

Hosea: My Jewish Learning



Hosea and Gomer. Stone relief quaterfoil, [Amiens Cathedral](#), 1220-40.

I. **Rambam, Mishneh Torah, Transmission of the Oral Law** Spain, (1138-1204)

Although the Oral Torah was not reduced to writing, Moses our Master gave instructions in its full scope... to seventy Elders.... **Hosea received it from Zechariah ...; Amos received it from Hosea ...**; Isaiah received it from Amos ...; Micha received it from Isaiah ...; Joel received it from Micha...; Nahum received it from Joel...; Habakkuk received it from Nahum...; Zephaniah received it from Habakkuk...; Jeremiah received it from Zephaniah...; Baruch son of Neriah received it from Jeremiah...; Ezra ...received it from Baruch son of Neriah...

II. **Babylonian Talmud, Baba Batra 14b**

Was Hosea the first [prophet] that it should be written: "When the Lord spoke first to Hosea" ([Hosea 1:2](#))? ... But surely between Moses and Hosea there were several prophets! Rabbi Yochanan answered: [Hosea] was first among the four prophets who prophesied at that time – Hosea, Isaiah, Amos, and Micah.

III. **Chapter 1**

1 The word of the LORD that came to Hosea son of Beerī in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, kings of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam son of Joash king of Israel. 2 When the Lord began to speak to Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea:

Go, take you a wife of whoring
and children of whoring,
For the land has surely whored
away from the Lord.

3 And he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. 4 And the LORD said to him: "Call his name Jezreel, for soon I will make a reckoning for the blood of Jezreel against the house of Jehu and put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. 5 And it shall be on that day I shall break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel." 6 And she conceived again and bore a daughter. And God said to him: "Call her name Lo Ruhamah, for I will not more show mercy to the

house of Israel nor will I forgive them in any way. 7 But to the house of Judah I will show mercy and rescue them through the Lord their God, but I will not rescue them through bow and sword and in battle with horses and with horsemen.” 8 And she weaned Lo-Ruhamah and conceived and bore a son. 9 And God said, “Call his name Lo Ami, Not my People, and I will not be yours.”

Babylonian Talmud, Pesachim 27a

What shall I do with this old man? I will order him: "Go and marry a harlot and beget thee children of harlotry"; and then I will order him: "Send her away from your presence." If he will be able to send [her] away, so will I too send Israel away. For it is said, “And the Lord said unto Hosea: ‘Go, take unto thee a wife of harlotry and children of harlotry’”; and it is written, “So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim.”

II. Chapter 2 12-25

12 Now will I uncover her shame In the very sight of her lovers, And none shall save her from Me. 13 And I will end all her rejoicing: Her festivals, new moons, and sabbaths— All her festive seasons. 14 I will lay waste her vines and her fig trees, Which she thinks are a fee She received from her lovers; I will turn them into brushwood, And beasts of the field shall devour them. 15 Thus will I punish her For the days of the Baalim, On which she brought them offerings; When, decked with earrings and jewels, She would go after her lovers, Forgetting Me —declares the LORD. 16 Assuredly, I will speak coaxingly to her And lead her through the wilderness And speak to her tenderly. 17 I will give her her vineyards from there, And the Valley of Achor as a plowland of hope. There she shall respond as in the days of her youth, When she came up from the land of Egypt. 18 And in that day —declares the LORD— You will call [Me] Ishi, And no more will you call Me Baali. 19 For I will remove the names of the Baalim from her mouth, And they shall nevermore be mentioned by name.

20 In that day, I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground; I will also banish bow, sword, and war from the land. Thus I will let them lie down in safety. 21 And I will espouse you forever: I will espouse you with righteousness and justice, And with goodness and mercy, 22 And I will espouse you with faithfulness; Then you shall be devoted to the LORD. 23 In that day, I will respond —declares the LORD— I will respond to the sky, And it shall respond to the earth;

24 And the earth shall respond With new grain and wine and oil, And they shall respond to Jezreel. 25 I will sow her in the land as My own; And take Lo-ruhamah

back in favor; And I will say to Lo-ammi, “You are My people,” And he will respond, “[You are] my God.”

IV. Chapter 3 1-5

1 The LORD said to me further, “Go, befriend a woman who, while befriended by a companion, consorts with others, just as the LORD befriends the Israelites, but they turn to other gods and love the cups of the grape.” 2 Then I hired her for fifteen [shekels of] silver, a homer of barley, and a lethech of barley; 3 and I stipulated with her, “In return, you are to go a long time without either fornicating or marrying; even I [shall not cohabit] with you.” 4 For the Israelites shall go a long time without king and without officials, without sacrifice and without cult pillars, and without ephod and teraphim. 5 Afterward, the Israelites will turn back and will seek the LORD their God and David their king—and they will thrill over the LORD and over God’s bounty in the days to come.

V. Chapter 11: 1-4

1 I fell in love with Israel When he was still a child; And I have called [him] My son Ever since Egypt. 2 Thus were they called, But they went their own way; They sacrifice to Baalim And offer to carved images. 3 I have pampered Ephraim, Taking them in My arms; But they have ignored My healing care. 4 I drew them with human ties, With cords of love; But I seemed to them as one Who imposed a yoke on their jaws, Though I was offering them food.

VI. Daat Elohim

4:6 My people is destroyed because of [your] disobedience (*mibli hadaat*)! Because you have rejected obedience (*hada’at*), I reject you as My priest; Because you have spurned the teaching of your God, I, in turn, will spurn your children.

5: 4 Their habits do not let them Turn back to their God; Because of the lecherous impulse within them, They pay no heed to the LORD (*lo yad’u*).

13:4 Only I the LORD have been your God Ever since the land of Egypt; You have never known (*teda*) a God but Me, You have never had a helper other than Me.

VII. Chapter 14: 3-10

3 Take words with you And return to the LORD. Say to Him: “Forgive all guilt And accept what is good; Instead of bulls we will pay [The offering of] our lips. 4 Assyria shall not save us, No more will we ride on steeds; Nor ever again will we call Our handiwork our god, Since in You alone orphans find pity!” 5 I will heal their affliction, Generously will I take them back in love; For My anger has turned away from them. 6 I will be to Israel like dew; He shall blossom like the lily, He shall strike root like a Lebanon tree. 7 His boughs shall spread out far, His beauty shall be like the olive tree’s, His fragrance like that of Lebanon. 8 They who sit in his shade shall be revived: They shall bring to life new grain, They shall blossom like the vine; His scent shall be like the wine of Lebanon. 9 Ephraim [shall say]: “What more have I to do with idols? When I respond and look to Him, I become like a verdant cypress.” Your fruit is provided by Me. 10 He who is wise will consider these words, He who is prudent will take note of them. For the paths of the LORD are smooth; The righteous can walk on them, While sinners stumble on them.

VIII. Chapter 6:6

For I desire goodness, not sacrifice; Attachment to God, rather than burnt offerings.

כִּי חֶסֶד חָפְצָתִי וְלֹא־זֶבַח וְדַעַת אֱלֹהִים מֵעֲלֹת