

Bible Study Questions for
Love in a Broken Vessel
By Mesu Andrews

1. Who were the kings of Judah and/or Israel during the following prophets' ministries?
Jonah (2 Kings 14:23, 25) _____
Amos (Amos 1:1) _____
Micah (Mic. 1:1) _____
Isaiah (Isa. 1:1) _____

2. Hosea was the only writing prophet to have come from Israel as well as prophesy to Israel. However, out of the kings listed in Hosea 1:1, four are from Judah and only one is from Israel. List the reigning kings during Hosea's ministry.
From Judah _____
From Israel _____

3. Commentators believe Hosea's references to Judean kings and repeated mentions of Judah suggest that he might have lived in Judah when he actually wrote the prophecy (see *The NIV Study Bible*, "Hosea: Author and Date"). Aside from the fictional idea of a prophets' camp in *Love in a Broken Vessel*, why might Hosea have lived in Judah during the last years of his life and ministry?

4. Prophets were often called on to act out God's message. Write a short description of God's commanded action to each prophet and the spiritual truth it displayed.
Hosea 1:2-10
Prophet's Action _____

Spiritual Truth _____

Isaiah 20:1–6

Prophet's Action _____

Spiritual Truth _____

Jeremiah 13:1–11

Prophet's Action _____

Spiritual Truth _____

5. Read Matthew 16:24–28. Jesus tells his disciples they must do something that would seem as strange to them as the actions of the Old Testament prophets. A cross was the symbol of death in the Roman world, but in verse 28, Jesus promised some wouldn't taste death. How could that be?

Like the prophets and the disciples, we won't always understand every word of God when we hear it the first time. We may never understand some things this side of eternity. How can you be at peace with that?

6. To get a broader picture of King Uzziah, study 2 Chronicles 26 and list what you find in the following verses.

Age when anointed king (v. 3) _____

Total length of reign (v. 3) _____

Good or bad in God's eyes (v. 4) _____

Spiritual life grounded in (v. 5) _____

Foreign policy (vv. 6–8) _____

Building in Judah (vv. 9–10) _____

Military prowess (vv. 11–15) _____

Downfall (v. 16) _____

God's punishment (vv. 17–21) _____

How he's remembered (vv. 22–23) _____

Another downfall (2 Kings 15:4) _____

Though Scripture gives no absolute answer on King Uzziah's spiritual condition *after* his extensive suffering, what lessons can we learn from his life?

7. Hosea 2:14–23 declares God's intention to prove His love for Israel as a perfect *ish*, the Hebrew word for "husband" (see *The Names of God Bible*). In the following verses, what concepts or promises stand out to you?

2:14–15 _____

2:18 _____

2:19–20 _____

2:21–23 _____

8. Our perfect and divine Husband requires absolute faithfulness, which will be rewarded with an eternal celebration. But until the day we meet Him face-to-face, we must give our hearts only to Him. The Old and New Testaments give us insight into the ups and downs of this marriage relationship. What gives you hope or encouragement in the following verses?

If we let our hearts stray and become unfaithful (Isa. 54:5–7) _____

His plan to help us remain faithful after we've fallen and then returned (Jer. 3:14–15) _____

The grand celebration when we finally see Him face-to-face (Rev. 19:6–9) _____

9. The same God who calls Israel His bride in the Old Testament sent His Son as the Bridegroom and calls the church His bride in the New Testament. He is one and the same God—equally jealous and loving, as just as He is merciful. Imagine the joy Hosea must have felt when Gomer finally loved him as a husband, giving him her whole heart. Then consider how that joy pales in comparison to God's joy when each of us makes that commitment to Him. In the space below, write a love letter to your divine Husband. Tell Him how you feel about His unrelenting pursuit of you.

