

Hosea 1-14

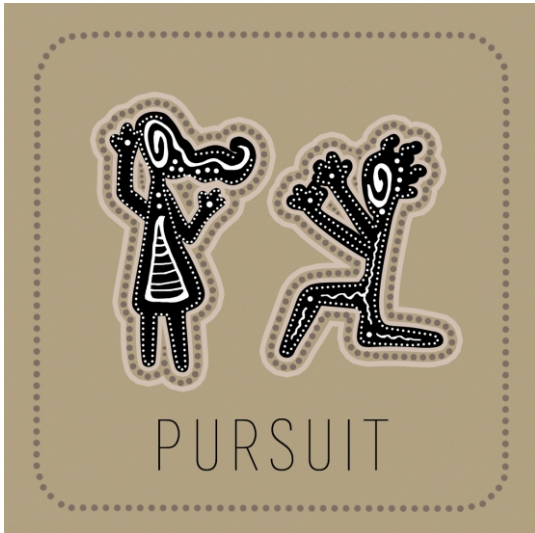
God sends prophets to deliver messages to His people: stop worshiping false gods and return to Him. Hosea, one of the last prophets is asked to demonstrate God's love, faithfulness and pursuit, by marrying a prostitute. Despite a king, a temple, prophets, the Israelites refuse to listen; many are punished and taken captive to foreign lands, while some remain or find a way back - and wait for God's promise.

GOD: Shows He will always punish sin, but that He is faithful when we are unfaithful. He pursues us and is determined to win us back.

HUMANS: We are sadly unfaithful and unable to keep our part of God's covenant.

Remember: Sometimes you have to stop looking so hard for the "nugget" from the story & **SIMPLY BELIEVE THE STORY**

Hosea 14:1-2, 4 - "Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for your sins have brought you down. 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.'... THE LORD SAYS, "Then I will heal you of your faithlessness..."



4 Stages of a Good Chase Scene (In this case, the GOOD GUY chasing the BAD GUY)

1. STOP!! (Prophets & The Warnings)

Jeremiah 2:13 – "For my people have done two evil things: They have abandoned me—the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!

2. "Do I IGNORE the Warning?" or "Do I LISTEN?" (People: Who will I worship?)

2 Chronicles 36:15-16 The LORD, the God of their ancestors, repeatedly sent his prophets to warn them, for he had compassion on his people and his Temple.16 But the people mocked these messengers of God and despised their words. They scoffed at the prophets until the LORD's anger could no longer be restrained and nothing could be done.

3. The CHASE (The Lord Pursues)

In Israel's disobedience, God does not remain on the SIDELINE. Correction comes BEFORE restoration.

Hosea 3:1 Then the LORD said to me, "Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover. This will illustrate that the LORD still loves Israel, even though the people have turned to other gods and love to worship them."

4. The CATCH (When I Stop Running, I Really Come to Life)

Ezekiel 37:5-6 This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again!6 I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.