

The Hosea Story

of Unrelenting Love

“You will live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will live with you. For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol” (Hosea 3:3-4).

The ten tribes of the ancient house of Israel were sentenced to live 2,520 years in exile. They had many moments of wandering over Europe raping, pillaging and plundering worshipping gods, playing with magic and casting spells. Sometime prior to the birth of Jesus, they fell into despair and pleaded with God, like the prodigal son, to accept them back into His covenant family. With their history of superficial sincerity, Jesus made them wait until their heart softened into a pliable state then he taught them during his ministry on earth. Into the 21st century, they may not remember the details of their wayward past behaviour, their illusive repentance, nor do they see their future allegiance with the God of Israel that will award them with a double blessing, but the God of Israel never lost sight of them. He preserved their history in a story.

The ten tribes of Israel were divorced by God because of their relentless waning back and forth determined to find refuge living like the nations around them. A kingdom of humble, holy priests was not what they desired, rather a life of glitter and glory, pride and arrogance, power and control. God gave them their wish and turned away. “As for you, O house of Israel, this what the Sovereign LORD says: Go and serve your idols, every one of you! But afterward you will surely listen to me and no longer profane my holy name with your gifts and idols” (Ezekiel 20:39).

Deeper and deeper into paganism the church of the ten tribes wandered serving the gods of the nations, intimately engaging in their perverted practices. One after the other, pagan-rebel gods used



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and discarded the church of Israel until one day, they were rescued. This is the amazing love story of Hosea.

The word of God spoke to Hosea and instructed him to marry an adulterous woman. Enactments preserved in stories are one of the teaching tools used by God. Hosea married Gomer and he loved her. It wasn't long and Gomer became restless. She returned to serving the god, Baal and became a prostitute of the gods. The unfaithful relationship that Hosea experienced mirrors the on-going relationship that the house of Israel had with their God. Over two thousand seven hundred years later, the relationship continued to move like the ocean tide.

This story cannot be fully understood without the knowledge of the events that took place at the time of Babel. The great God gave the members of His holy council in heaven rulership over the nations. The nations received an inheritance, which meant they received kings to rule over them; they were going astray again. This knowledge is not lost rather mythicized. God divided the nations accordingly and confounded the languages so that each group spoke the same language. This change remains to this day. The task of the members of God's heavenly court was to teach each nation the way of God and how to worship the Almighty God, the God of all gods. The members of God's heavenly court were experts on God's law; they judged, they ruled, they sentenced.

"When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of His heavenly court" (NLT, ESV, Berean, BST, CEV, NAB, GNT, Deuteronomy 32:8). Some translations based the division on the number of sons of Israel, but Abraham was not born for around 100 years after this event. Jacob was born at least 200 years after that event and his twelve sons do not account for the number in God's heavenly court, which are likely around 70.

Mike Heiser explains, "Most English Bibles do not read 'according to the number of the sons of God' in Deuteronomy 32:8. Rather, they read 'according to the number of the sons of Israel.' The difference derives from disagreements between manuscripts of the Old Testament. 'Sons of God' is the correct reading, as is now known from the Dead Sea Scrolls. The notion that the nations of the world were geographically partitioned and owe their terrestrial identity to the sovereign God takes the reader back to the Table of Nations in Genesis 10-11, and two details there regarding God's apportionment of the earth that are important for the context of the textual debate in Deuteronomy 32:8. First, the Table of Nations catalogs seventy nations, but Israel is not included in the inventory. Second, the use of the same Hebrew root in both passages to describe the "separation" of humankind and the nations substantiates the long-recognized observation of scholars that Genesis 10-11 are the backdrop to the statement in Deuteronomy 32:8. Israel alone is Yahweh's portion and so is not numbered among the seventy other nations." (Mike Heiser, *Deuteronomy 32:8 and the Sons of God*, p. 2).

"Deuteronomy 32:8–9 harks back to events at the Tower of Babel, an event that occurred **before the call of Abraham**, the father of the nation of Israel. **This means that the nations of**

the earth were divided at Babel before Israel even existed as a people. God decreed, in the wake of Babel, that the other nations he had forsaken would have other gods besides himself to worship” (Mike Heiser, *Unseen Realm*, p. 68).

It is not likely that God wanted the nations to worship these heavenly kings. There is only one Great Creator and He only is deserving of worship. Jesus rejected Satan’s offer by remaining loyal to Almighty God, he said, “Away from Me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only’” (Matthew 4:10). Satan demands worship. The ruling rogue sons of God demand worship, but there is only one Almighty God that all creation owes their life, service and worship.

Ancient Israel experienced the interaction of the gods on earth. The exuberance of power and glory that the nations flaunted opened Pandora’s box of potions and runes. The heavenly kings had fallen. They tasted, enjoyed and gorged on power and control, until they were incoherent from the ecstasy of self-glory. Their corrosive power brought them down from their lofty heights; they were forever changed now driven solely by dark forces. They allied with God’s ancient enemy and the plans for the overthrow of the Almighty God went into action with increased ferocity and determination.

The northern house of Israel saw the great structures of Egypt, the wonders that dazzled their eyes and challenged their engineering. They feared the enormous army: skillful soldiers, pure-bred horses and fast chariots. They craved to be just like them and relish in greatness, strength, self-reliance, self-determination, and self-glory. The gods were willing to allow free reign to their climb to the top, as long as the people of the nations worshipped them. The presence of these powerful heavenly rulers was felt; it was real and at times excruciatingly painful for the disobedient. These are the same gods of 21st century mythology.

The plan to overthrow the Almighty God includes all of mankind. It was never a difficult task for these rogue gods to capture mankind and prepare them for the last great battle. Deceived mankind believes these rogue principalities and powers in high places who teach that humility, forgiveness, and servitude to the Almighty God is weakness—attributes to be despised and disdained.

Gomer served these rogue gods. She was representative of a covenant people destined for priesthood who chose to depart from humbly serving their God and living in His ways of love, kindness, justice, honesty and righteousness. Instead, these people worked to build a dark kingdom covered in red, as they built-up their military might through the acquisition of weapons, building alliances while pillaging and plundering wealth through invasions. They built their economic riches through uneven balances, thievery and corruption. Their desire for stardom was hindered, as they were forced to move west and north from the strong eastern and southern powers. It would take them hundreds of years before they could rise up and fulfill their dreams. These people had become intoxicated with power like every other nation. They had all eaten of the poisonous fruit and now they were all lifting their darkened eyes covertly to do all that it takes to remain on top. The plan to turn God’s covenant people against Him

worked with minimal effort. The northern house of Israel was completely and thoroughly entrenched in the ways of the gods.

Three children were born under the care of Hosea. The first child, a son, was named Jezreel. He was the only child born from both Hosea and Gomer. The second child was a daughter named, Lo-Ruhamah born in harlotry along with the third child, a son named Lo-Ammi.

Jezreel was the name of an ancient military stronghold of the house of Israel. Old Testament conflicts associate it as a place of judgement where significant battles were fought and lost. Jezreel, the first son—foretold the destruction of the northern house of Israel.

Modern history tells of an alliance of people who have dropped more bombs on countries outside their own borders than any other nation in recorded history, disregarding all life. This same alliance has devised products of mass financial destruction that has pushed the economy to teeter on the edge of a global catastrophe. The godless leadership of this alliance works to control resources and harness power, so that it can remain on the top. That is the story of the West and Western Europe. These people wield power into the 21st century but their fall is on our near horizon.

Gomer gave birth to a daughter, Lo-Ruhamah which means ‘not loved/pitied’ and then a son, Lo-Ammi which means ‘not my people.’ The consequences of serving the dark powers and principalities in high places, that is, living in spiritual harlotry, include being cut off from God and cursed because of disobedience. God will not show love or pity for these people. The church (imaged in Lo-Ruhamah) and the nation (imaged in Lo-Ammi) was divorced by God and they were removed from the covenant family; they became Gentiles.

Hosea’s two children born in harlotry

Lo-Ruhamah, a daughter. Her name means “not loved or pitied.” She images the church of the ten tribes of Israel flirting and reveling in paganism, worshipping the gods of the nations.



Lo-Ammi, a son. His name means “not my people.” He images the national leaders lapping up power and control, invading and plundering.

Gomer did not appreciate the love of her husband, instead she went out and chased her lovers who she thought were giving her the luxuries she enjoyed. Unknown to her, it was her husband who continued to provide generously. God watches this house of Israel revel in the wealth He provides, but vows that at the planned moment, He will take it all back and adds, "I will expose her lewdness before the eyes of her lovers; no one will take her out of my hands" (Hosea 2:10).

This house will undergo judgement from God and the nations of the world will come to know who they are and their lewdness will be exposed. All of the nations will understand why the ancient house of Israel was punished in 721 B.C. and why the descendants of the same people in the 21st century will be punished again in the near future.

"When I please, I will punish them; nations will be gathered against them to put them in bonds for their DOUBLE sin" (Hosea 10:10).

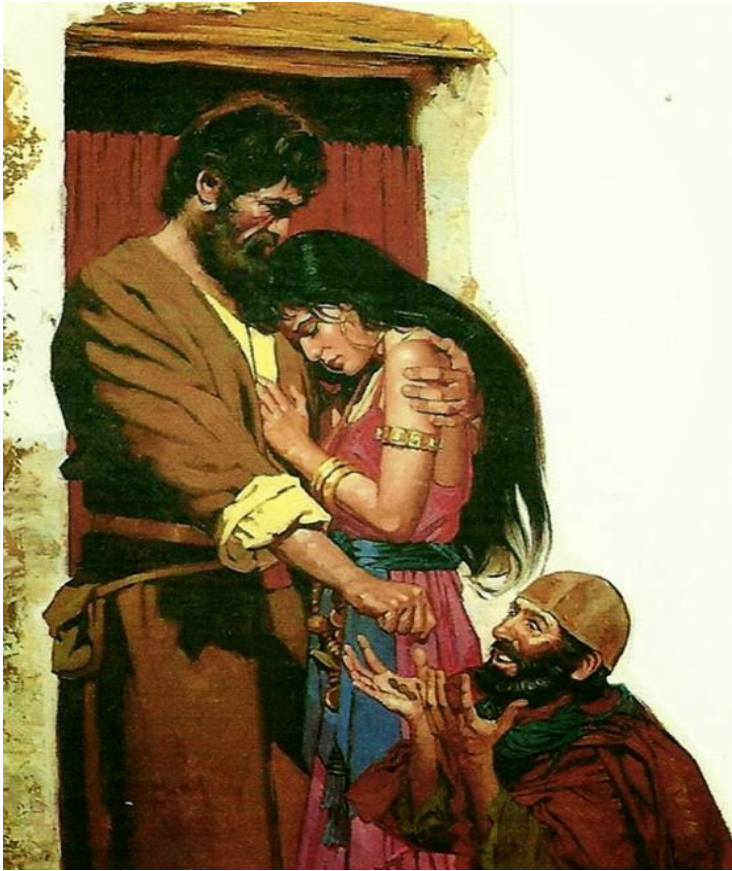
"From that day forward the house of Israel will know that I am Yahuah, their God. And the nations will know that the people of Israel went into exile for their sin, because they were unfaithful to me" (Ezekiel 39:22).

God will not stop loving Israel. He will continue to correct His people and at this point in history with the world watching, He will announce, "I will stop all of her celebrations, her New Moons, her Sabbath days—all her appointed feasts" (Hosea 2:10-11).

The house of Judah kept and continues to keep God's appointed feasts, but her sister, the house of Israel, was cut off from God for hundreds of years. They have forgotten those sacred celebrations. While scattered among the Gentiles, they picked up pagan traditions. During the ministry of the Apostles, these people were corrected, but bishops in religious councils over a thousand years ago wove traditions into a blended mix they hoped Christians, Jews, and pagans would accept. This forced mix of tradition is celebrated by 21st century Christians. They do not remember their ancient roots or the Holy Days they once kept.

The story of the house of Israel is an emotionally painful story. Their desire to be like the Gentiles to stand the tallest among the nations with military strength and economic wealth, blinds them to the suffering they cause and feel. God still loves them and will not give up.

"Therefore, I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards... I will show my love to the one I called 'Not my loved one'. I will say to those called 'Not my people,' 'You are my people'; and they will say, you are my God" (Hosea 2:14-15, 23). A future repentance is prophesied. A forgiving Father will reclaim His people.



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God told Hosea to love Gomer again and love her how He loves the Israelites. Hosea found her at a slave market tethered to an auction block. She was wretched, weathered, dirty, and destitute. She had lost her youthful beauty and become a despised and a degraded woman. Hosea was moved with compassion. He bought her for the price of a slave. Nobody wanted her. Hosea paid “fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethech of barley” (Hosea 3:2). Thirty shekels was the price for a servant (Exodus 21:32); the barley was the required sin offering for a woman’s unchastity. Hosea specifically paid in cash and grain to cover all legal obligations for his wife’s sin before man and God. Today, she has been redeemed and God refers to her as a virgin.

The story of the buying back of Israel is an account, rich in grace and mercy. It tells of the great love our Father in heaven has for His people. He gave His only heir to die for the disobedient houses of Judah and Israel and redeem all nations for their sins. Jesus Christ willingly gave his life because he has never stopped loving Israel and all of mankind, too. God is the head and Christ is His body. They work as one; they are united in saving mankind. The secret redemption plan of mankind—the perfect sacrifice of Christ was kept hidden from the enemies of God. Paul knew this secret and their defeat.

Rogue authorities/gods unaware: “None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, *they would not have crucified the lord of glory*” (I Corinthians 2:8).

Christ’s sacrifice paid the penalty of sin. “He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that war against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And *having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross*” (Colossians 2:13-15).

Christ won rulership over the nations and received the victor’s booty. This is why it says: ‘When He ascended on high, *he led captives away, and gave gifts to men.*’ What does ‘He ascended’ mean, except that He also descended to the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the very one who ascended above all the heavens, in order to fill all things” (Ephesians 4:8-9).

Christ gave the authority, which He took as booty from his conquest over the rogue authorities and gifted it to His servants. We clearly see here that the job of the heavenly kings over the nations involved being teachers of God's word. "Some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we ALL reach unity in the father and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-13).

Hosea said to Gomer, "You will live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will live with you. For the Israelites will live many days *without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol*" (Hosea 3:3-4). Hosea understood the mission God gave to him.

After Christ died and was resurrected, He disarmed the gods ruling over the nations and imprisoned them in the lower parts of the earth, for now. These powers have been silenced and 21st century scholars have mythicized them. For many days, a possible two thousand years as the Apostle Peter said, "With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day" (II Peter 3:8b), the house of Israel has been without:

- Their **KING** of kings [Christ] has not yet returned. They are without princes because these rogue "princes"—heavenly rulers have been imprisoned.
- The **SACRIFICES** to God brought awareness and forgiveness of sin, which came to an end with the destruction of the last temple in 70 AD. The placement of sacred stones taught by the mystic pagan priests as objects of power, charms of protection and guarantees of blessings and healings are no longer practiced.
- The **EPHOD** is part of the official dress of the High Priest in Israel. It is symbolic of true religious practice while the household idols are symbolic of false practice. (Hosea 3:4).

These people neither fully worship God and His ways or the gods and their pagan practices.

Many Christians may believe that they have all truth—the full word of God, but John's record to the seven churches in Revelation is a plea for the churches to overcome their wayward practices—traditions of men and turn fully to the way of God. Only those who overcome will rule with Christ.

God longs to redeem Israel, but recorded in Hosea are all the wicked ways of the house of Israel who He said, "is swallowed up; now she is among the nations like a worthless thing... [note: God's use of the female gender. He is speaking to the church of the ten tribes of Israel]. Ephraim [the leader of the ten tribes who are often collectively identified under that name] has sold herself to lovers (Hosea 8:8)... Ephraim will return to Egypt and eat unclean food in Assyria (Hosea 9:3)... The days of punishment are coming, the days of reckoning are at hand. Let Israel know this. Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the prophet is considered

a fool, the inspired man a maniac... They have sunk deep into corruption, as in the days of Gibeah (the place where the tribe of Benjamin protected heinous, Satan-worshipping men). God will remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins (Hosea 9:7-9)... Woe to them when I turn away from them! (Hosea 9:12)... All their leaders are rebellious. Ephraim is blighted, their root is withered, they yield no fruit... They will be wanderers among the nations" (Hosea 9:12-16). "My people are determined to turn from me" (Hosea 11:7).

21st century readers are not blind to the practices of their own government like ancient Israel, "They make many promises, take false oaths and make agreements; therefore, lawsuits spring up like poisonous weeds in a plowed field" (Hosea 10:4). "The merchant uses dishonest scales; he loves to defraud." Such is a fair description of Wall Street and the City of London. "Ephraim boasts, 'I am very rich; I have become wealthy. With all my wealth they will not find in me any iniquity or sin'" (Hosea 12:8).

Indeed, God will bring them into captivity for now TWICE sinning and protecting evil, Satan-worshipping people holding leadership positions throughout their countries. "When I please, I will punish them; nations will be gathered against them to put them in bonds for their *double* sin" (Hosea 10:10). The northern house of Israel will be attacked by more than just one nation. The ancient northern house of Israel was attacked and taken captivity by the Assyrians. A future event awaits the 21st century northern house of Israel because many have fallen away from worshipping Almighty God. They were punished in 721 B.C. and still a future—a second punishment, rests on the near horizon.

God will correct this rebellious house and bring them to their knees because He loves them. "The guilt of Ephraim is stored up; his sins are kept on record... [note now God's use of the male gender, He is speaking directly to the national leadership] he is a child without wisdom... his spring will fail and his well dry up. His storehouse will be plundered of all its treasures. The people of Samaria must bear their guilt, because they have rebelled against their God. They will fall by the sword" (Hosea 13:12–13, 16).

God pleads to the house of Israel, "Return, O Israel to the LORD your God. Your sins have been your downfall!" (Hosea 14:1)

God longs to redeem Ephraim. "How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel... My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor devastate Ephraim again. For I am God, and not man—the Holy One among you. I will not come in wrath... They will follow the LORD; He will roar like a lion. When He roars, His children will come trembling from the west. They will come trembling like birds from Egypt, like doves from Assyria... Afterwards the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings *in the last days*" (Hosea 11:8-11, 3:5).

There won't be just a few people from each of the twelve tribes, but many from within all of the ten tribes and the house of Judah who will repent. Millions will repent and turn to God. The world watching will be amazed!

"In the place where it was said to them 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'sons of the living God.' The people of Judah and the people of Israel will be reunited, and they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel. 'Say of your brothers, 'My people,' and of your sisters, 'My loved one'" (Hosea 1:10- 2:1).

A careful study of this scripture uncovers long forgotten roots and a re-unification that will never be broken.

- "In the place" is not in the Promised Land—their original home, but a place they called their own after their sentence of wandering through the nations was complete. They are Westerners.
- "Sons of the living God", "My people", "My loved one" are the changed identifiers of these repentant people, humble and sincere people desiring to obey and worship their God—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- The people of Judah and the people of Israel will be reunited. The house of Israel today has forgotten their roots. They began as ten tribes split from their brothers, Judah and Benjamin. They moved away from their God, craving the ways of the nations around them serving rebel heavenly rulers. Today, their leaders continue to operate and function in the evil ways of the powers and principalities in high places. Through John, Christ pleads with the seven churches of Revelation to overcome. One group will flee into the wilderness during Jacob's trouble, while the rest come into repentance in a time of great distress. God will roar like a lion; they will tremble in fear and repent—this time with sincerity. Their return will ignite the love God has for them and the two houses will reunite at the return of Christ to remain a united kingdom—forever.
- They will appoint one leader. This will occur after the return of Jesus Christ. The first resurrection will take place and the re-united house of Israel will appoint King David as their national king.
- For great will be the day of Jezreel. It will take much blood shed for the houses of Israel to repent. Jezreel symbolizes the conflict and the suffering that brings hard-hearted people to repent.

There isn't a group of people who have been so treacherous to their God than the people of both houses of Israel. It is the hope that their repentance brings the greatest and most binding love for their Redeemer as the story of the woman told by Jesus in Luke describes:

"Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?' Simon replied, 'I suppose the one who had the bigger

debt canceled.' 'You have judged correctly,' Jesus said. Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing me feet. You did not put oil on my head but she has poured perfume on my feet. *Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little*'" (Luke 7:41-47).

The wayward house of Israel will awaken to their sins. They will say, "Assyria cannot save us, we will not mount war-horses. We will never say 'Our gods'..." (Hosea 14:3). "Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, that we may live before Him" (Hosea 6:1-2).

God will respond, "I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily. Like a cedar of Lebanon, he will send down his roots; his young shoots will grow. His splendor will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon. Men will dwell again in his shade. He will flourish like the grain. He will blossom like a vine, and his fame will be like the wine of Lebanon. O Ephraim, what am I anymore to do with idols? I will answer him and care for him. I am like a green pine tree; your fruitfulness comes from me" (Hosea 14:3-8).

God's people will repent and their churches will unite as one body teaching the pure word of God. Still in the future, this purification will take place and then relationships will grow and blossom.

Hosea was given *pinching tailor-made shoes* by God. He designed it that way to preserve a record of the history of the church and the national leadership of the ten tribes with their departure from the ways of God to live in corruption covering themselves with heinous Satan-worshipping practices. Upon Hosea's resurrection, he will be given a perfect-fitting pair of shoes for prophecy reveals the repentance and return of the church and national leadership to God and their loving Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich.