

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
<i>Foreword</i>	xiii
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xv
<i>Introduction</i>	xxi
Chapter 1: Approaching the Text	1
1. The Delimitation of the Text (Hos 1:1-3:5)	1
1.1. Hosea 4:1 - The Beginning of the Fourth Petucha	1
Summary	7
1.2. The Context of Hos 1:1-3:5	8
1.2.1. The Political Context of Hos 1:1-3:5	8
1.2.2. The Religious Context of Hos 1:1-3:5	10
1.2.3. The Social Context of Hos 1:1-3:5	11
1.2.4. The Literary Context of Hos 1:1-3:5	13
1.2.5. The Succeeding Pericope (Hos 4:1-19) and Contextual Relationship	14
1.2.6. The Explicit Connection between Hos 1:1-3:5 and 4:1-19	14
1.3. Translation and Text-Critical Notes on the Text	27
1.4. Observations on the MT and the LXX	44
1.4.1. Variations in the Septuagint	44
1.4.1.1. Variations as Free Translations	45
1.4.1.2. Variations in the Translation of the Particles	46
1.4.1.3. Harmonizing Alterations	47
1.4.1.4. Theological Interpretations	49
1.4.1.5. Variation of a Word or Expression	50
1.4.1.6. Alterations by Additions/Omission of Words	51
1.4.1.7. Linguistic Corrections	52
Summary	54

1.4.2. Variant Readings in Other LXX Manuscripts	55
1.4.2.1. Variants in Greek Minor Prophets Compared to LXX and MT	56
1.4.2.2. Variant Reading in LXX Versions	57
1.4.3. Observations on the MT and Other Versions of Bible	59
1.4.3.1. Variant Readings in Targum	59
1.4.3.2. Variant Readings in Syriac Peshitta	61
1.4.3.3. Variant Readings in Vulgate	63
1.4.4. Observations on the Variations in Qumran Manuscripts	65
1.4.4.1. Orthographical Differences	67
1.4.4.2. Alterations by Addition/Omissions and Linguistic Corrections	68
1.4.4.3. Variations among the Qumran Manuscripts	70
Conclusion	71
Chapter 2: The Structure and Dynamics of Hos 1:1-3:5	73
2. The Structure of Hos 1:1-3:5	73
2.1. Criteria for the Textual Division	75
2.2. The Structural Division of Hos 1:1-3:5	75
2.2.1. Space	75
2.2.2. Time	80
2.2.3. The Characters	86
2.2.3.1. The Status and Role of YHWH	87
2.2.3.2. The Status and Role of Israel	90
2.2.3.3. The Characterization and Role of Hosea	90
2.2.3.4. The Status and Role of the Subordinate Characters	91
2.2.4. Communication	93
2.2.5. Vocabulary	98
2.2.6. The Para Textual Elements and the Structure of Hos 1:1-3:5	105
2.2.7. The Structural Outline of Hos 1:1-3:5 Summary	105 106
2.3. The Textual Dynamics of Hos 1:1-3:5	107
2.3.1. Hos 1:1-3:5 The Beginning and the End	107
2.3.2. The Dynamics of Character	109
2.3.2.1. Hosea, the Prophet	109
2.3.2.2. The Role of YHWH	111
2.3.2.3. YHWH and Israel	113
2.3.2.4. YHWH and Judah	116

2.3.2.5. YHWH and Hosea	117
Summary	120
2.3.3. The Dynamics of Time within Hos 1:1-3:5	121
2.3.4. The Dynamics of Space within Hos 1:1-3:5	124
Summary	125
2.3.5. Thematic Movement	126
2.3.6. The Dynamics of Repetition of Words	128
Conclusion	131
Chapter 3: Textual Analysis and Interpretation of Hos 1:1-3:5	133
3.1. The Prelude of the Text	133
3.1.1. The Superscript	134
3.1.2. The Prophetic Call of Hosea (1:1a)	136
3.1.3. The Historical Setting (1:1b)	138
Summary	140
3.2. YHWH's Command to Hosea (1:2-9)	140
3.2.1. The Marriage of Hosea (1:2)	140
3.2.2. The Birth of Hosea's Children (1:3, 6, 8)	144
3.2.2.1. The Symbolic Name <i>Jezreel</i> (1:4-5)	144
3.2.2.2. The Symbolic Name <i>Lo-ruhamah</i> (1:6-7)	146
3.2.2.3. The Symbolic Name <i>Lo-ammi</i> (1:8-9)	148
3.2.3. The Punishment on Israel (1:4-5; 6-7, 9)	149
Summary	150
3.3. The Restoration of Israel (2:1-2)	151
3.3.1. The Promise of Increase in Number (2:1ab)	151
3.3.2. Israel will be Called 'The Sons of the Living God' (2:1c-f)	152
3.3.3. The Unification of Judah and Israel (2:2a-b)	155
3.3.4. Return from the Exile (2:2c)	156
3.3.5. The Glory of Jezreel Regained (2:2d)	157
Summary	159
3.4. Israel's Infidelity (2:3-15)	160
3.4.1. Renouncing of the Wife (2:3-5)	161
3.4.2. Israel's Sinful Acts (2:6-10)	166
3.4.3. Punishment on Israel (2:11-14)	170
3.4.4. Idolatry of Israel (2:15)	172
Summary	174
3.5. Call to Covenant Relationship (2:16-19)	175
3.5.1. YHWH's Initiative to Covenant Relationship (2:16-17)	176

3.5.2. The Imagery of Husband and Wife (2:18-19)	180
Summary	185
3.6. Establishment of Covenant (2:20-24)	186
3.6.1. Covenant with the Wildlife, Birds, and Creeping Things (2:20ab)	186
3.6.2. Abolishing of War and Weapons (2:20cd)	191
3.6.3. Covenant Relationship of Husband and Wife (2:21-22)	193
3.6.4. The Blessings Restored (2:23-24)	201
Summary	205
3.7. The Reversal of the Symbolic Names (2:25)	207
3.7.1. 'God Scatters' to 'God Sows' (2:25a)	207
3.7.2. <i>Lo-ruhamah</i> to <i>ruhamah</i> (2:25b)	210
3.7.3. <i>Lo-ammi</i> to <i>ammi</i> (2:25c-e)	211
3.7.4. 'Not your God' to 'my God' (2:25e)	213
Summary	216
3.8. Assurances of God's Redeeming Love (3:1-3)	217
3.8.1. Hosea Receives a Command from YHWH (3:1ab)	219
3.8.2. YHWH Loves Israel (3:1c)	223
3.8.3. Hosea Redeems His Wife (3:2)	226
3.8.4. Restrictions on Wife by Hosea (3:3)	228
Summary	230
3.9. YHWH Promises the Destiny of Israel (3:4-5)	232
3.9.1. The prediction of Exile (3:4)	233
3.9.2. Establishment of the Davidic Covenant (3:5ab)	236
3.9.3. Israel's Return to YHWH (3:5c)	239
Summary	241
Conclusion	242
Chapter 4: Theological Synthesis and Actualization of Hos 1:1-3:5	245
4.1. The Imageries in Hos 1:1-3:5	245
4.1.1. The Imagery of Marriage and Infidelity	246
4.1.2. The Imagery of Children with Symbolic Names	247
4.1.3. The Gender Imagery in Hos 1:1-3:5	247
4.1.3.1. The Evolving Role of Woman	248
4.1.3.2. Redefining Woman's Roles	248
4.1.3.3. The Imagery of Subjugated Woman	249
4.1.3.4. The Imagery of Masculinity	249
4.1.4. The Imagery of Desert and Fertility	250
4.1.5. The Imagery of Lover/Lovers	250

4.1.6. Personifying Israel: Symbolism and Identity	251
4.1.7. Israel as Symbolic Homeland	252
4.2. The Metaphors in Hosea 1:1-3:5	253
4.2.1. The Metaphor of Parent-Child Relationship	254
4.2.2. The Metaphor of Husband and Wife	256
4.2.3. The Metaphor of Adultery as Idolatry	257
4.2.4. The Metaphor of Marriage as Covenant	258
4.3. The Sovereignty of YHWH in Hos 1:1-3:5	259
4.3.1. The Sovereignty of YHWH Over the People of Israel	260
4.3.2. The Sovereignty of YHWH Over the Land	260
4.3.3. YHWH's Sovereignty Over the Life of Hosea	261
4.3.4. YHWH's Sovereignty Over the Morality and True Worship	262
4.4. Covenantal Relationship of YHWH and Israel	262
4.4.1. Infidelity as a Sign of Broken Covenant between YHWH and Israel	263
4.4.2. Restoration of the Covenant Relationship of YHWH and Israel	264
4.4.3. Hosea 1:1-3:5 and Sinaitic Covenant	265
4.4.4. Restoration of the Covenant in Hosea and Deuteronomy	267
4.4.5. Restoration of the Davidic Covenant	268
4.4.6. Restoration of the Relationship of Hosea and Gomer	269
4.5. Ethical Implications of the Text	270
4.5.1. Anti-Women or Anti-Adultery?	271
4.5.2. Polemic against Canaanite Religion	273
4.5.3. Loving Husband and Adulterous Wife	273
4.5.4. A Feminist Critique of Hos 1:1-3:5	275
4.5.5. Few Proposals to the Feminist Critique of Hos 1:1-3:5	277
4.5.6. Infidelity in Marriage as Covenant Breaking	280
Summary	283
4.6. Theological Application of Hos 1:1-3:5 in the Context of Archdiocese of Thrissur	284
4.6.1. Biblical Teaching on Marriage	286
4.6.2. Marriage: A Sacred Covenant Rooted in Unity and Love	286
4.6.3. Divorce in the Bible: Understanding God's Design	288
4.6.4. The Teaching of the Catholic Church on Divorce	290
4.7. Divorce Trends in Kerala	292

4.7.1. Year-wise Total Christian Divorce Petitions in Family Courts of Kerala	293
4.7.2. Year-wise Total Divorce Petitions in the Dioceses of Central Kerala	295
4.8. Reasons of Conflicts in Marital Life	296
4.8.1. Urbanization	296
4.8.2. Poor Communication	297
4.8.3. Infidelity	298
4.8.4. Social Segregation of Families	299
4.8.5. Impact on Women's Roles in Family and Society	301
4.8.6. Conflicts in Marriage and Domestic Violence	303
4.8.7. Use of Alcohol and Drugs	304
4.8.8. Misuse of Social Media and Divorce	305
4.8.9. The Issue of Dowry and Divorce	306
4.8.10. Intellectual and Educational Differences	307
4.8.11. The New Trend of Living Together	308
4.9. Findings of the Study	311
4.9.1. Challenges for Christian Married Couples	312
4.9.2. Few Suggestions	313
Summary	315
<i>General Conclusion</i>	317
<i>Bibliography</i>	323