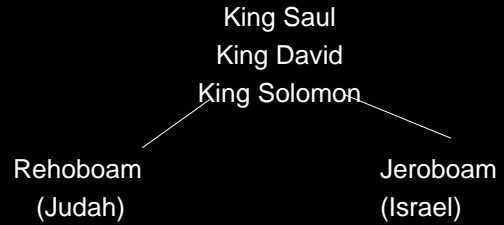


Hosea

The Perseverance of love

3 stories. 1. ISRAEL



They built places of worship for false gods. (1Kings 14.23)

- Jeroboam 2nd reigns : the good times roll!
- 753 - Jeroboam 2nd dies
- 743 - Israel pays tribute to Assyrians
- 735 (ish)- Failed revolt, loss of territory
- 722 - Samaria falls after 3-year siege
- Whole population goes into exile



2. Hosea and Gomer

- Blushing bride in white??!

NOT!!



Happy Family??

- "Jezreel": chickens coming home to roost
- "Lo-Ruhamah": not loved
- "Lo-Ammi": not my people



Out of the seemingly most unredeemable darkness comes a window into the heart of God.



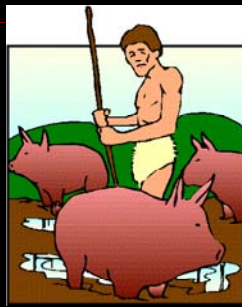
3. God's love affair with his people

- God's relationship with us is
 - A marriage
 - In which he provides for us
 - Exclusive
- Total commitment – no other gods
 - An affair of the heart
 - Without illusions
 - Consequential : we reap what we sow



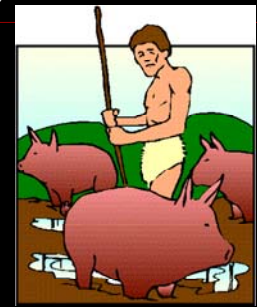
Astonishing grace

- Is not proud – v. 7



Astonishing grace

- Is not proud – v. 7
- Seeks us out – v. 14-15



Astonishing grace

- Is not proud – v. 7
- Seeks us out – v. 14-15
- Never gives up –v. 19-



*Love...
Always protects
Always trusts
Always hopes
Always perseveres*

*Love ...
never fails!*