1Thess #55

Impersonal, unconditional love is driven by the grace of God.

Thank you all for your patience.

I want to just say thanks to certain folks who always support the ministry and often times their generosity and giving come at a time when I truly need it.

You know who you are, thanks you!

I ran into not only a technical problem last week, but some other situations and personal appointments that cost me financially and physically.

It was a drain of my time, and treasure so I was knocked off track a few days last week and it was a good time to regroup and re-organize my office.

Now I am back!

Being a one-man ministry is a challenge but you folks help me get through it…thanks!

We will open today in the OT – go into the book of the prophet Hosea.

As I had mentioned last lesson this will be a series related to virtue love – Godly love, impersonal, unconditional love which is motivated and driven by God’s grace.

/God cannot fully establish a Bel’s heart (highest level of maturity) without LOVE dwelling within that soul of the Bel. Godly love is impersonal, unconditional and relies completely on divine power and it is released or activated by the Justice System of God. This must first be directed toward GOD (Trinity) and then it can reach out to others in our periphery.\

This love is truly based in grace – God’s grace is needed for this type of love to incorporate itself into your lifestyle.

We will be in the book of Hosea for the next few lessons so buckle up and bookmark the pages.

Let me introduce some principles related to the history of the prophet Hosea-

Hosea was a prophet of the northern kingdom of Israel and its capital city at this historic point was Samaria.

/The name *Hosea*means “*salvation*.” It comes from the same Hebrew root (*hoshea*) as does the names for *Joshua* and *Jesus*. Throughout the book, Hosea will show us that salvation is found in turning to the LORD and away from our sin. The larger concept and analogy of the writing of Hosea was to accept the fact that we often times practice infidelity within our intimate relationship with God – though HE is always faithful we are not!\

Hosea’s ministry spanned the years 760 to 720 B.C. during the days of what some Jewish scholars called *the divided monarchy*.

This was after the days of King David and Solomon, when the people of God divided into a civil war, creating two nations: Israel in the north, and Judah in the south. This is about 250 years after the time of King David, and close to 650 years after Israel came into the Promised Land.

 REPEAT

The division was brewing after King David passed the throne onto his son King Solomon. The real division sparked off, when Solomon kept taking on wives and concubines.

Because King Solomon was allowing these foreign women to bring their false idols and religions into the land.

That is when the split occurred.

The lust patterns of leadership were the last straw that broke the camel’s back!

Hos 1:1 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.

(northern tribe)

There was a Jeroboam the first and Jeroboam the second and both were not exactly good men of GOD.

King Jeroboam the second followed in daddy’s footsteps in relation to allowing idolatry into a very prosperous land.

/[Hos 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/1/2/s_863002) When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, “**Go, take for yourself a wife inclined to infidelity** (*zᵊnûnîm*), and children of infidelity; for the land commits flagrant infidelity, abandoning the LORD.”

The Hebrew root word speaks to GREAT sexual infidelities, many lovers and the act of sex for profit.\

ZAH-NO-ACK, is a term used for prostitutes – harlotry.

There are some scholars who try to candy-coat this and say it’s all just analogies, yet that appears inaccurate.

All scripture is first interpreted as literal.

Though all scripture has layers and analogies or typologies, there first is always a literal concept interpreted.

So, unless otherwise led in a different direction by diving deeper into interpretation of the original language and historical context - just assume it says exactly what is written!

/Hos 1:2 - *for the land commits flagrant infidelity, abandoning the LORD*

The analogy is that Israel (Bels), commit idolatry (fornication with false gods) outside of their relationship with God. Hosea is being called to live out the example of God’s lesson.\

For the CA Bel – Israel in the OT is an analogy of the soul of the Bel.

There is clear evidence here that Hosea is called to take a temple prostitute as a wife.

Temple prostitution for worshippers under one of the many BAAL systems was very common in this time.

/Hosea is called to seek out a wife who was a known prostitute. This will be God’s lesson for generations to come in relation to how HE views Bels who accept the cosmic system and the counterfeits of Satan into their lifestyle. Our fellowship (intimacy) and commitment are to GOD. Anything we take into our daily life can become a false idol which is a form of infidelity to God.\

It is not always about sexual immorality it can be greed or lust for wealth & power, or relationships that draw us away from God.

It can be – a false religious system we have accepted that is not true Christianity.

[Hos 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/1/3/s_863003) So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

What my personal study shows me, is that Hosea may have been attracted to this prostitute Gomer and he knew of her.

He proposed marriage and followed through with the commitment of marriage following the command of GOD.

This would have meant that Gomer agreed along with her father Diblaim – this meant a wedding ritual and ceremony which takes at least a week.

/Gomer and her father agreeing to marry Hosea meant that she was making a commitment. She was going through the ceremony and ritual of ancient Hebrew marriage. This is the Bel who turns to Christ and is born again and saved. The intimacy between Hosea and Gomer is then blessed with a child. \

This shows us the Bel who now is given blessings and opportunity by God at salvation.

/God can take us at our worst, our bad decisions and wicked lifestyle is all washed clean in the blood of Christ. There is a marriage (bride of Christ) analogy coming to GOD. This is a marriage of a typology of the Believer and Christ. We are given grace gifts and offered a love relationship no matter what our past or failures and sins have been. This is grace at its peak because it opens up impersonal, unconditional love to us! \

 Hosea is a man of GOD who is offering his love, commitment and protection to a woman who could’ve cared less about GOD.

That is God’s grace in action offering us what we do not, or can not earn or deserve.

[Hos 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/1/4/s_863004) And the LORD said to him, “Name him Jezreel; for in just a little while 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.

Jezreel – means *God sows*. This points us to the valley in northern Israel and carries a prophetic layer within it.

Jehu refers to the murder of the sons of Ahab in order to overthrow the throne as seen in 2Kings chapter 10. Then God allowed the Assyrian army to march in and dominate the Northern Tribe as well.

Very prophetic when you see what happened in the 50 years during the career of the prophet Hosea.

Hosea’s career span between 35 and 50 years and saw great prosperity turned into destruction under the Assyrian domination.

[Hos 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/1/5/s_863005) “On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”

*To break the bow of Israel* - means their military power and protection was about to be broken.

The first-born son of Hosea is named Jezreel.

/*Jezreel*means - *“God is sowing or God has scattered the seeds,”* and Israel would soon be scattered in exile by the powerful, Assyrian army. Jezreel is also the valley where Jehu - the founder of the dynasty that put Jeroboam II on the throne - massacred all descendants of Ahab (2King 10). God directed Hosea to name his son *Jezreel* as judgment for Jehu and allow the Israelites to feel HIS discipline.\

We always end up reaping what we sow. After the misery doesn’t bring forth the desired result, God then brings in cycles of discipline.

There is almost always a reprieve or period of silence or peace in-between cycles of discipline. God allows us opportunities to turn it around.

[Hos 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/1/6/s_863006)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 take pity on the house of Israel, that I would ever forgive them.

The daughter is called a Hebrew term for no pity, or no mercy. This is symbolic for the people of the northern tribe they refused to turn back toward GOD.

[Hos 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/1/7/s_863007) “But I will take pity on the house of Judah and save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, sword, battle, horses, or horsemen.”

Judah meaning the southern tribe of Israel. The southern tribe would fall to king Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian military in 587 BC.

Both kingdoms had periods of time where they neglected God and out right rejected the plan of God for their nation.

/The fact is Judah at this point was still remaining faithful to God. Any client nation onto God that has the majority of the people following God’s plan HE will protect them. God miraculously fought on behalf of Judah against Assyria when the angel of the LORD killed 185,000 soldiers in the camp of Assyria in one night ([2Kings 19:35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2ki/19/35/s_332035)). \

When a client nation unto God pulls far enough away from God’s plan that is when they first reap self-induced misery. God’s cycles of discipline follow in order depending on how stubborn the client nation remains.

[Hos 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/1/8/s_863008) When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and gave birth to a son.

Gomer has another son - but many scholars believe and I am on board with this as well, that this is a child born of her return to prostitution.

/[Hos 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/1/9/s_863009) And the LORD said, **“Name him Lo-ammi**, because you are not My people, and I am not your God.”

Not of MY people, not MY family. Very symbolic for what happens when we have intimacy with the cosmic system, we give birth to ideologies, plans and action opposed to God. \

[Hos 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/1/10/s_863010) Yet the number of the sons of Israel Will be like the sand of the sea,
Which cannot be measured or counted;
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.”

Keep in mind this is not only Hosea’s life, he is the prophet who has to explain and prophesize all of these things to the Jewish leadership.

This is a future reference in verse 10 and 11 that points us to the kingdom of Christ on earth at the second Advent.

[Hos 1:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/hos/1/11/s_863011) 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 the day of Jezreel *will be* great.

Let us close today covering some very important principles.

/Hosea’s ministry stretched through 50 years and 6 kings, each king failed to turn the kingdom back toward GOD with any real significance. Jeroboam II reigned over a successful kingdom that fell apart because the majority of the people followed other idols and gods outside of Israel. Once that becomes the norm and standard and is allowed inside the nation, the spiral downward escalates quickly. \

Self-induced misery will begin and for a period of time GOD will allow that nation to reap what they sow.

/Hosea was a good prophet and Godly man, yet he was used to live out an example of what the majority of Bels do to GOD. He was commanded to take a wife from the prostitutes of the city of Samaria. This shows us a lost Unbel in the world can be brought into GOD’s divine presence and forever secure by simply acknowledging Christ as who HE is and has always been. \

Gomer may have even been a Gentile or probably a mixed blood of Jew and Gentile.

/God’s grace is what ignites the virtue love of GOD. There is nothing we can do to earn God’s grace it is given because of who HE is and the person & work of Christ for the salvation of mankind. Impersonal, unconditional love follows the grace protocol of GOD it is not dependent upon anything in the cosmic system or the flesh. It is a supernatural love that is Christ-dependent. \