

Biblically, prophets were MESSENGERS of God

“The Bible asserts that God prepared his prophets for a very specific ministry. They brought the divine word to people who desperately needed to hear it.” Bill T. Arnold

The Essence of Their Message

- A call to **REPENTANCE**
- A promise of **SALVATION** for those who will turn back to him

“Although these books were written over 2,500 years ago, we’ll discover that the issues they address – political corruption, spiritual leadership, integrity and ethics, mistreatment of the poor and vulnerable, sexual confusion, war and violence, attraction to false gods and cheap happiness – are as relevant to our world as to theirs.”

HOSEA: A PICTURE OF GOD’S UNRELENTING LOVE

The Problem (1:1-2)

1. **REBELLION** = the people of God have turned their backs on God
“There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land.” Hosea 4:1
2. **IDOLATRY** = the people of God have worshipped other gods
“They have deserted the Lord to worship other gods.” Hosea 4:11

Hosea Chronicles Some of Israel’s Sins (4:1-13:16)

- Worthless worship (4:11-14)
- Problematic Priests (4:4-10; 6:7-10)
- Corrupt leadership (5:1-7)
- Mounting aggressors (5:8-11)
- Internal strife (6:11-7:12)
- Pagan alliances (7:8-12)
- Syncretism and empty sacrifices (9:1-9)
- Pagan idol worship (10:1-15)
- Lies and deceit (11:12-12:2)
- Forgetting about God (12:7-10)

[All Scripture references from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted]

Hosea’s Clarion [LOUD & CLEAR] Call

1. **REPENT & RETURN** to God (14:1-8)
 - a. Accept responsibility for **DRIFTING** away from and intentionally **ABANDONING** God
“Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for your sins have brought you down.” (14:1)
 - b. Make an honest **CONFESSION** to God
“Bring your confessions and return to the Lord. Say to him, ‘Forgive all our sins and graciously receive us, so that we may offer you our praises.’” (14:2)
 - c. Turn from ways of living that **LED** and **LEAD** you away from God
“Assyria cannot save us, nor can our warhorses. Never again will we say to the idols we have made, ‘You are our gods.’ No, in you alone do the orphans find mercy.” (14:3)
 - d. Claim the **PROMISES** of God’s salvation
“I will heal you... my love will know no bounds... My people will again live under my shade...” (14:4-7)
 - e. Walk consistently in **SURRENDER** to God
“O Israel, stay away from idols! I am the one who answers your prayers and cares for you. I am like a tree that is always green; all your fruit comes from me.” (14:8)
“Repentance without relinquishment does not change us.”
2. Use the wisdom and courage God gives you to always make the **BEST CHOICE**
“Let those who are wise understand these things. Let those with discernment listen carefully. The paths of the Lord are true and right, and righteous people live by walking in them.” (14:8)

Making the Best Choice

1. Ask yourself, “How wise am I?”
2. Am I well acquainted with what God has said so that I can include His way in my decision-making process?
3. Do I carefully discern the strengths and consequences of each choice available?
4. Do I really believe God’s way is always the best?
5. Do I realize the results of rebelling against him?