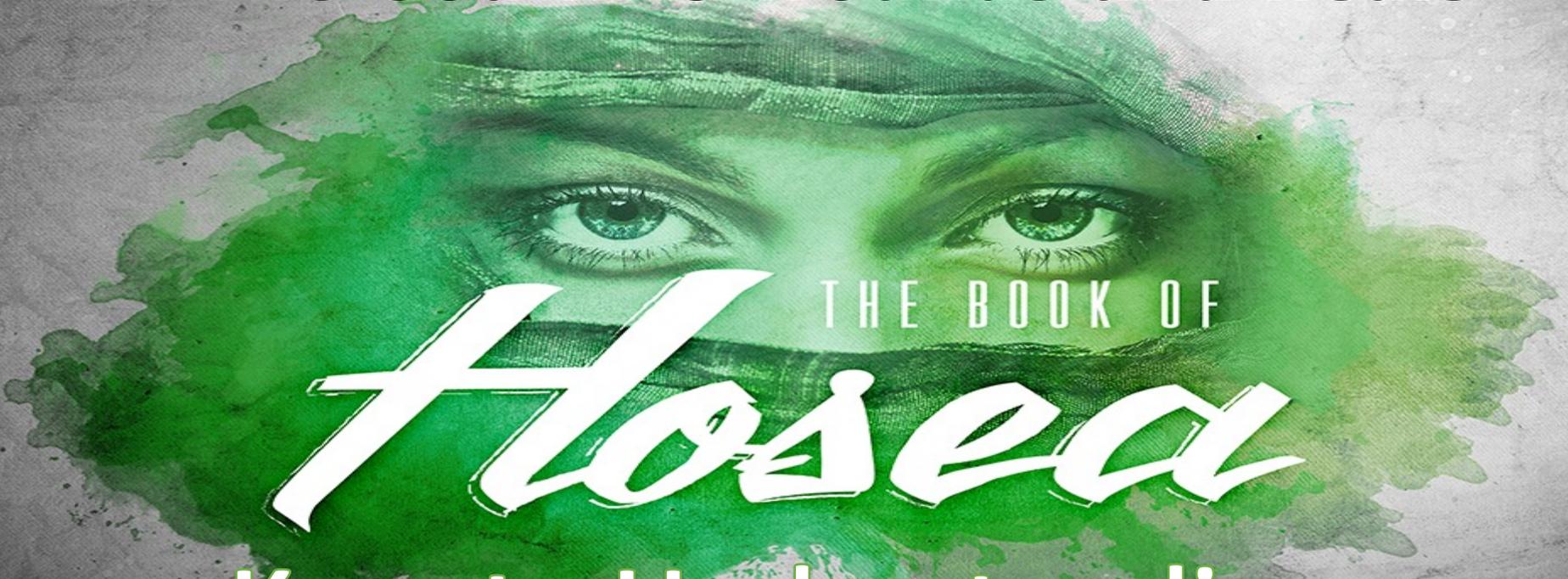


THE BOOK OF
Hosea
Keys to Understanding

1. The God who wounds and heals

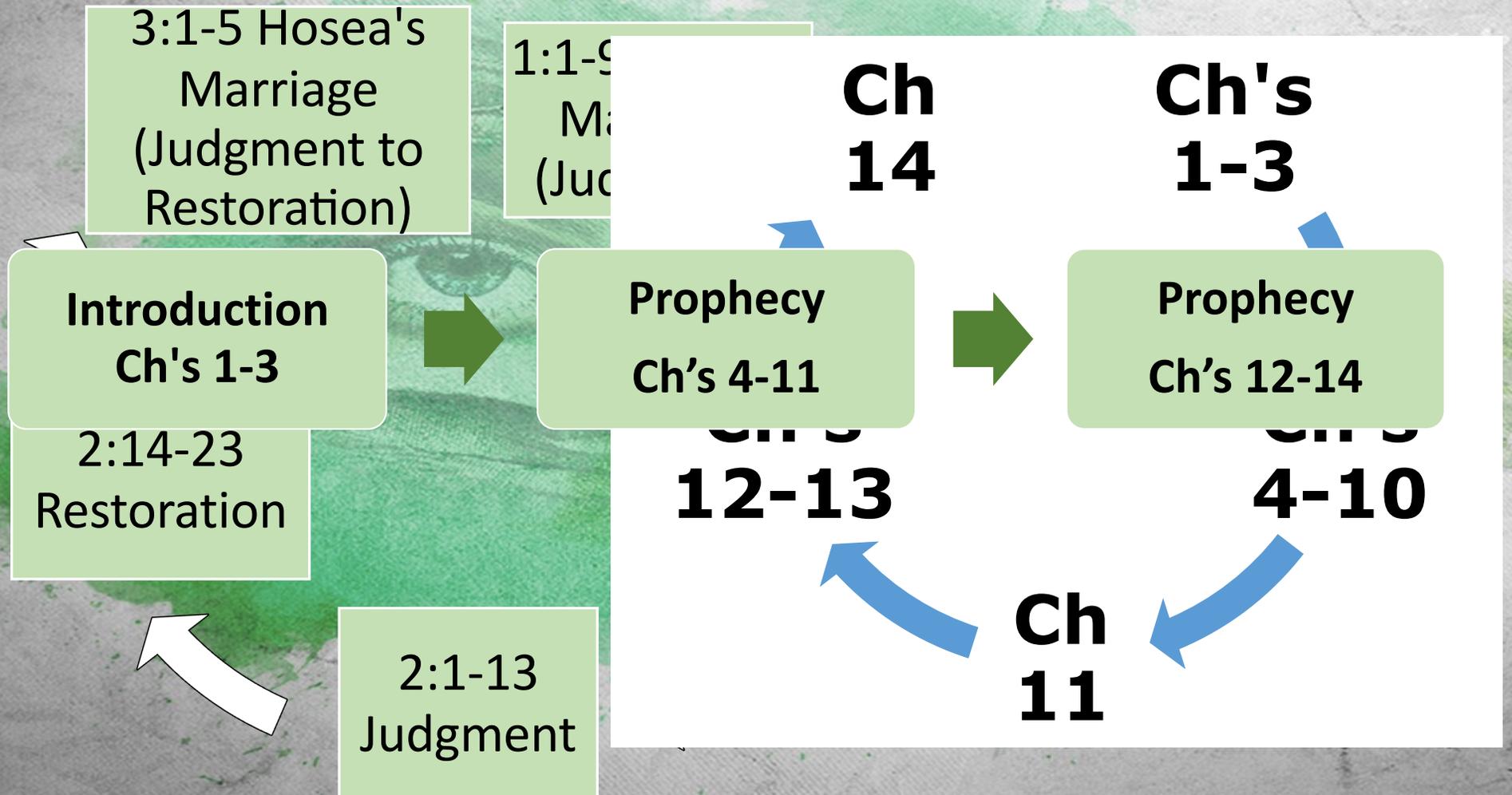


THE BOOK OF

Hosea

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Hosea Structure



Hosea and Deuteronomy

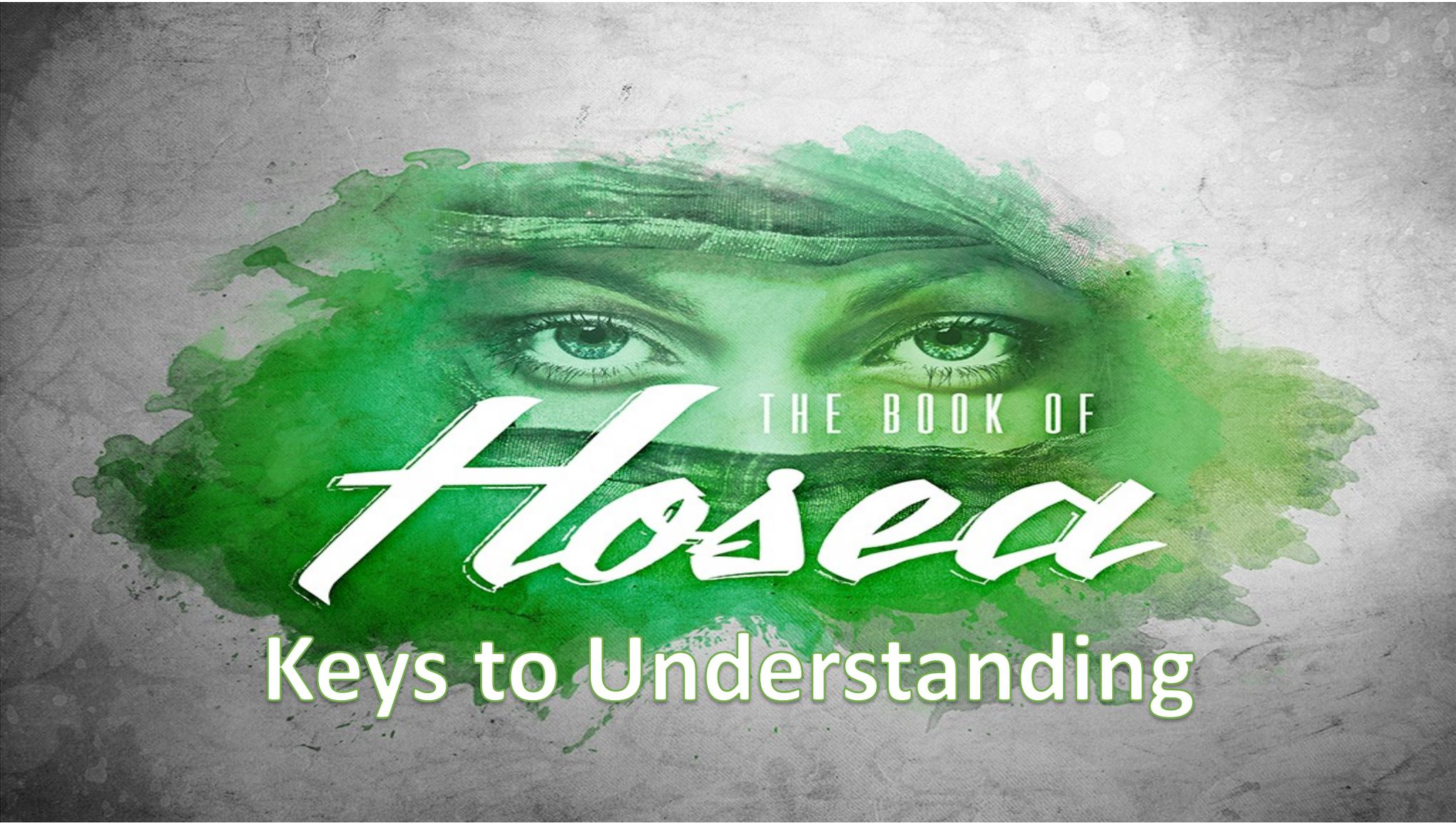
- **Over 50 connections to Deuteronomy**
- **32 are found in Deut. 31:16-32:52**
- **Deals with spiritual “whoredom”**
- **Uses “lo” - “not” - as a rhetorical device**
- **Hosea - ‘deliverer’ or ‘saviour’**

Deut. 32:39- Rotherham

**I, I, "I" – your own, your real, your living God;
"I" your long forgotten, but yet faithful loving
God, still waiting, even now after all this to be
gracious.**

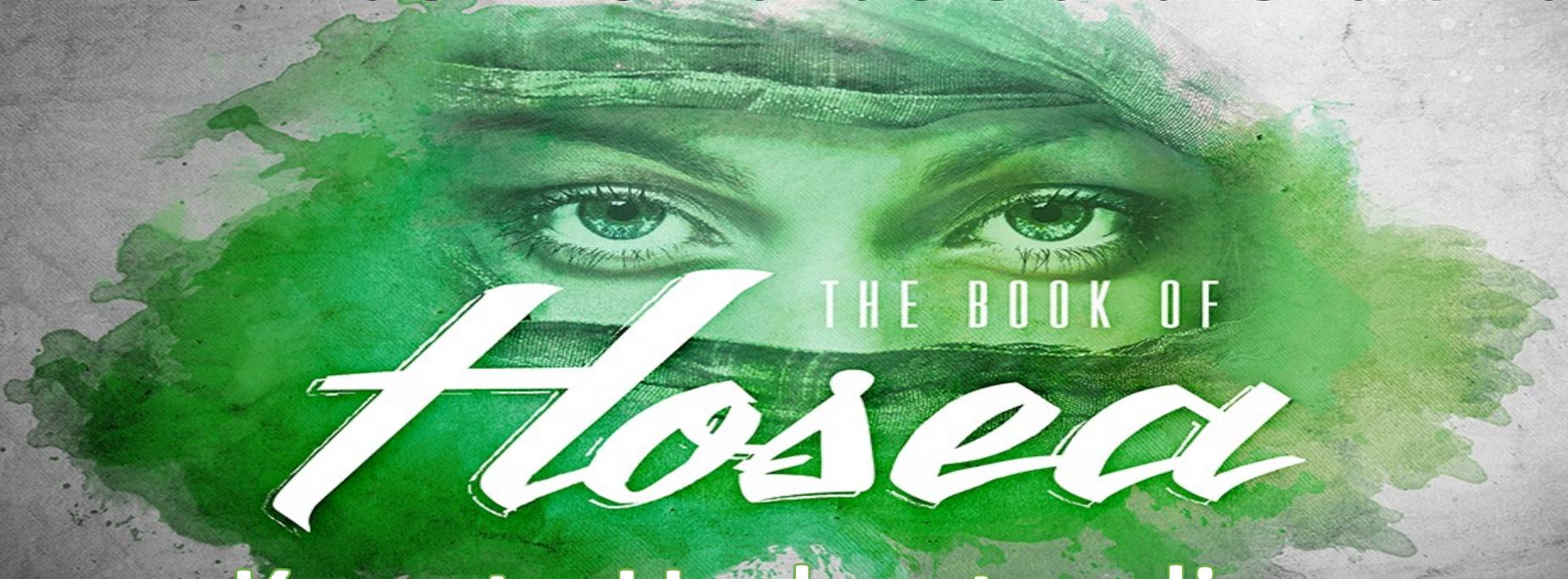
**See now that "I am He" or 'I am the one', and
the only one, that can help you. "And there are
no gods with me".**

**"I kill and make alive; wound and I heal: neither
is there any that can deliver out of my hand"**



THE BOOK OF
Hosea
Keys to Understanding

2. The Bride who wanders and is faithful



THE BOOK OF
Hosea
Keys to Understanding

Individualistic Poetry

“Certainly, the song is a riot of images; it has a greater abundance and confusion of similes and metaphors than any other book of the Hebrew scriptures”

H Fisch

“Hosea’s use of repetition indicated that the book used more poetic repetition and less rhetorical repetition than other prophetic books. The implication was that Hosea should be read primarily as poetry... the book of Hosea is noted for its powerful use of metaphors”

G Morris

***Song of
Solomon***

Hosea

Poetry



Love



Bride



Faithful



Unfaithful

Song of Solomon

Letter to Laodicea

5:7

Watchmen... took away
my veil from me

3:17

Knowest not that thou
art... naked

5:11

As the most fine gold

3:18

Gold tried in the fire

5:15

Pillars of marble (Heb:
fine linen)

3:18

White raiment

5:2

My beloved that
knocketh

3:20

Stand at the door and
knock

5:2,
5-6

Voice of my beloved...
open to me... I opened

3:20

Hear my voice and open
the door

3:9-11

Solomon's palanquin

3:21

Sit with me in my throne

5:1

I am come... I have
eaten... I have drunk

3:20

Come in... will sup with

Song of Solomon 3:6-11

Luke 23

Solomon approaches
Jerusalem from the wilderness
surrounded by valiant men

Who is this? - lack of
recognition. Shepherd/King

Perfumed with Myrrh and
frankincense

Carried on a palanquin

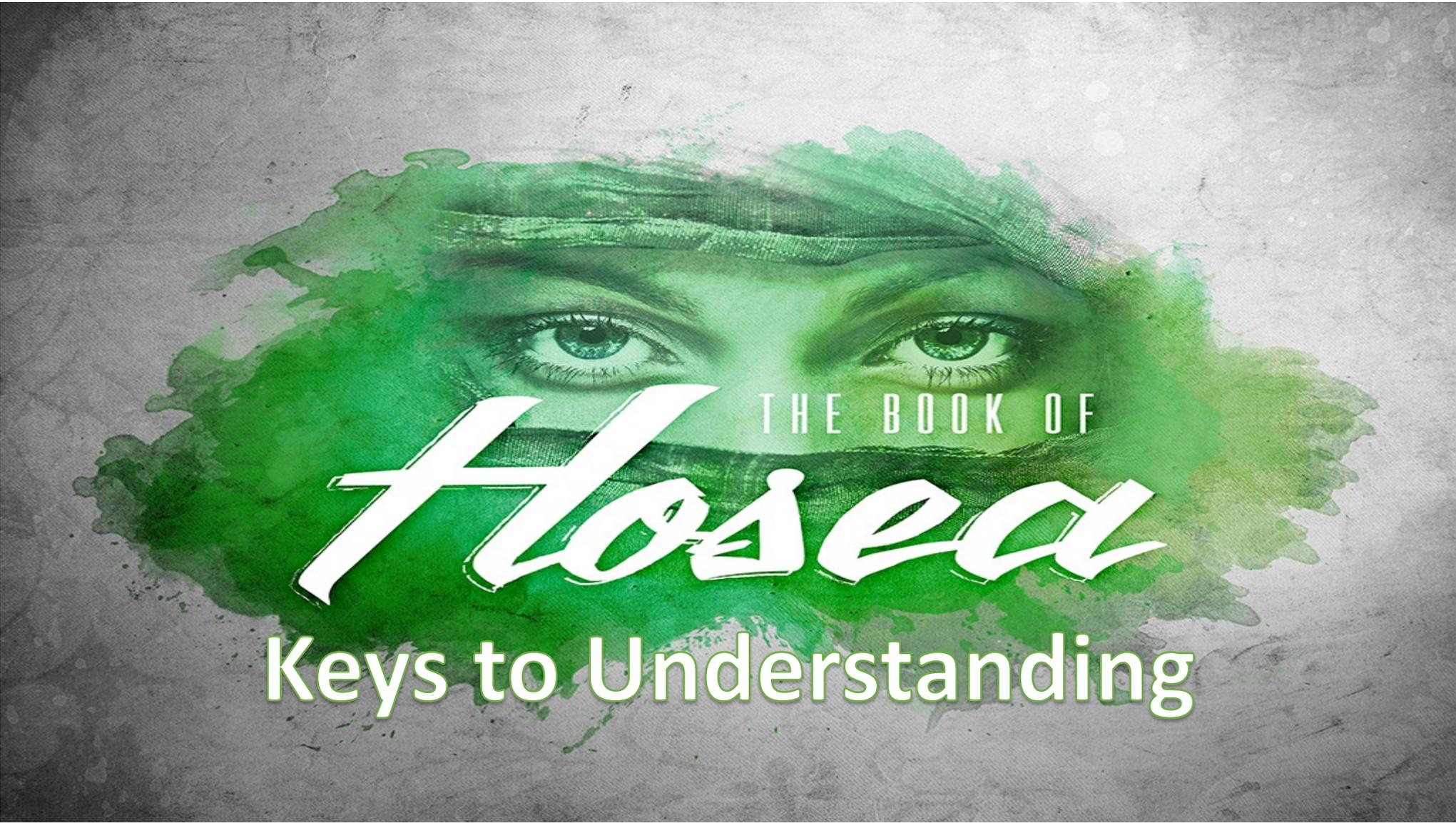
Covered with purple

Daughters of Jerusalem invited
to share his "gladness"

Hosea 14

Song of Solomon

| | | | |
|----------|---|--|--------------|
| :5 | I will be as the dew to Israel: he shall grow as the <i>lily</i> | I am... the <i>lily</i> of the valleys... as the <i>lily</i> among thorns... He feeds among the <i>lilies</i> | 2:1-2, 16 |
| :5 -6 | Cast forth his roots as <i>Lebanon</i> ... His branches shall spread... and his <i>smell as Lebanon</i> | The <i>savour</i> of thy good ointments The <i>smell</i> of thy garments is as the <i>smell of Lebanon</i> | 1:2 4:11 |
| :7 | Dwell under his <i>shadow</i> | I sat down under his <i>shadow</i> | 2:3 |
| :7 | <i>Grow</i> as the <i>vine</i> | The <i>vine flourished</i> | 6:11 |
| :7 | The <i>scent</i> thereof as the <i>wine</i> of Lebanon | Let him kiss me... for his love is better than <i>wine</i> ... We will <i>remember</i> thy love more than <i>wine</i> | 1:3-4 |



THE BOOK OF
Hosea
Keys to Understanding

3. The People who are scattered and gathered

THE BOOK OF

Hosea

Keys to Understanding

Jezreel

- **Town near Mt. Gilboa**
 - Death of Saul
 - Judicial murder of Naboth & his sons
 - Jehu's bloodthirsty destruction of the House of Omri
- **Jezreel Valley**
 - Israel's Breadbasket
 - A location for war – Sisera, Gideon
- **Meaning**
 - God sows
 - God scatters
- **Association of sound – 'Jezreel' / 'Israel'**

Lo-ruhamah

- 'lo' = 'not', לֹא - rācham
- Meaning – 'to fondle; by implication, to love, especially to compassionate'
- Related to the word 'womb', רֶחֶם – rechem, deep parental emotion
- To pity
- "I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew *mercy* on whom I will shew *mercy*." Exodus 33:19
- 'She will not have been pitied'

Deuteronomy 32:5

- **Literally: 'He has dealt corruptly with Him not His children their blemish'**
 - **'They have dealt corruptly with Him, they are not His children, it is their blemish'**
 - **'Is corruption His? No; His children's is the blemish'**
 - **'Their blemish corrupted them, His not-sons'**
- **"They are not his children, that is their blot"**
AV Margin.

The names of Hosea's children

- Jezreel - יִזְרְעֵאל - yizre'el
- Loruhamah - לֹא רֹחַמָּה - lo' ru'chamah
- Loammi - לֹא אֲמִי - lo' amiy
- Suggests - לֹא אֵל - Not god
- "They have moved me to jealousy with a not-god"
Deuteronomy 32:21

Arrangement of Chapters 1-3

3:1-5 Hosea's
Marriage
(Judgement to
Restoration)

1:1-9 Hosea's
Marriage
(Judgment)

2:14-23
Restoration

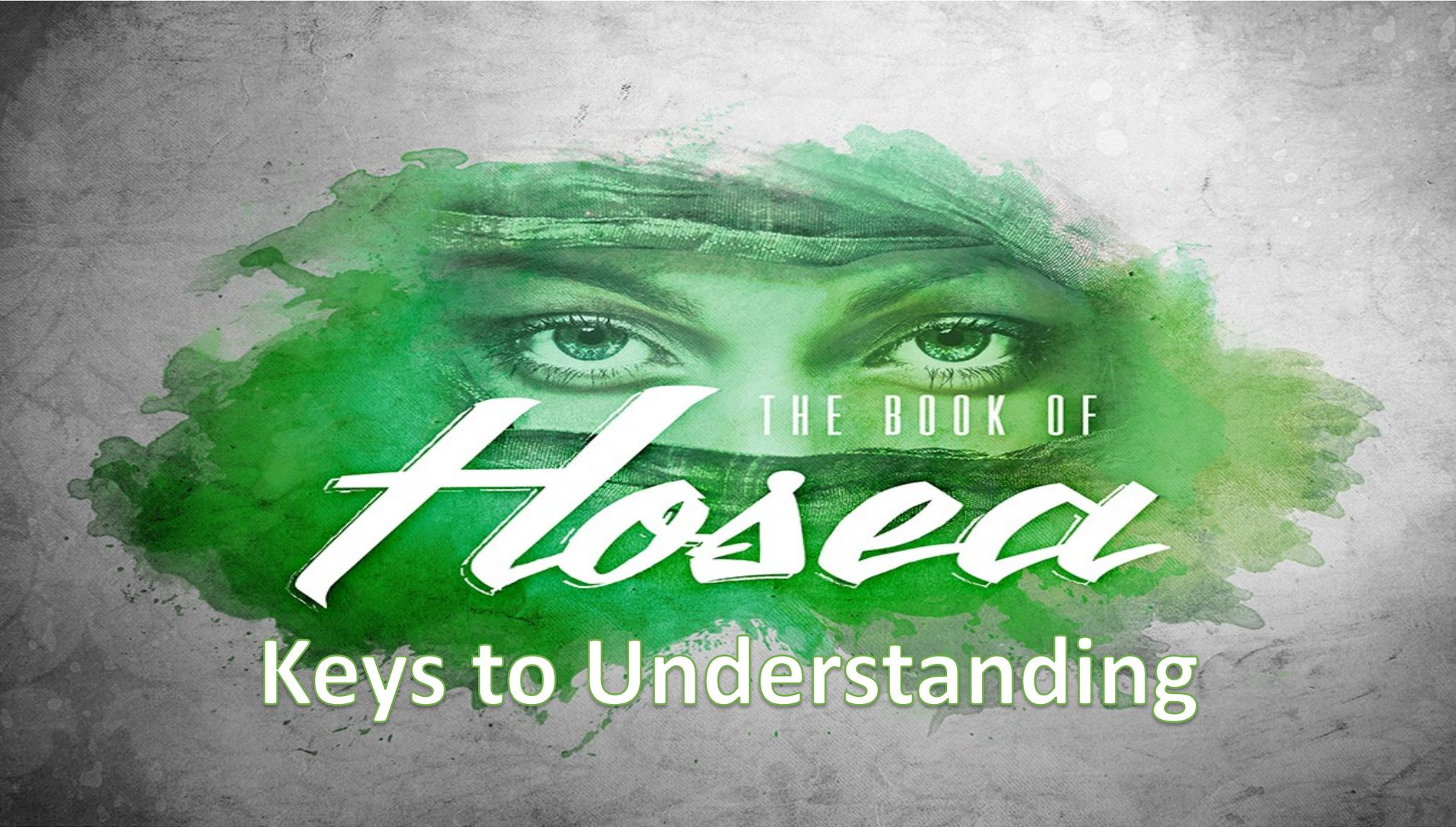
1:10-11
Restoration

2:1-13
Judgment

Abrahamic Promise

“And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies”

Genesis 22:16-17

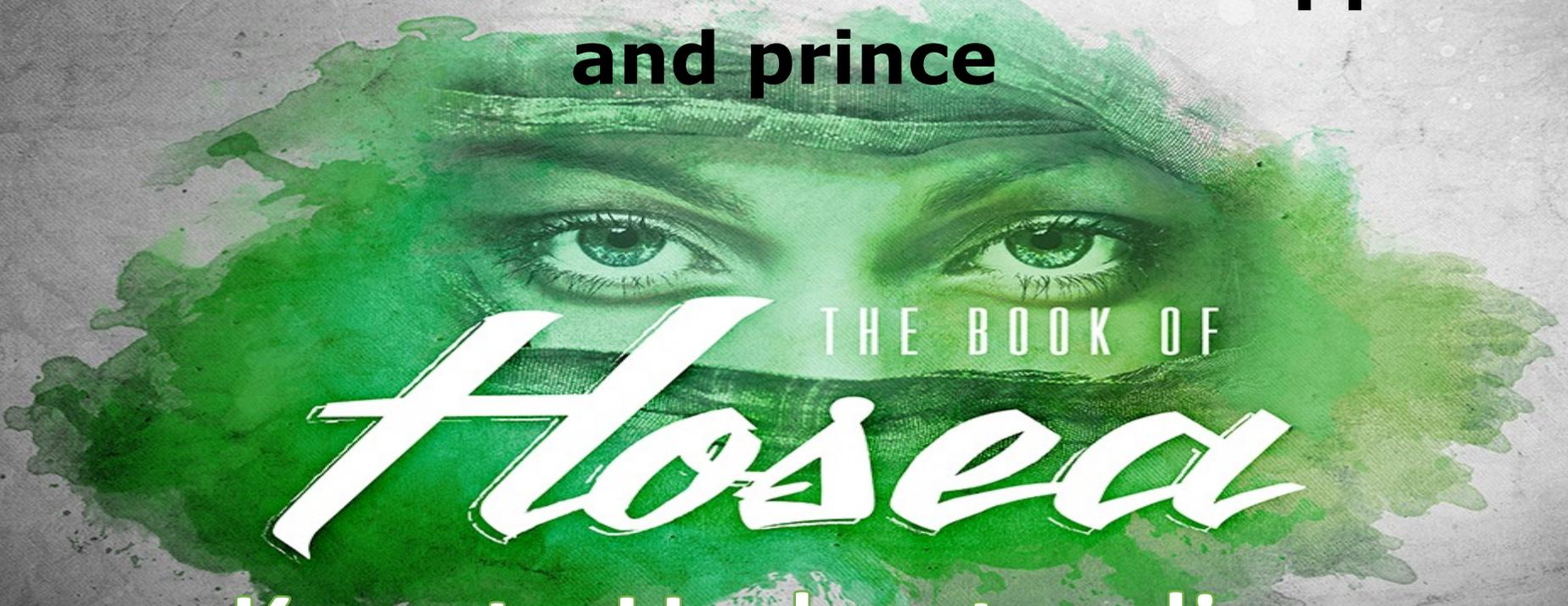


THE BOOK OF

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**4. The Patriarch who was both supplanter
and prince**



THE BOOK OF
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“I will ... them my people”

“As he saith also in Osee, I will **call them my people, which were not my people”**

“And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be **called the children of the living God”**

Romans 9:25-26

“I will **say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God” **Hosea 2:23****

“it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be **said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God”**

Hosea 1:10

“I will ... them my people”

“And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed”

Genesis 32:28

- **Same incident in review in Hosea 12**

“Spake in Bethel...”

“And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again [= ‘return’] into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of”

Genesis 28:15

“And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go... So that I come again [= ‘return’] to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God”

Genesis 28:20-21

Leaving Laban

“And the LORD said unto Jacob, **Return** unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee” **Genesis 31:3**

Hosea

Ch's 1-3: Hosea's story

Ch's 4-11:

"the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land" **4:1, 9 – reward/return**

Ch's 12-14:

"The LORD hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he **recompense** him"

12:2

Jacob

“He took his brother by the heel”

עֲקָב 'âqab

יַעֲקֹב ya'âqôb – Jacob = heel catcher (that is, supplanter)

“And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing. And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times”

Genesis 27:35-36

Israel

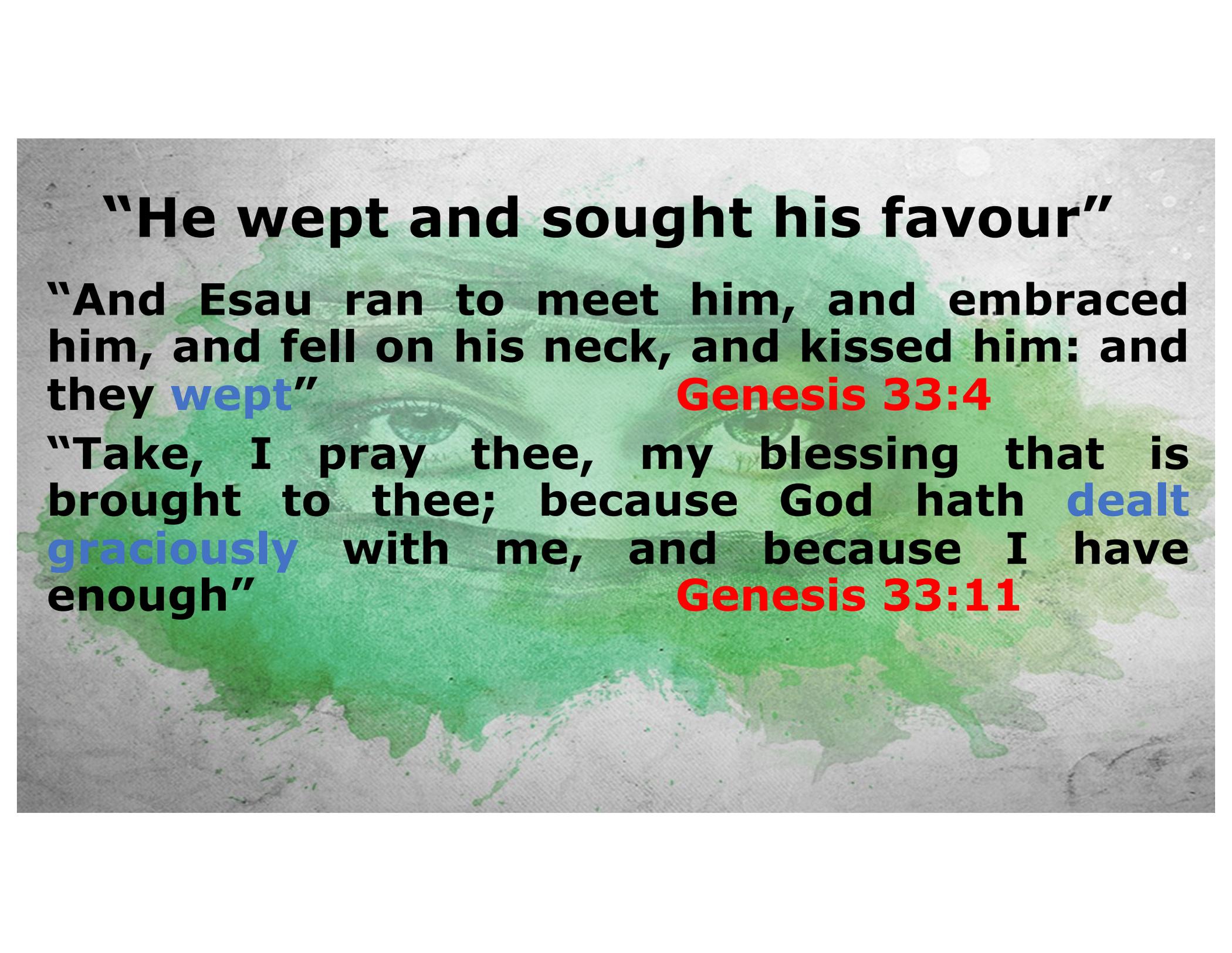
“By his strength he had power with God”

שָׂרָה śârâh – To prevail: have power (as a prince) - verbal form of noun “Prince”

“And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed”

Genesis 32:28

Israel = ‘God strives for him’ but interpreted: ‘He strives with God’



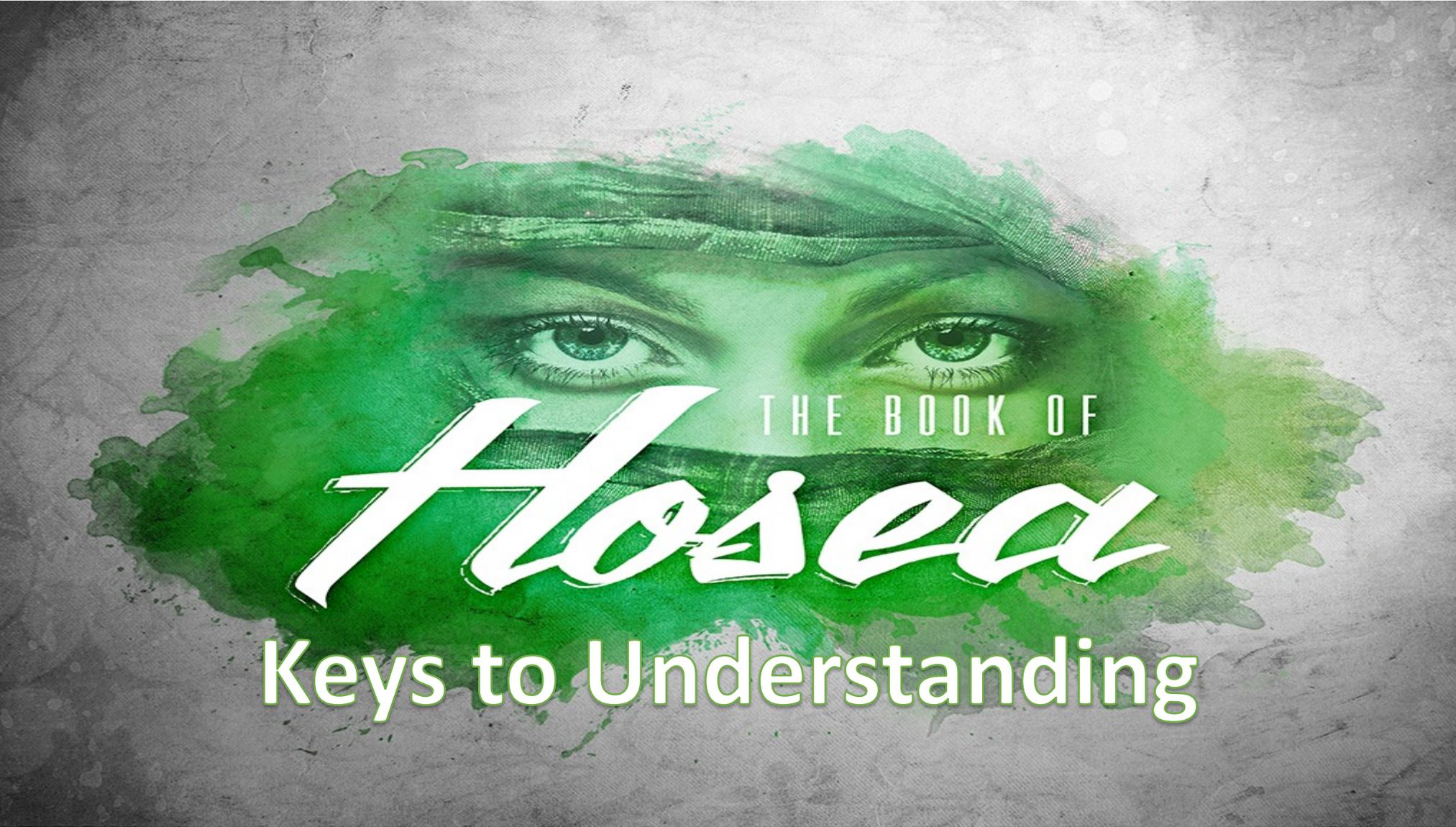
“He wept and sought his favour”

“And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they **wept”**

Genesis 33:4

“Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee; because God hath **dealt graciously with me, and because I have **enough**”**

Genesis 33:11



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5. The empty and fruitful vine

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What type of vine?

Israel is a luxuriant vine that yields its fruit (ESV, RSV)

A Luxuriant vine is Israel, Fruit beseemeth him (Rotherham)

“He made Israel, the vine, luxuriant.

He made it yield fruit for himself.

The more Yahweh multiplied his fruit

the more Israel multiplied at their altars

The richer Yahweh made his land

the more generous they were to pillars.”

What type of vine?

“Behold, the LORD *maketh* the earth *empty*, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof... The land shall be *utterly emptied*, and *utterly spoiled*”

Isaiah 24:1, 3

“And will send unto Babylon fanners, that shall fan her, and shall *empty* her land” **Jeremiah 51:2**

Ephraim

“And the name of the second called he (*Joseph*)
Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in
the land of my affliction.” **Genesis 41:52**

Ephraim = 'Double Fruit'

Hosea 10:11

**“And Ephraim is a trained heifer,
Loving to thresh.**

**And, I have passed by her fair neck.
I will harness Ephraim; he will plough,
Judah will harrow Jacob for himself.”**

**“Plough” = ‘to scratch, to engrave’. Cp Hosea 8:6
Rare word - “Harrow” חָרַשׁ suggests “spoil” or
“waste” חָרַשׁ (**Hosea 10:2**)**

Ephraim אֶפְרַיִם

A **4:16-17** Stubborn Cow פָּרָה

B **5:13** Vain Healing רָפָא

C **7:4-6** Adulterers מְנַאֲפִים, Baker אֶפֶה, Anger אַף

D **8:9** Wild Ass פָּרָא

E **9:16** No Fruit פְּרִי

Ephraim

אֶפְרַיִם

A **4:16-17** Stubborn Cow פָּרָה

B **5:13** Vain Healing רָפָא

C **7:4-6** Adulterers מְנַאֲפִים, Baker אֹפֶה, Anger אַף

D **8:9** Wild Ass פָּרָא

E **9:16** No Fruit פְּרִי

B **11:3** Does not know source of Healing רָפָא

C **11:9** God withdraws Anger אָפִי

C **13:11-12** God remembers Anger בָּאָפִי

E **13:15** Only with God's help can he be fruitful יִפְרִיא

Ephraim

אֶפְרַיִם

A **4:16-17** Stubborn Cow פָּרָה

B **5:13** Vain Healing רָפָא

C **7:4-6** Adulterers מְנַאֲפִים, Baker אֶפֶה,
Anger אַף

D **8:9** Wild Ass פָּרָא

E **9:16** No Fruit פְּרִי

A **14:2** Calves of our lips פָּרִים

B **14:4** God will heal אֶרְפָּא

C **14:4** God's anger turned אֶפִי

E **14:8** Fruitful with God פְּרִיָה

True – Jezreel / Israel

Israel – Vine
(9:10) 'He
made it yield
fruit for
himself' (10:1)
I will speak to
her heart and I
will give her
her vineyards
(2:14-15)

I am the true vine, and my Father
is the husbandman.

They shall bear no fruit (9:16)

Every branch in me that beareth
not fruit he taketh away... Now ye
are clean through the word which
I have spoken unto you.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the
branch cannot bear fruit of itself,
except it abide in the vine; no
more can ye, except ye abide in
me.

From me is thy fruit found (14:08)

The true vine

As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

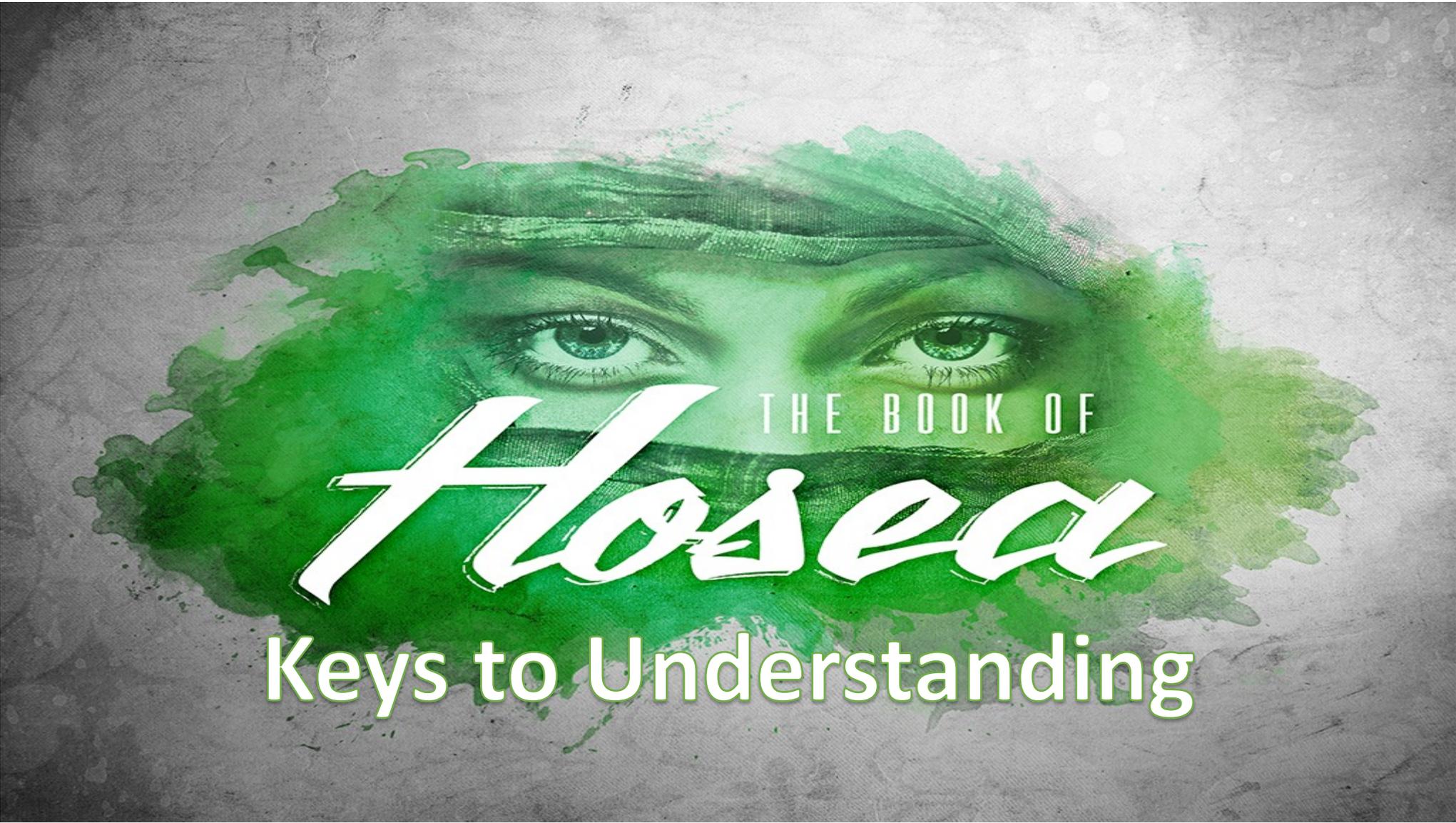
From me is thy fruit found (14:08)

Though he be fruitful – *it's vulnerable* (13:15)

Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit (9:16)

I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered...



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