



Walking the Ancient Path

Hosea

16 This is what the Lord says:

“Stand at the crossroads and look;

ask for the ancient paths,

ask where the good way is,

and walk in it,

and you will find rest for your souls.

Jer. 6

History of Israel

God's
Covenant
With
Abraham

Israel

Israel

Assyria

Judah

Babylon

Exile

Return

Prophets of Israel

Amos
Hosea
Isaiah
Micah

Zephaniah
Jeremiah
Nahum
Habakkuk

Obadiah
Ezekiel

Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Joel (?)
Jonah
(Ninevah)





**What will'ya
give me for
her?**

**True, she's been
around some, but
there's still some
life in these
bones.**



**Any
takers?**



**I'll buy
her.**



**How did
they get
here?**

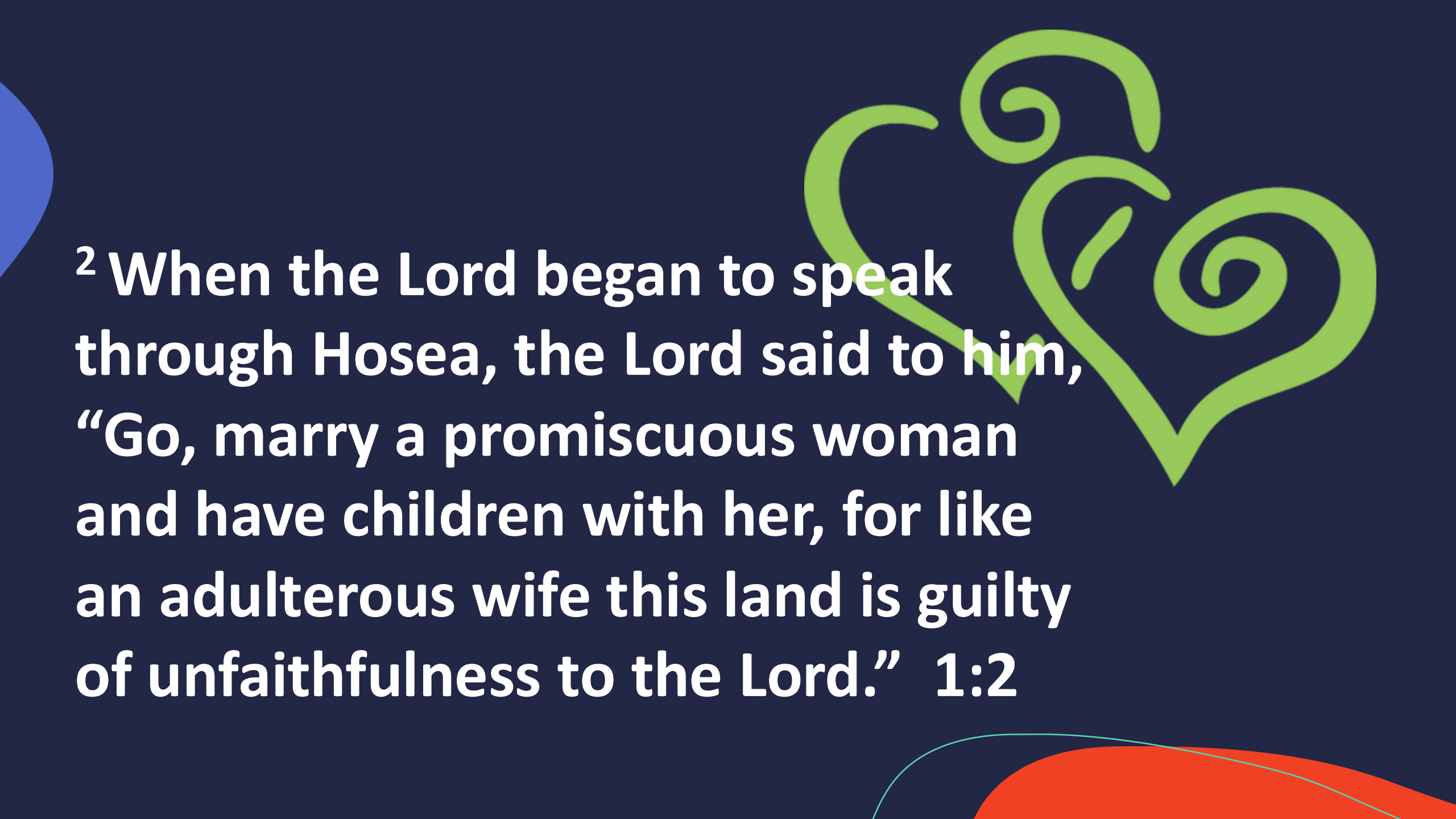


Prophets?

- **God's Messenger**
- **Covenant Enforcers**

How?

- **Oracles/Sermons**
- **Writings**
- **Living Metaphor**



² When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord.” 1:2



**God & Covenant
= Closeness of
Marriage**

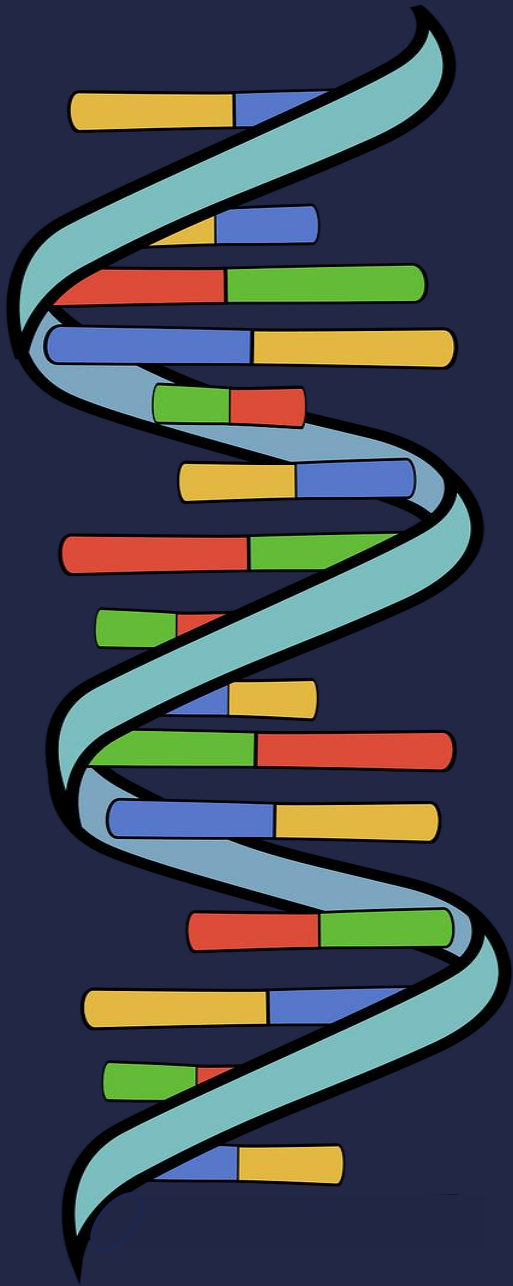
For your Creator will be your husband; the Lord of Heaven's Armies is his name! He is your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, the God of all the earth. Is. 54:5

Three Children

Jezreel

Lo-ruhamah

Lo-ammi



Gomer's (and our) Sad Story

- Sells herself for the "shiny" 2:5
- Vainly pursues love 2:7
- Falsely assumes
source of blessings 2:8
- Worships false god 2:11
- Loses everything & everyone 2:7
- Forgets the Lord 2:13
- Sold as a slave 3:1

1.

**It may not be easy -
but you maybe
God's best sermon.**

HOSEA

² When the Lord **first spoke** through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry

1:2 (NASB)

YOU

⁴ He comforts us every time we have trouble **so that** when others have trouble, we can comfort them with the same comfort God gives us.

2 Cor 1:4(EtoR)

2.

**Your actions matter,
big-time.**

Hosea 4:1-4

**Hear the word of
the Lord, O people of
Israel! The Lord has
brought charges
against you, saying:**

The Lord
Takes His
People To
Court

“There is no
faithfulness, no
kindness, no
knowledge of God in
your land.

The Big
Three

² You make vows and break them; you kill and steal and commit adultery. There is violence everywhere— one murder after another.

What's the Result?

³ That is why your land is in mourning, and everyone is wasting away. Even the wild animals, the birds of the sky, and the fish of the sea are disappearing.

Even nature sees the problem and is groaning.

**4 “Don’t point your
finger at someone else
and try to pass the
blame!**

The “Blame
Game” has
no place.

3.

**It's not over - you
have a new name!**

Three Children

Jezreel

Lo-ruhamah

Lo-ammi

**10 “Yet the time will
come when Israel’s
people will be like the
sands of the seashore—
too many to count!**

**No Mercy
Receives
Mercy**

Then, at the place
where they were told,
'You are not my
people,' it will be said,
'You are children of the
living God.'



**No Kin
Is Now
My people**

11 Then the people of Judah and Israel will unite together. They will choose one leader for themselves, and they will return from exile together. What a day that will be—the day of Jezreel

**Jezreel
Becomes
Good News**