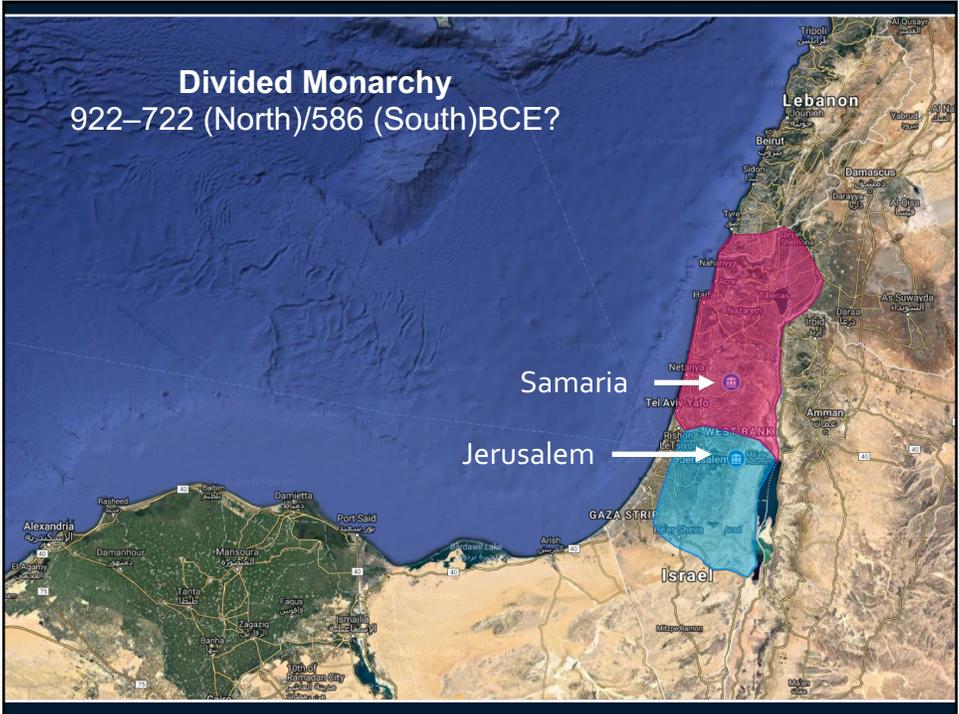
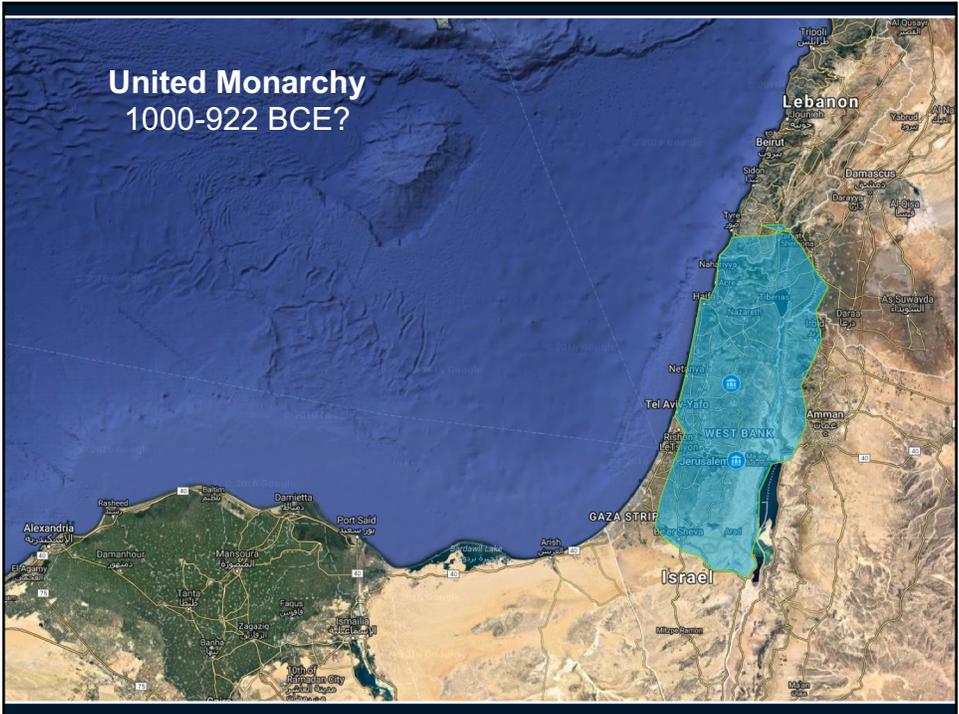


Class 5b

## MARRIAGE IN PRACTICE, MYTH & METAPHOR

### Hosea

- Prophet
- Preached in Northern Kingdom (Israel, Jacob, Ephraim) from 750-725 BCE
- The metaphor of marital infidelity maps to geopolitical and related religious circumstances of the time



## Assyrian Empire (c.725 BCE)



## What's Going on in Israel when Hosea is prophesying



The Assyrian Empire, based around Mosul in northern Iraq, is gaining territory

Israel's prosperity under King Jeroboam II begins to change at his death in 746 BCE

Royal assassinations and court intrigue plague the north

Israel allies with Syria to force Judah to join their coalition against Assyria

The ruling elite increase demand for and production of cash crops, jeopardizing the production of agricultural staples



Ivory sphinx, furniture decoration from King Ahab's "Ivory Palace," 9<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> c BCE Samaria

# How Hosea Responds



He criticizes the king and northern elites for worshipping the Ugaritic storm/fertility god Baal instead of Yahweh

He likens this idolatry to female promiscuity in chapters 1–3 and 12–14, thus transgenering his targets to shame them

He analogizes his relationship to his promiscuous wife to the relationship between Yahweh and Israel



Baal, the Canaanite storm God, bronze statue found at Ugarit, just north of Israel

<p><b>Hos 1:2</b> זנה = to have sex outside of marriage</p> <p>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia Tagged - AA -</p> <p>וְהוֹדִיעַתָּה מַלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיִזְבִּיחוּ וְיִבְרְכוּם בְּיְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל 2 תְּחַלְּפוּ דְבָרֵי-יְהוָה בְּחֹשֶׁעַ פִּי יֹאמְרוּ וְהָיָה אֵלֵינוּ יֵשׁוּעַ לָךְ כְּחַדְלָךְ אִשְׁתֵּי זְנוּנִים וְזָבְרוּ זְנוּנִים בְּזִנְתֵי תוֹנֵהוּ יֵאָרֶץ מֵאַחֲרַי וְהָיָה 3 נִלְלָךְ נִשְׁכַּח אֶת-גֹּמֵר בֶּת-דִּבְלַיִם תִּסְתַּר וְתִלְדֵּ לִי בֵן:</p> <p>NRSV with Strong's - AA -</p> <p><b>Hos. 1:2</b> When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, "Go, take for yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord."<sup>3</sup> So he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.</p>	
<p><b>Hos 2:5</b></p> <p>7 כִּי זָנְתָה אִמָּם חֲבִישָׁה הִזְדַּתְמָם כִּי אָמְרוּהָ אֵלֶיהָ אַחֲרַי מֵאַחֲבֵי נְחֵמִי לְחַמִּי וּבְיַמֵּי צָמֹרִי וּפְשִׁטִי שָׁמְנִי וְשִׁקְרֹוּ:</p> <p>5 For their mother has played the whore; she who conceived them has acted shamefully. For she said, "I will go after my lovers; they give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink."</p>	
<p><b>Hos 4:14</b> נאף = to commit adultery קדשה = temple servant</p> <p>עַל-כֵּן תִּזְנְוּהֶנּוּ בְּנוֹתֵיכֶם וּבְכֹלֹתֵיכֶם תִּנְאָפוּנָה 14 יֵלֵא-אֲבָקֹדַר עַל-בְּנוֹתֵיכֶם כִּי תִזְנְוּהֶנּוּ וְעַל-בְּכֹלֹתֵיכֶם כִּי תִנְאָפוּנָה יֵבִירֵהֶם עִם תִּזְנוֹת קְדֹשֹׁתַי וְעִם תִּקְדָּשׁוֹת זִבְחֹו וְעִם לֹא-יָבִין וְלֹבֵט:</p> <p>Therefore your daughters play the whore, and your daughters-in-law commit adultery. 14 I will not punish your daughters when they play the whore, nor your daughters-in-law when they commit adultery; for the men themselves go aside with whores, and sacrifice with temple prostitutes; thus a people without understanding comes to ruin.</p>	

## The Aftermath



### Assyrians Invade the Northern Kingdom of Israel

- The Assyrian Empire, based around Mosul in northern Iraq, conquered the northern kingdom in 722 and reduced the southern kingdom to a vassal state
- This is well-documented in Assyrian documents and art, like the reliefs from Sennacherib's Palace in Nineveh
- Many northerners fled to Judah and Jerusalem



## Palace Wall Reliefs from Mosul/Nineveh



The Wall Reliefs from Sennacherib's Palace in Nineveh (Mosul, Iraq)