

IN &
OUT®

*A Love That
Will Not
Let Me Go*

A STUDY OF HOSEA

IN & OUT®
KINGS AND PROPHETS SERIES
Course 8
A LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO
A STUDY OF HOSEA

ISBN 978-1-62119-635-8

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1st edition
Printed in the United States of America

PAGE **C O N T E N T S**

1 Before You Begin We Want You to Know. . .

L E S S O N S

3 LESSON ONE: A Love That Will Not Let Me Go
11 LESSON TWO: My People Perish for Lack of Knowledge
17 LESSON THREE: The Cost of Rebellion
23 LESSON FOUR: How Can I Give You Up?

A P P E N D I X

28 Explanations of New American Standard Bible Text Format
29 Hosea Observation Worksheets
61 Hosea at a Glance
63 Ezekiel 16:1-43, 60-63
67 The Rulers and Prophets of Hosea's Time
69 Jezreel Valley Map
71 Cities of Israel and Judah Map

BEFORE YOU BEGIN WE WANT YOU TO KNOW. . .

Beloved, thank you for joining us in the eighth of our ten-course study in the Kings and Prophets series, *A Love That Will Not Let Me Go*. How we pray that this study of Hosea will help you understand the wonder of God's covenant love to all His covenant people. Remember, the Old Testament was written for our instruction, hope, and encouragement (1 Corinthians 10:11; Romans 15:4).

If you're new to this series, it's important for you to know that the Old Testament books we're studying are a mix of history and concurrent prophecy. We designed this series to give you a full picture of events in Israel during a specific period of history.

While we want you to have the full picture of these times, we also want you to be able to separate out the writings of the prophets should you desire. So we divided this series into ten separate courses. This and the fact that the course does not demand an overwhelming commitment should encourage newcomers to join us without hesitation. We trust that you are about our Father's business recruiting others to study God's Word for themselves!

Remember, Beloved: God put sixty-six books into His Book. There is a purpose for each one, and we need to study each and every one. To ignore the Word of God is to ignore God, which is the height of pride. The Bible is *the Word* of the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

God has spoken, and what He has spoken is absolute truth. He told us we're to live by every word which comes from His mouth (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4). Therefore we must not neglect the Word of God or prefer the words of men (books authored by human beings) over the very words of God. The content of each book of the Bible is critical to our lives; otherwise, God would not have included it in His eternal Word.

You're doing what you ought to be doing and we're proud of you for disciplining yourself for the purpose of godliness, for adding to your faith, knowledge—the knowledge of the one and only true God, His ways, His history, His commandments, His ordinances and precepts for life.

It's our prayer that you will see how critically relevant Hosea is to our times and to your life so that you'll confidently know and understand that He loves you with a love that will not let you go. May this love cause you to keep His commandments and honor Him for Who He truly is.

How we look forward to your stories about how God uses these courses to teach you more of Who He is, to conform you more into His Son's image, and to prepare you to be the vessel of righteousness He desires to use for the furtherance of His kingdom. And how we would love to see you face-to-face at one of our training workshops, study courses, tours, or conferences!

Blessings untold,



Kay Arthur for all the Precept Staff

A Love That Will Not Let Me Go

How much and how long will You love me, my God?

Surviving the trauma of fractured relationships, the frailty and fickleness of human love make the answer to this question a matter of the greatest security and peace. The study you’re about to embark on could not be more timely or needful.

TAKING IT IN

If you begin each day’s study with prayer, crying out to the God of heaven for insight, wisdom, and understanding of the pertinence of this book, then God will meet with you in a very profound and personal way. It’s His delight to answer the cry of your heart.

Remember the Bible is God’s book, His words—recorded word-for-word under the supervision of the Holy Spirit. So come to God in childlike trust, dear disciple, and listen accordingly. As you learn more and more of His Word, more and more you’ll come to know your God better and watch with amazement and delight as Scripture interprets Scripture and the Spirit teaches you how to live.

1. As we go through Hosea, we think it will be helpful to memorize one verse a week. Your first verse to learn is Hosea 2:23.
2. Read Hosea 1–3 on your Observation Worksheets. Using a pencil, underline every reference to *wife*, *husband*, *mother*. Then write down your first impression of what you think these three chapters are about.

3. Now let's begin our observations of Hosea 1.
 - a. Mark the following key words along with their synonyms and pronouns. List the words on the blank side of the Key Word Bookmark on the back of this workbook and mark them as you will throughout Hosea.
 - 1) *the Lord first spoke, the Lord said*
 - 2) *harlotry, play the harlot*
 - 3) *I will*
 - 4) *Israel* (the Northern Kingdom—capital, Samaria)
 - 5) *Judah* (the Southern Kingdom—capital, Jerusalem)
 - 6) *name him (her)* _____ and include the name in the marking.
 - b. Read Hosea 1 again and:
 - 1) Mark references to time and add this to your bookmark. Many of us do this with a green circle.
 - 2) Double underline geographical references in green. Add this to your bookmark. Places are as important in the Word of God as time. You will find a map of the Jezreel Valley in the Appendix.
 - c. What do you learn from marking “days” in Hosea 1:1? *When* did the Word of the Lord come to Hosea? The answer will give you a clearer understanding of the timing of Hosea's messages.
4. Let's see when the kings mentioned in Hosea 1:1 ruled.
 - a. Look at the chart “The Rulers and Prophets of Hosea's Time,” in the Appendix. Locate the names of the kings mentioned in verse 1, then on the following page list them under the kingdoms they ruled over with the years of their reigns (as recorded on the chart).

THE KINGS OF HOSEA 1:1

Kings of Judah	Years ruled	Kings of Israel	Years ruled

b. Now, using the same chart, what were the names of the kings of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) who ruled during the reigns of the Southern kings listed in Hosea 1:1?

c. “The Rulers and Prophets of Hosea’s Time” chart shows that Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Note the names of the prophets to the Southern Kingdom during Hosea’s time.

5. Great start! Next we are going to dig a little deeper into Hosea 1:1-9.

a. One of the phrases you marked was *the Lord first spoke* and *the Lord said*. Look at each place you marked these synonymous phrases. How many times did the Lord speak to Hosea in this first chapter?

b. Now, on the following page list what you learn about God’s messages to Hosea in the order they are spoken by God. Watch the *I wills* of God you marked.

HOSEA 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THE word of the LORD which came to Hosea the son of Beeri, during the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz *and* Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

- 2 When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry and *have* children of harlotry; for the land commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking the LORD.”
- 3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.
- 4 And the LORD said to him, “Name him Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.
- 5 “On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.”
- 6 Then she conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. And the LORD said to him, “Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have compassion on the house of Israel, that I would ever forgive them.
- 7 “But I will have compassion on the house of Judah and deliver them by the LORD their God, and will not deliver them by bow, sword, battle, horses or horsemen.”
- 8 When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and gave birth to a son.
- 9 And the LORD said, “Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not My people and I am not your God.”
- 10 Yet the number of the sons of Israel
Will be like the sand of the sea,
Which cannot be measured or numbered;
And in the place
Where it is said to them,

“You are not My people,”

It will be said to them,

“*You are* the sons of the living God.”

11 And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel will be gathered
together,

And they will appoint for themselves one leader,

And they will go up from the land,

For great will be the day of Jezreel.

HOSEA 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

SAY to your brothers, “Ammi,” and to your sisters, “Ruhamah.”

- 2 “Contend with your mother, contend,
For she is not my wife, and I am not her husband;
And let her put away her harlotry from her face
And her adultery from between her breasts,
- 3 Or I will strip her naked
And expose her as on the day when she was born.
I will also make her like a wilderness,
Make her like desert land
And slay her with thirst.
- 4 “Also, I will have no compassion on her children,
Because they are children of harlotry.
- 5 “For their mother has played the harlot;
She who conceived them has acted shamefully.
For she said, ‘I will go after my lovers,
Who give *me* my bread and my water,
My wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.’
- 6 “Therefore, behold, I will hedge up her way with thorns,
And I will build a wall against her so that she cannot find her
paths.
- 7 “She will pursue her lovers, but she will not overtake them;
And she will seek them, but will not find *them*.
Then she will say, ‘I will go back to my first husband,
For it was better for me then than now!’
- 8 “For she does not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the
new wine and the oil,

And lavished on her silver and gold,
Which they used for Baal.

9 “Therefore, I will take back My grain at harvest time
And My new wine in its season.

I will also take away My wool and My flax
Given to cover her nakedness.

10 “And then I will uncover her lewdness
In the sight of her lovers,
And no one will rescue her out of My hand.

11 “I will also put an end to all her gaiety,
Her feasts, her new moons, her sabbaths
And all her festal assemblies.

12 “I will destroy her vines and fig trees,
Of which she said, ‘These are my wages
Which my lovers have given me.’
And I will make them a forest,
And the beasts of the field will devour them.

13 “I will punish her for the days of the Baals
When she used to offer sacrifices to them
And adorn herself with her earrings and jewelry,
And follow her lovers, so that she forgot Me,”
declares the LORD.

14 “Therefore, behold, I will allure her,
Bring her into the wilderness
And speak kindly to her.

15 “Then I will give her her vineyards from there,
And the valley of Achor as a door of hope.
And she will sing there as in the days of her youth,
As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.

16 “It will come about in that day,” declares the LORD,
“That you will call Me Ishi
And will no longer call Me Baali.

- 17 “For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth,
So that they will be mentioned by their names no more.
- 18 “In that day I will also make a covenant for them
With the beasts of the field,
The birds of the sky
And the creeping things of the ground.
And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land,
And will make them lie down in safety.
- 19 “I will betroth you to Me forever;
Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice,
In lovingkindness and in compassion,
- 20 And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness.
Then you will know the LORD.
- 21 “It will come about in that day that I will respond,”
declares the LORD.
“I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the
earth,
- 22 And the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine and to
the oil,
And they will respond to Jezreel.
- 23 “I will sow her for Myself in the land.
I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained
compassion,
And I will say to those who were not My people,
‘You are My people!’
And they will say, ‘*You are my God!*’ ”

HOSEA 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THEN the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman *who* is loved by *her* husband, yet an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes.”

- 2 So I bought her for myself for fifteen *shekels* of silver and a homer and a half of barley.
- 3 Then I said to her, “You shall stay with me for many days. You shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man; so I will also be toward you.”
- 4 For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or *sacred* pillar and without ephod or household idols.
- 5 Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.

HOSEA AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

	Message Themes	Chapter Themes
Author:		1
		2
Date:		3
		4
Purpose:		5
		6
Key Words:		7
		8
		9
		10
		11
		12
		13
		14

EZEKIEL 16:1-43, 60-63

THEN the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

- 2 “Son of man, make known to Jerusalem her abominations
- 3 and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem, “Your origin and your birth are from the land of the Canaanite, your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite.
- 4 “As for your birth, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water for cleansing; you were not rubbed with salt or even wrapped in cloths.
- 5 “No eye looked with pity on you to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you. Rather you were thrown out into the open field, for you were abhorred on the day you were born.
- 6 “When I passed by you and saw you squirming in your blood, I said to you *while you were* in your blood, ‘Live!’ Yes, I said to you *while you were* in your blood, ‘Live!’
- 7 “I made you numerous like plants of the field. Then you grew up, became tall and reached the age for fine ornaments; *your* breasts were formed and your hair had grown. Yet you were naked and bare.
- 8 “Then I passed by you and saw you, and behold, you were at the time for love; so I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness. I also swore to you and entered into a covenant with you so that you became Mine,” declares the Lord GOD.
- 9 “Then I bathed you with water, washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil.
- 10 “I also clothed you with embroidered cloth and put sandals of porpoise skin on your feet; and I wrapped you with fine linen and covered you with silk.
- 11 “I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your hands and a necklace around your neck.
- 12 “I also put a ring in your nostril, earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head.

***A Love That Will Not
Let Me Go****Ezekiel 16:1-43, 60-63*

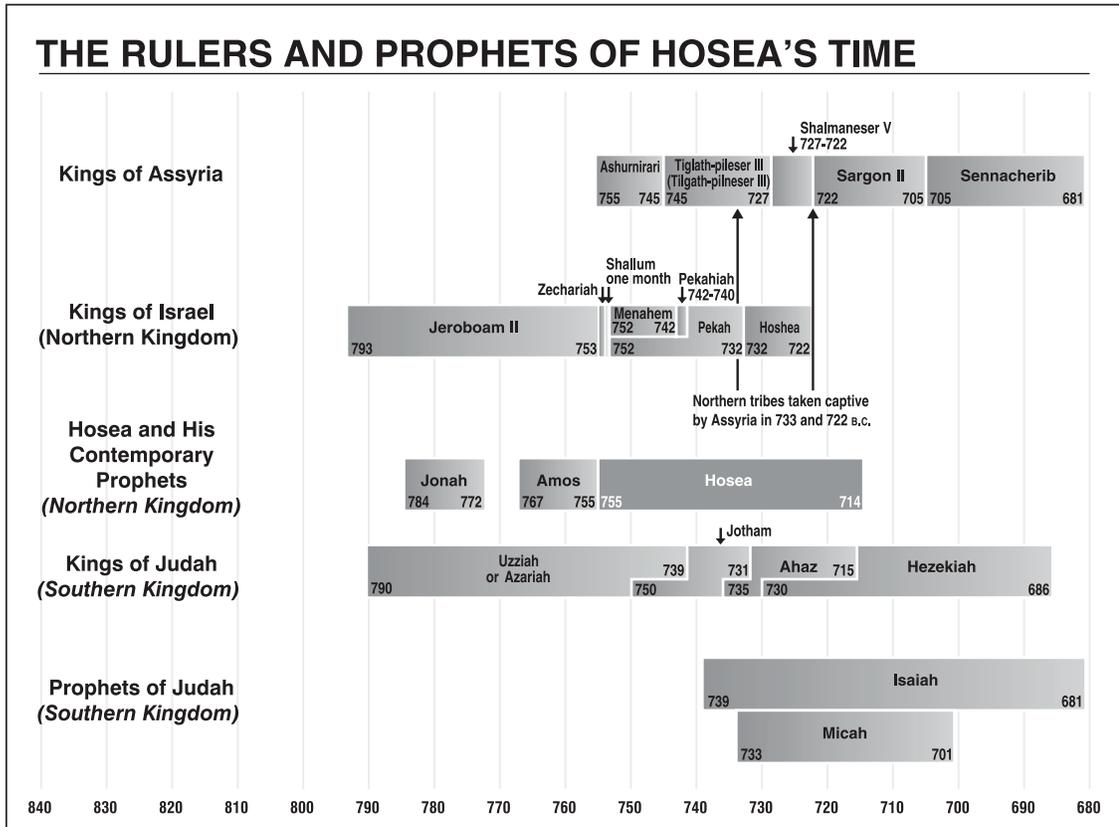
- 13 “Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your dress was of fine linen, silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour, honey and oil; so you were exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty.
- 14 “Then your fame went forth among the nations on account of your beauty, for it was perfect because of My splendor which I bestowed on you,” declares the Lord GOD.
- 15 “But you trusted in your beauty and played the harlot because of your fame, and you poured out your harlotries on every passer-by who might be *willing*.
- 16 “You took some of your clothes, made for yourself high places of various colors and played the harlot on them, which should never come about nor happen.
- 17 “You also took your beautiful jewels *made* of My gold and of My silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself male images that you might play the harlot with them.
- 18 “Then you took your embroidered cloth and covered them, and offered My oil and My incense before them.
- 19 “Also My bread which I gave you, fine flour, oil and honey with which I fed you, you would offer before them for a soothing aroma; so it happened,” declares the Lord GOD.
- 20 “Moreover, you took your sons and daughters whom you had borne to Me and sacrificed them to idols to be devoured. Were your harlotries so small a matter?
- 21 “You slaughtered My children and offered them up to idols by causing them to pass through *the fire*.
- 22 “Besides all your abominations and harlotries you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare and squirming in your blood.
- 23 “Then it came about after all your wickedness (‘Woe, woe to you!’ declares the Lord GOD),
- 24 that you built yourself a shrine and made yourself a high place in every square.
- 25 “You built yourself a high place at the top of every street and made your beauty abominable, and you spread your legs to every passer-by to multiply your harlotry.
- 26 “You also played the harlot with the Egyptians, your lustful neighbors, and multiplied your harlotry to make Me angry.

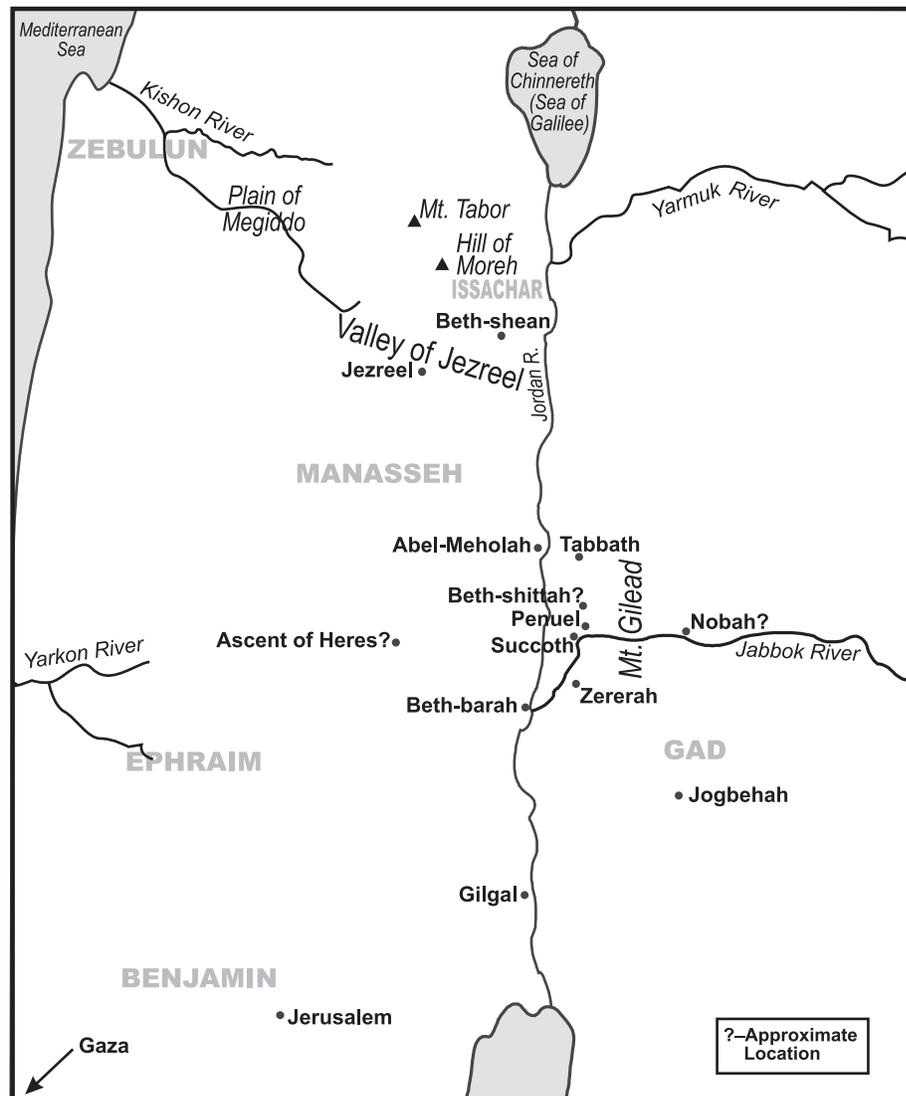
- 27 “Behold now, I have stretched out My hand against you and diminished your rations. And I delivered you up to the desire of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, who are ashamed of your lewd conduct.
- 28 “Moreover, you played the harlot with the Assyrians because you were not satisfied; you played the harlot with them and still were not satisfied.
- 29 “You also multiplied your harlotry with the land of merchants, Chaldea, yet even with this you were not satisfied.” ’ ’ ”
- 30 “How languishing is your heart,” declares the Lord GOD, “while you do all these things, the actions of a bold-faced harlot.
- 31 “When you built your shrine at the beginning of every street and made your high place in every square, in disdain of money, you were not like a harlot.
- 32 “You adulteress wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband!
- 33 “Men give gifts to all harlots, but you give your gifts to all your lovers to bribe them to come to you from every direction for your harlotries.
- 34 “Thus you are different from those women in your harlotries, in that no one plays the harlot as you do, because you give money and no money is given you; thus you are different.”
- 35 Therefore, O harlot, hear the word of the LORD.
- 36 Thus says the Lord GOD, “Because your lewdness was poured out and your nakedness uncovered through your harlotries with your lovers and with all your detestable idols, and because of the blood of your sons which you gave to idols,
- 37 therefore, behold, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, even all those whom you loved *and* all those whom you hated. So I will gather them against you from every direction and expose your nakedness to them that they may see all your nakedness.
- 38 “Thus I will judge you like women who commit adultery or shed blood are judged; and I will bring on you the blood of wrath and jealousy.
- 39 “I will also give you into the hands of your lovers, and they will tear down your shrines, demolish your high places, strip you of your clothing, take away your jewels, and will leave you naked and bare.
- 40 “They will incite a crowd against you and they will stone you and cut you to pieces with their swords.

***A Love That Will Not
Let Me Go****Ezekiel 16:1-43, 60-63*

- 41 “They will burn your houses with fire and execute judgments on you in the sight of many women. Then I will stop you from playing the harlot, and you will also no longer pay your lovers.
- 42 “So I will calm My fury against you and My jealousy will depart from you, and I will be pacified and angry no more.
- 43 “Because you have not remembered the days of your youth but have enraged Me by all these things, behold, I in turn will bring your conduct down on your own head,” declares the Lord GOD, “so that you will not commit this lewdness on top of all your *other* abominations.
- 60 “Nevertheless, I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you.
- 61 “Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you receive your sisters, *both* your older and your younger; and I will give them to you as daughters, but not because of your covenant.
- 62 “Thus I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the LORD,
- 63 so that you may remember and be ashamed and never open your mouth anymore because of your humiliation, when I have forgiven you for all that you have done,” the Lord GOD declares.

A Love That Will Not Let Me Go
The Rulers and Prophets of Hosea's Time





Jezreel is the name of northern **and** southern cities in Israel. Locate the northern city on the map since this is the one you need to focus on. Look also for the valley of Jezreel. This valley is also called the valley of Armageddon (Har-Magedon) named for the mountains (Har) or city of Megiddo. It is lush, beautiful and green—breathtaking when you look at it from the top of the Tel of Megiddo, one of Solomon’s chariot cities. When Napoleon saw it, he said it was the greatest battlefield he’d seen. It’s awesome to stand there and realize this is where all the nations will someday gather themselves to go to war against Israel and against her God.

