

### “3 WAVES OF PROPHETS”

*this whole series connects both the Historical Urgency and also the Poetic Intelligence of the 17 OT prophets in such a way that it helps unlock: (1) God’s actual “Personality” of deep-character, top-priorities, and intimate-feelings (2) the proper balancing of one’s spirituality & society-ethics, and (3) “shapes-of-the-future” that God keeps building His People towards*

## [study #3] HOSEA: A Prophet Gets to Experience God’s own Massive Feelings

— covering **Hosea chpts. 1-3** —

**ACTION #1.** When we read the book of **Hosea** we need to imagine that Hosea’s written-down prophecies fell out of his 3-ring binder, blew away in the wind, then got chased down by Hosea’s followers who had to “guess” where to put them back again: **No one today knows which order the chapters and even some verses are really supposed to be in! Also, Hosea is the hardest book in the bible to even translate** from its original Hebrew, therefore in our group readings people’s English bibles may sound very different. Discuss in your group: who prepared for this week’s group-study by reading ahead and thus can share something they already know about Hosea, or, who watched the PHM Backstory-Video for this study and remembers something from it?

**ACTION #2.** The prophet Hosea experienced a horrible tragedy of his own wife cheating on him and thus questioning if his kids were even his. Thus, Hosea ended up learning the same kinds of feelings God Himself felt whenever Israel betrayed God. Read all these passages – **Hosea 1:1-8, 2:1-7, 3:1-5** – and then discuss:

- describe in your own words all that “happened” exactly in each of these 3 passages above
- do you think God “originally called” Hosea to *actually go do* the things he did, or do you think that “after it happened” God just reshaped it in Hosea’s mind in order to turn it into a learning experience?

{key words in the reading}

*Jezreel means “bloodshed” ... Lo-ruhammah means “not compassion” ... Lo-ammi means “not my people” ... Ishi means “husband” ... Baali means “master” ... Ephraim is another name for “Israel”*

**ACTION #3.** One of the incredible insights we can obtain from studying the Old Testament’s 17 prophet-books, is a deeper understanding of God’s actual “feelings.” **When we read the prophets, it becomes obvious (in all the expressive poetry) that God Himself has an actual “personality”** which includes Him having character, style, priorities, and yes even feelings. Read each of the following passages and then for each discuss: (1) what does the passage even communicate and (2) what deeper insight does it show about what God is like in His “personality”?

- [God planning a way to get Israel back-to-Him again] **Hosea 2:14-20**
- [God imagining Israel’s change-of-heart about Him in the future]: **Hosea 6:1-3**
- [God feeling split/divided between His deep love and his being betrayed...”what to do!”] **Hosea 11:8-11**

**EXTRA... FOR THOSE MOTIVATED, DEVOTED, & WITH SOME SELF-COMMAND:**

**GOLD CHALLENGE** ...read ahead (& maybe journal about) for next study: **Hosea chpts. 4-14**

**PENGUIN CHALLENGE** ...throughout this series read the kings-&-exile books (this week’s portion: **2 Samuel 11-18**)