

## 26. Jesus in Hosea

November 17, 2016

The beginning of the 12 minor prophets' writings start with the Book of Hosea. The Lord sent numerous prophets to warn, rebuke, exhort, and encourage them to turn from their idolatry and wicked ways to follow Him like their ancestor king David. Yet throughout all the generations, from king Solomon, with the exceptions of a few godly kings, they pretty much ignored the Lord and His messengers.

The American Christians might say, "If we've been warned that much, we'd have turned to the Lord from the beginning." NOT SO! The Israelis had an excuse to say that they didn't have the Bible like we do now.

America, not like any other countries around the world, is on the very short leash from the Lord. The Lord just extended His mercy toward us in this election so that we can proclaim His Word to everyone instead of being fat, dumb, and happy while we are pretending that everything is going just fine like these Israelis. It is coming, folks, the hammer of the angry God against America. His judgment will start from His own house, the church.

*1 Peter 4:17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the Gospel of God?*

The name Hosea means "salvation." It comes from the same Hebrew root word 'Hoshea' as the names 'Joshua' and 'Jesus'. Throughout the Book, Hosea will show us that salvation is found in turning to the Lord and away from our sin.

There are multiple parallels between the lives of Hosea and Jesus. As Hosea was called to go and take a wife of adultery in chapter 1, so was Jesus. As Hosea paid the price demanded to redeem a slave for his unfaithful bride in chapter 3, so did Jesus. And just as the amazing, adultery-forgiving love of God portrayed in Hosea was available to Gomer if she only turned away from her adultery and went back to her husband, so it is that the amazing, adultery-forgiving love of God in Christ is available to us if we only turn away from our spiritual adultery and go to Jesus.

One thing we cannot discount is the obedience of the prophet Hosea. The majority of Christian males would object to the Lord if He gave us the same command to us to go marry a prostitute and go get the wayward wife who went back to the life of prostitution. We don't see any objection from Hosea. He did everything he was told to do. May we be like our Lord Jesus and like Hosea, His faithful servant.

### A. JESUS IN BETROTHAL

*Hosea 1:2 When the Lord began to speak by Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea: "Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry And children of harlotry, For the land has committed great harlotry By departing from the Lord."*

Through His command to Hosea, God brings to life a consistent picture used throughout the Old Testament. In this picture, the Lord is the faithful and loving Husband of Israel, and their passionate, chronic attraction for idols was like the lust of an adulterer. His people were as unfaithful as a prostitute was.

In this vivid picture, we see how our idolatry and rejection of the Lord feels to God. When we put anything in place of the Lord, it hurts Him like unfaithfulness hurts the

victim of an adulterous marriage. By commanding Hosea to take a wife of harlotry, God will put Hosea in the place where he feels what God feels – and it won't feel good.

Jesus calls His church, the bride. The church was not called to be His bride because she is worthy or pure, but because of His love. Starting from Israel to the current church, she has been prone to wander from God.

*Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her*

If that is not clear enough to identify the church as His bride, no one can wiggle in this portion of the Book of Revelation:

*Revelation 21:2-3 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

Who is the population of the New Jerusalem? The people of God from the OT to NT – the church.

Two amazing parts of these situations with Jesus and Hosea, they both fully knew what they were getting into and how the situations would turn out, yet they both were obedient to God the Father. Thus, Hosea was a typology of Jesus in this Book.

## **B. JESUS IN HIS MERCY**

*Hosea 1:6-7 And she conceived again and bore a daughter. Then God said to him: "Call her name Lo-Ruhamah, For I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel, But I will utterly take them away. 7 Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, Will save them by the Lord their God, And will not save them by bow, Nor by sword or battle, By horses or horsemen."*

The fact that God had no mercy to Israel and had mercy towards Judah shows two things:

**1) It is true that Judah and her kings were more faithful unto the Lord during these years, as exemplified by King Hezekiah, than all kings of Israel, because they were ungodly and wicked.**

**2) It does not really matter if Judah was more worthy of mercy than Israel was, because by its very nature mercy is mercy.**

If one deserves leniency, then leniency is a matter of justice, not mercy. Mercy is only shown to the guilty. Therefore, it is within the wise and loving heart of God to show mercy to whom He will show mercy.

That is what the Lord Jesus gave to the church, instead of sending all of us to hell, by taking our sins upon Himself and paid our ransom with His life.

## **C. JESUS THE MESSIAH**

*Hosea 1:10-2:1 "Yet the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There it shall be said to them, 'You are sons of the living God.' 11 Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel Shall be gathered together, And appoint for themselves one head; And they shall come up out of the land, For great*

*will be the day of Jezreel! 2:1 Say to your brethren, 'My people,' And to your sisters, 'Mercy is shown.'*

Though God has promised judgment, the days of judgment won't last forever. After judgment, there will come a day of prosperity, increase, and blessing. One day Israel will return to the Lord, and once again be called sons of the living God.

This shows that the redemption is complete. The child named Jezreel has his name redeemed, and now the next two children – Lo-Ruhamah, “No Mercy” and Lo-Ammi, “Not My People” – have their name redeemed as Israel is once again regarded as “My People” unto the Lord and “Mercy is shown” unto them. What was a sign of judgment is now the evidence of redemption.

The apostles Peter, Paul, and John show us how the prophecy of Hosea 1:10 has been fulfilled in Christ as their Messiah:

*1 Peter 2:10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*

*Romans 11:25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.*

*Revelation 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands*

#### **D. JESUS IN THE ROYALTY**

*Hosea 3:1-5 Then the Lord said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the Lord for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans." 2 So I bought her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver, and one and one-half homers of barley. 3 And I said to her, "You shall stay with me many days; you shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man—so, too, will I be toward you." 4 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim. 5 Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days.*

God directs Hosea to go back to his wife, even though she is committing adultery. It wasn't in the past. It is in the present. Yet he is commanded to go back to her and to love her. Why did God command Hosea to go back to his still-unfaithful wife? Not only for the sake of Hosea and his wife Gomer, but also so that they would become a living lesson of the Lord's relationship with His people. They were still steeped in spiritual adultery, yet the Lord still loved them.

Hosea didn't really need to “buy” His own wife. She was his wife! But as a display of love and commitment, he goes the “extra mile,” beyond what is expected or even reasonable. Hosea also showed her: “I can give you what the others cannot and will not.”

The point of paying Gomer wasn't just to get her to give up her trade as a prostitute. It was to bring her into a relationship with Hosea, her husband. Relationship and living together in heaven was the goal as Christ paid the ransom for us with His own sacrifice. Jesus did far more than what Hosea did.

King David had been dead for at least 200 years, so this is clearly a reference to a future king, of whom it was promised would be in the line of David and that He will reign forever according to 2 Samuel 7. The Jews recognized Jesus as the Son of David their king on Palm Sunday:

*Luke 19:38 saying: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*

## **E. JESUS IN VICTORIOUS RESURRECTION**

*Hosea 6:1-3 Come, and let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. 2 After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight. 3 Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.*

This is a prayer that trusts the love of God, and sees His loving hand even in correction. Often, a rebellious child will complain that their parents do not love them. Of course, the parents do love the child, but in their rebellion and lack of submission, they can't receive or respond to that love. Hosea prays with a different heart. Instead of arguing with God, or resenting His correction, Hosea leads Israel in humble prayer.

Hosea prayed this full of confidence in God's love and power to restore. In the prayer, there is a shadowy prophecy of Jesus' resurrection on the third day. The context supports this wonderfully; on the cross, Jesus was torn and stricken for our sake, yet He was also gloriously raised up on the third day.

The former rains were the heavy rains which fell toward the end of October, and the latter rains were the heavy showers of March and April which came right before the harvest.

## **F. JESUS IN THE REFUGE PLACE**

*Hosea 11:1 "When Israel was a child, I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son.*

God remembers His tender love for Israel, when more than 500 years before the time of Hosea, He brought them out of Egypt.

Then, here is an "unexpected prophecy" fulfilled in the life of Jesus.

*Matthew 2:15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."*

A direct quote from the Book of Hosea by the apostle Matthew. You cannot argue with the plain and simple connection.

## **G. JESUS LIKE NO ONE ELSE**

*Hosea 13:4-8 "Yet I am the Lord your God Ever since the land of Egypt, And you shall know no God but Me; For there is no Savior besides Me. 5 I knew you in the wilderness, In the land of great drought. 6 When they had pasture, they were filled; They were filled and their heart was exalted; Therefore they forgot Me. 7 "So I will be to them like a lion; Like a leopard by the road I will lurk; 8 I will meet them like a bear deprived of her cubs; I will tear open their rib cage, And there I will devour them like a lion. The wild beast shall tear them.*

It is a strange and terrible aspect of human nature that when times are good, we often forget the God who blesses us. When times are bad, then we are often more likely to turn our hearts back to God.

At the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st Century, Americans were in a season of unprecedented prosperity. Yet statistics show that in the 1990 and 2000s churchgoers gave the smallest percentage of their income in contributions since the Great Depression. Sadly, often when we are filled, then we find our hearts exalted, and soon we forget God.

When we neglect our God as He blesses us, we then will often face the chastening hand of God. It isn't because God hates us, but because we have demonstrated that we will only turn to Him when times are bad.

Just as the amazing, forgiving, and redeeming love of God portrayed in Hosea was available to Gomer only if she turned away from her adultery and returned to her husband, so it is that the amazing, forgiving, and redeeming love of God is available to us too, but only if we turn away from our spiritual adultery and turn to Jesus.

*Acts 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*