

The Hosea Story

of Unrelenting Love

The word of God spoke to Hosea and instructed him to marry an adulterous woman. 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 continues to move like the ocean tide.

At the time of Babel, God the Creator gave the members of His holy council rulership over the nations. He divided the nations accordingly and their job was to teach each nation the way of God and how to worship the Almighty God, the God of all gods.



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“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” (Deuteronomy 32:8).

This exuberance of power and glory opened Pandora's magical box of potions and runes. All of these members of His court reveled, until they were incoherent from the ecstasy of their corruptive power over the nations. When nothing was left, they awoke changed forever, driven by self-elevation, self-determination, and self-glory. They quickly joined forces 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 ceaselessly 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 they served them. Their presence was felt;

it was real and at times excruciatingly painful for the disobedient. These are the same gods of 21th 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. Mankind believes these 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 who chose to depart from humbly serving their God who lives the ways of love, kindness, justice, honesty and righteousness. Instead, these people worked to build a dark kingdom splattered in red, as they built-up their military might through the acquisition of weapons, development of extra-ordinary weapon technology, alliances and wealth acquisition through invasion. 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 in the relationship of Hosea and Gomer. The first child, a son was called Jezreel. Lo-Ruhamah a daughter and Lo-Ammi a son, were born in harlotry.

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. A godless leadership, this alliance has proven to be, as it works to control resources and harness power, so that it can remain on the top.

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 include being cut off from God and curses because of their disobedience. God will not show love or pity for these people; He eventually cut them out of the covenant family. They became Gentiles.

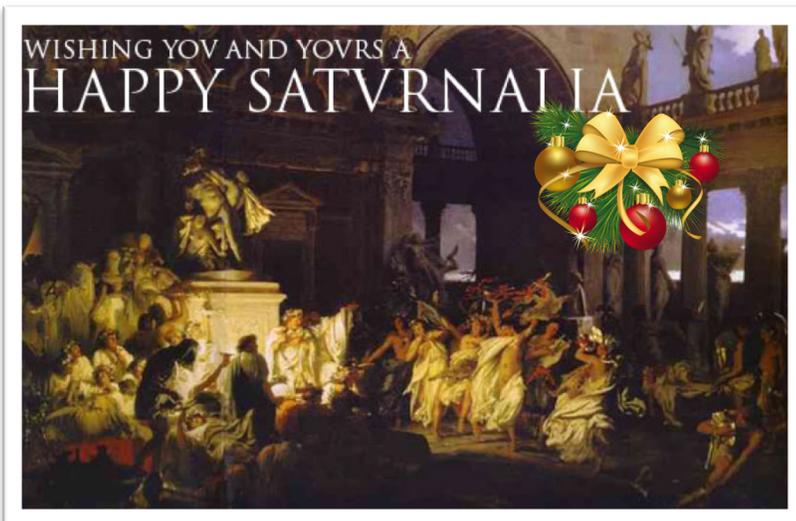
Gomer did not appreciate the love of her husband, instead she went out and chased her lovers who she thought were giving her “the grain, the new wine and oil... silver and gold which she used for Baal” (Hosea 2:8). Instead, it is he, her true husband who provided generously for her. God watches this house of Israel revel in His wealth, 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 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 future.

“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).

“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).

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).

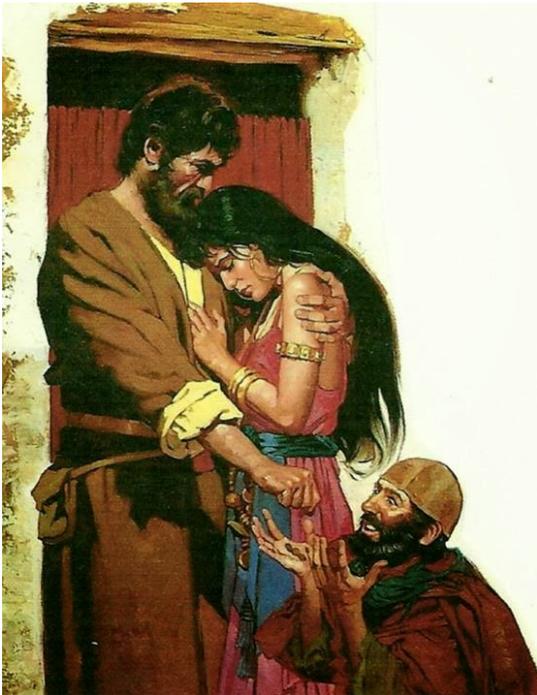


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The house of Judah kept and continues to keep God’s appointed feasts, but her sister has been cut off from God for hundreds of years. They have forgotten those sacred celebrations. While scattered among the Gentiles, they picked up pagan traditions. During the ministry of the Apostles, these people were corrected, but religious councils over a thousand years ago have mixed traditions in to form a blend they hoped Christians, Jews, and pagans would accept. This forced mix of tradition

is celebrated by 21st century Christians. They do not know that their celebrations are the mix that will be stopped.

The story of the house of Israel is an emotionally painful story. Their desire to be like the Gentiles and 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.



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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, 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 lethek of barley” (Hosea 3:2). Thirty shekels was the estimated 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.

The house of Israel, like Gomer was once beautiful. **“When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the desert and that when I saw your fathers, it was like seeing the early fruit on the fig tree”** (Hosea

9:10). **“Of all the families of the earth, only Israel have I chosen”** (Amos 3:2).

The house of Israel then was like Gomer had become a rebellious, angry, stubborn house of people bent on the ways of the gods. Today, she has been redeemed.

The story of the buying back of Israel is a story, rich in grace and mercy. It tells of the great love of our Father in heaven who 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 explained this successful defeat well.

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).

Won through conquest the authority over the nations: “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: “...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 services, 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).

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, 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 came to an end with the destruction of the last temple in 70 AD. The **sacred stones** taught by the mystic priests as objects of power, charms of protection from the wrath of the gods and an object that guarantees 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 writing of 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 “Israel is swallowed up; now she is among the nations like a worthless thing... Ephraim 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. 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).

“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 when the 21st century northern house of Israel will be attacked by **nations** for refusing to obey God properly. They were punished in 721 B.C. and still a future—a second punishment waits them. Many of these people no longer believe in God and those who do, have only a superficial relationship.

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... 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 **EVERYONE REMAINING IN ALL TEN TRIBES** will repent and **ALL OF THOSE REMAINING IN THE HOUSE OF JUDAH.** 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).

- **"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.
- **"Sons of the living God", "My people", "My loved one"** are the changed names of these repentant people, humble and sincerely 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 grew away from their God always craving the ways of the gods. 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 the traditions of men—the false religious practices. One group will flee into the wilderness during Jacob's trouble, while the rest come to 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 harsh conditions that bring repentance, which in turn leads to the reunification of Judah and Israel.

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:

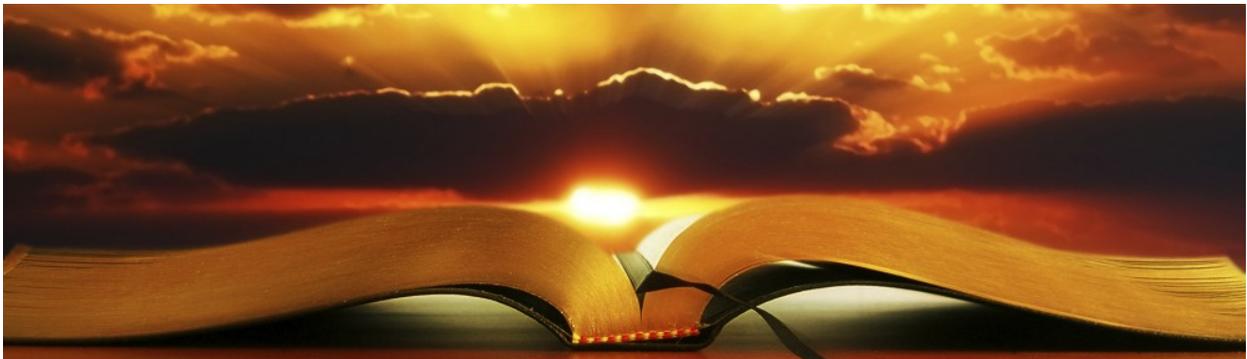
“Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?’ Simon

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 responds, "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 more have I 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).

O, 21st century house of Israel wake-up and listen. "Who is wise? He will realize these things. Who is discerning? He will understand them. The ways of the LORD are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them" (Hosea 14:9).



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