

Hosea – The Love of God

Hosea 1:1-11

1 The word of the LORD that came unto Hosea, the son of Beerī, in the days of **Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah**, kings of Judah, and in the days of **Jeroboam** the son of Joash, king of Israel.

Introduction: Very few places in the Bible will you find a more beautiful picture painted of the saving grace and love of our Lord than in the book of Hosea.

- Hosea = **salvation**.
- A prophet of God who explained to Israel then and to all God's true love and dedication.
- Chronologically, the next writing prophet after Amos and Jonah is Hosea,
- The first of the twelve **Minor** Prophets in our Bibles.
- Like Amos and Jonah, Hosea's ministry occurred during the reign of King Jeroboam II in the north.
- However, Hosea's work also continued long past Jeroboam's death, as he kept serving through the reign of King Hezekiah in Judah
- Jeroboam II died in 753 BC
- Hezekiah took Judah's throne sometime around the fall of the northern kingdom in 722 BC (2 Kings 17:1–5; 18:1)
- Hosea prophesied for about **thirty to forty years**.

I. God's Odd Command

Hosea 1:2 The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.

- Hosea was commanded of God to take a wife who was a **harlot**
- God would use this to show how Israel had chosen to follow other **gods**.
- Gomer, a **harlot** who became Hosea's wife

Hosea 1:3-5

3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son.

4 And the LORD said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and **will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel**.

5 And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.

- Gomer, gave birth to a baby boy
- God named this child "**Jezreel**" means **God sows**.

Hosea 1:6-8

6 And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And God said unto him, Call her name **Loruhamah**: for **I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away.**

7 But **I will have mercy upon the house of Judah**, and will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.

8 Now when she had weaned Loruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son.

- Gomer, gave birth to another baby, a daughter
- God named this second child "**Loruhamah**" means *no mercy*.

Hosea 1:8-10

8 Now when she had weaned Loruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son.

9 Then said God, Call his name Loammi: **for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God.**

10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and 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.

- Gomer gave birth to her third child another boy
- God named "**Loammi**" means *not my people*.
- Hosea allowed God to have complete **control** over his life

Hosea 2:1-6

1 Say ye unto your brethren, **Ammi**; and to your sisters, **Ruhamah**.

2 **Plead with your mother, plead: for she is not my wife, neither am I her husband**: let her therefore **put away her whoredoms out of her sight**, and her adulteries from between her breasts;

3 Lest I strip her naked, and set her as in the day that she was born, and make her as a wilderness, and **set her like a dry land**, and **slay her with thirst**.

4 And **I will not have mercy upon her children; for they be the children of whoredoms**.

5 For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them **hath done shamefully**: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink.

II. A Horrific Married Life

- Through his life, his marriage to Gomer, the harlot, and his children, whom God named, **God explained that He recognized Israel's sin of idolatry**.
- He also, through His choice of names for Hosea's children, explained how **He had sown the seed of His Word through His prophet**,
- The children of Israel had **ignored** His Word.
- He then explained that **His mercy had run out**
- He had finally accepted the realization that **they were no longer His people**
- **He, in turn, would no longer be their God**.

- Hosea **allowed God** to speak to an entire nation of people through the private details of his life, **simply because God needed him to do so.**

Hosea 3:1-3

1 Then said the LORD unto me, **Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD** toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.

2 So **I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley:**

3 And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee.

III. The Value of a Slave

Exodus 21:33

32 If the ox shall push a manservant or a maidservant; he shall give unto their master **thirty shekels of silver**, and the ox shall be stoned.

- Hosea's **dedication** to God and to his own wife, Gomer, is seen through this great story of what true, **godly love really is.**
- God shows through this story how He already **owned** us all, yet, because **we sinned and turned our backs on Him**, He was forced to **pay** for the return of His property—His own creation—through the death of His only Son.
- Even after all He's done for us we still choose to live the way we want to – **WITHOUT HIM!**

I. Hosea's Dedication to God—Hosea 1:2-3 - Hosea was told by God to take a wife of the whoredom—in other words, he was to choose for himself a wife **who was a harlot**, by occupation. Though certainly Hosea knew this would not be the best place to select a wife, **he did as God told him to do**. Gomer was the woman that Hosea took to marry. She bore him three children, yet this was not enough incentive to keep her faithful to her husband. **In Hosea 2:2, we find Hosea asking his children to plead with their mother to return to them and to their father**. In Hosea 2:5, we see a **heartbroken Hosea come to the realization that Gomer had left him for good**. Imagine the **humiliation and heartache** that Hosea had to be experiencing as he went through this difficult time, and, on top of his own personal pain was the fact that **his life was being made a public example to Israel of how they had abandoned God**. Then Hosea was told by God to write down the entire heartbreaking story: since God told him to, he simply obeyed. *What dedication this man had to his God!*

II. Hosea Continued to Love Gomer - Hosea had suffered rejection by his own wife. What a crushing blow! Still, through all of his heartache, **he remained committed to Gomer**. What a beautiful picture of the love and dedication that God has toward us. He created us and truly loved us, yet we rejected Him. God continues to love man, His Own creation, even though we continually reject Him.

III. Hosea Bought Back What Was Already His—Hosea 3:1-3 - Picture Hosea, longing to have his companion back with him. Time had passed since she had left him and Gomer had been battered by the wicked lifestyle that she had chosen to live. **Finally, with no other recourse, she allowed herself to be auctioned off to the highest bidder**. Hosea, seeing this older woman being sold, **recognized her as his beloved Gomer**. Though she was battered and dejected, his love for her outweighed in his mind the wickedness that she had done. He quickly made an offer and **continued to bid until he bought back the woman whom he had married**. She was already his, yet he found it necessary to purchase her back to himself. God, like Hosea loved Gomer, loved man, whom He had created, yet man rejected God and turned to sin. Such agony God must have felt as He realized that He was rejected by man, who was already His creation and possession! God did not stop loving man, though man stopped loving Him. In

fact, God, in **Romans 5:8**, "**commendeth**" or *proved His love toward us*. Even though we rejected Him, He sent His Son to pay the penalty for our sins and He once again reclaimed His creation for Himself! God, like Hosea with Gomer, once owned us, yet after we rejected him, **He still found a way to reclaim us.**

IV. Hosea's Commandment - Hosea had now reclaimed the wife of his youth by **purchasing her from an auction**. He gave her a commandment to "**abide**" or *dwell with him*, and he would, in turn, "**also be for her.**" God, like Hosea did with Gomer, gives Christians—His **twice-purchased possessions**—a commandment. In **John 15:4**, **Jesus commands us to abide in Him** because a branch cannot bear fruit without the vine. **John 15:1** tells us that **Jesus is the Vine**. God desires of Christians to bear fruit. "**Fruit**" means *offspring*. God desires for us to help make other Christians. This can only be done if we explain to others what Jesus has done for us through salvation. If we are not bearing fruit as Christians, then John 15:2 tells us what could happen—"**Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit, He taketh away.**" This is why it is important to be part of a work whose goal it is to **be fruitful**. We ought to also be willing to explain to others that Jesus has made a way for all men to be returned again to God.

Conclusion: Hosea never gave up on Gomer, just as **God never gives up on us**. Thanks to Hosea's willingness to be used of God in whatever fashion He chose, we have a truly beautiful portrait of God's love—given on a human level.

Practical Applications:

1. Hosea proved his dedication to God by obeying Him.
2. Hosea loved his wife like God made man and loves man.
3. Gomer turned her back on her husband Hosea like man turned his back on God.
4. Hosea sought for his wife like God seeks for man.
5. Hosea paid the price to reclaim Gomer like Jesus paid the price for man's sin.
6. Hosea never gave up looking for his wife like God never wants us to give up looking for the lost.

"A STORY OF LOVE"

Hosea 3:1-3 Then the Lord said unto me, Go yet, love a women, beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress....."

INTRODUCTION:

- This is surely the strangest book in the Bible.

- Story of a broken home - broken lives - broken vows - broken hearts.
- Story of a grievous wife and a grieving husband.
- 2700 years before King Solomon had died.
- Reboaham, his son ruled with whip - more taxes - work -benefits.
- Baal worship - Astoreth worship
- Girls persuaded to run away to the temples to become prostitutes.
- Corinth, years later had one temple that had 1,000 prostitutes.
- Man named Dibliam, wife had a beautiful daughter - Gomer.
- Gomer's name means "perfection" like the name Eve.
- Jereboaham too was so corrupt and selfish, he was hated.
- His son Zecharia reigned 6 mo., and was killed by Shallum.
- Shallum reigned one month - killed by Menaham.
- Menaham ruled 6-10 years and died.
- Pekahiam (son) 2 years - killed by Pekah.
- Pekah killed by Hoshea.
- Political conditions terrible - Social a& Economic even worse.
- Courts corrupt - judges bought - bribes common.
- Family life decayed - Religious conditions sad.
- Like Pimps, Priests sold girls - same with Baal & Asteroth.
- Great prosperity and abundance.
- Israel forgot God. - Prosperity does that. (Jack Farley)
- Meanwhile the Assyrian Army were massing at the border.
- Young man spoken to by the Lord - Surrendered - dedicated -fervent
- Hosea (Joshua - Jesus = same meaning)
- Amos was the only other prophet in the Northern kingdom.
- Southern Kingdom had Isaiah & Micah for prophets.
- Here the Bible sounds like True confessions or True Romance magazine.
- Young woman - Beautiful - attractive - carefree - good times.
- Lived on the opposite side of the tracks.
- They got married and started having babies.
- She was not the typical Preachers wife
- Cigarette in hand - cocktail glass in other - mini skirt to church
- Sun bathing outfit - bikini - gaudy make up (Tammy) (Jimmy Hoffa)
- No S.S. - Church - Lake on Sunday - No prayer meeting
- Flirtatious - frivolous
- People talked - Hosea make excuses for her - She's just immature.
- She'll grow - give her time - She'll be alright.
- Why did you marry her? The Lord told me too.

1. First baby - Boy - Jezereel = Judgment
2. Second baby - Girl - Loruhamah = Unloved - Unwanted
3. Third baby - Boy - Loammi = Not my own (illegitimate)

- Problem - Unfaithfulness
- Hoseah forgives and tries to forget - Grace - Love - Forgiveness
- He tries to rebuild the marriage - She leaves again - Children alone
- Home from Church - Children dirty - hungry - crying - alone -scared
- He fixes dinner - bathes kids - straightens house - kids to bed.
- Spends night weeping - praying - asking God - What shall I do?
- God speaks - "Get hold on yourself"
- People in town say, "He's the finest man in town, too bad about her"

There Was A Failure...

- Failure in marriage: - not because she could not cook.
 - **not because she was a poor housekeeper.**
 - **not because she was a bad mother.**
 - **But because she refused his love.**
 - **He could not find a way to win her love**

- Finally Hosea got Victory..got life rebuilt -
- Two friends came by - Guess who we saw today - Your friend
- I've got lots of friends - which one. (Gomer)
- Some get pleasure in bearing bad news.
- OH, NO, I just got hold on myself - The children have just quit crying
- OH, She wont be bothering you, she's a slave - She'll be auctioned off tomorrow. She looks terrible - just skin & bones.
- GOD spoke, "Hosea, go buy her back - That's what I did for you"
- Auction - bidding slow - 15 pieces of silver - 20 for Joseph.
- Are you crazy fellow, you can buy one of those young pretty girls.
- Takes her chain - leads her away - she expects a beating.
- He unlocks her chain - go or come - your free - she falls into arms
- They start all over again.

- This is a story of a sinner - the story of a saint.

- THIS IS THE GRACE OF GOD WORKING IN OUR LIFE.