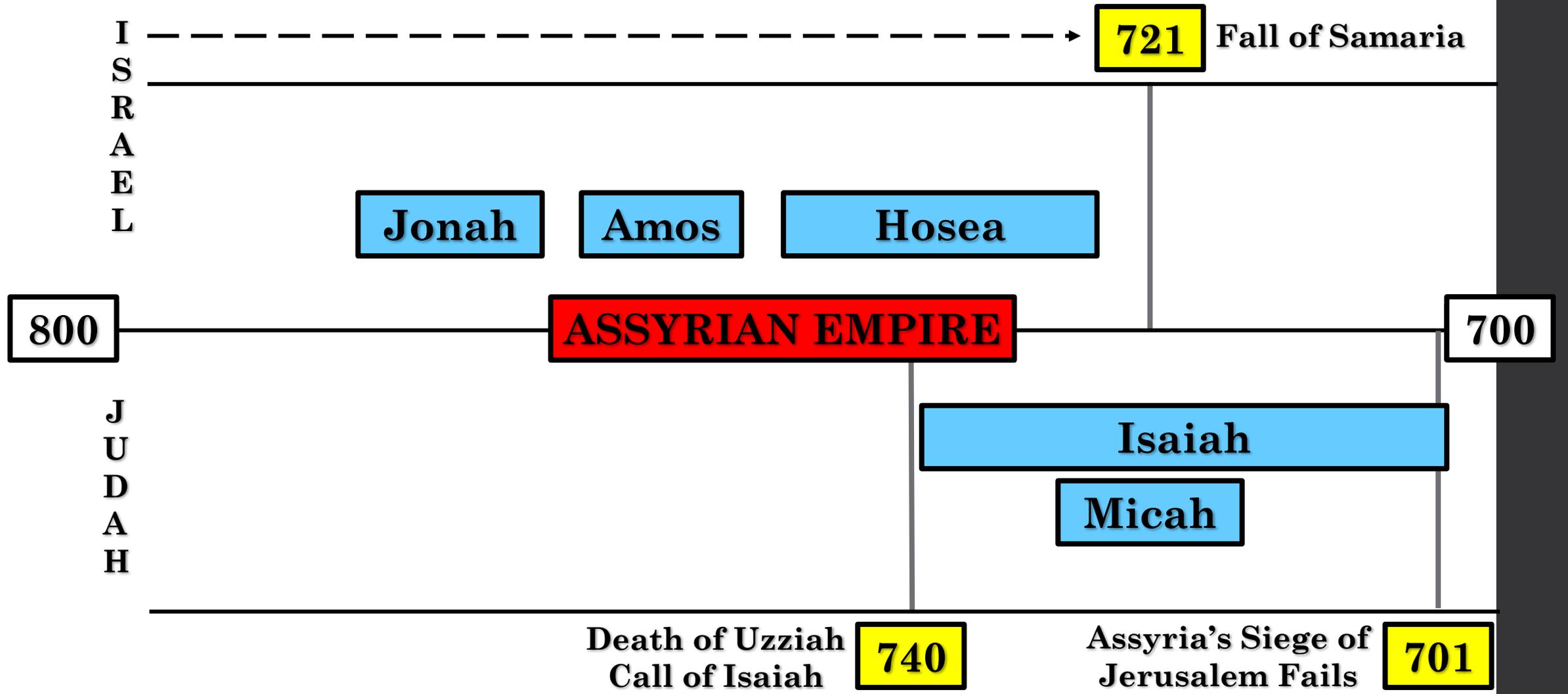




# Book of Hosea

Old Testament Workshop  
Morrison Heights Baptist Church  
March 8, 2020

# Historical Context



# Biographical Data

## Family of Orientation

Father: Beeri (1:1)

## Ministry

Location and Time: 8<sup>th</sup> Century Israel (Northern Kingdom) coinciding with the reign of four Southern Kingdom kings, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, and one Northern Kingdom king, Jeroboam II (1:1)

Clues within the book narrow the span to thirty-two years.

Beginning

754 BC | 1:4 is a prophecy fulfilled in 753 BC.

Ending

722 BC | NO mention of Israel's destruction (721 BC) as a past event

# Biographical Data

## Calling

The imperative “Go!” is sometimes a part of God’s call.



<i>Abram</i>	<b>Go</b> forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house ( <b>Gen. 12:1</b> ).
<i>Moses</i>	Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt. But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should <b>go</b> to Pharaoh?” ( <b>Ex. 3:10-11</b> )
<i>Isaiah</i>	Whom shall I send, and who will <b>go</b> for us? ( <b>6:8</b> )
<i>Amos</i>	<b>Go</b> prophesy to my people Israel ( <b>7:15</b> ).
<i>Jonah</i>	Arise, <b>go</b> to Nineveh the great city and cry against it ( <b>1:1</b> ).

God told Hosea, “**Go**, take to yourself a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry.” (**1:2**)

# Scholarly Debate

If God does not condone prostitution, why would he order Hosea to marry a prostitute?

**SEE Leviticus 19:29; 21:7, 9, 13-15; Deuteronomy 23:17-18.**

## Interpretations of Hosea's Marriage

### ① LITERAL

God commanded Hosea to marry a harlot, “in all probability a temple prostitute dedicated to Baal.” (Roy L. Honeycutt, Jr.)

### ② ALLEGORICAL

God used the fictitious account of Hosea's marriage to a harlot as a parable to convey dramatically his message to Israel.

### ③ PROLEPTIC

Gomer was initially faithful but later succumbed to a spirit of harlotry latent within her.

**SUPPORT: *Israel was initially faithful to Yahweh (SEE 9:10; 11:1; 13:4-5).***

# Biographical Data

## Family of Procreation

**WIFE: Gomer the daughter of Diblaim (1:3)**

According to **chapter 3**, she abandoned Hosea, but he retrieved and reclaimed her.

## CHILDREN

❶ **Son: Jezreel (1:4-5)**

❷ **Daughter: Lo-ruhamah | “No Compassion” (1:6-7)**

❸ **Son: Lo-ammi | “Not My People” (1:8-9)**

“And it will come about in that day that I will respond, declares the Lord. I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the earth, and the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine, and to the oil, and they will respond to Jezreel. And I will sow her for myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion. And I will say to those who were not my people, ‘You are my people!’ And they will say, ‘You are my God!’” (2:21-23)

# Message of the Book



Hosea presented God as a devoted husband (2:14-23) and a doting father (11:1, 3-4).

Israel, on the other hand, was an unfaithful spouse and a rebellious child. Hosea listed her many misdeeds.



- sinning against the Lord (4:7)
  - devising evil (7:15)
  - rebelling against the Lord (7:13; 8:1)
  - unruly (11:12)
  - lying (7:13; 11:12)
  - NO longer revering the Lord (10:3)
  - NO longer calling the Lord (7:7, 14)
  - NO longer listening to the Lord (4:10; 9:17)
  - NO longer seeking the Lord (7:10)
  - straying from the Lord (7:13)
  - turning away from the Lord (7:14; 11:7)
  - forsaking the Lord (1:2; 4:12; 9:1)
  - refusing to return to the Lord (7:10; 11:5)
  - courting other lovers (2:5, 8)
  - dealing treacherously against the Lord (6:7)
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# Message of the Book

Hosea revealed that God is sentimental.

9:10a  
12:9



Israel, on the other hand, forgot God and his law. He lamented.

2:13; 4:1, 6; 5:4  
8:12, 14; 13:4-6

Though Israel deserved a reprimand, God did not “jump for joy” to discipline her.

6:4  
7:13  
8:5  
11:8-11