

## Hosea

July 2, 2023

### Introduction:

The name Hosea means “salvation.” He preached in the Northern Kingdom (Israel, also called “Ephraim”) during a period of national decline. When Hosea started his ministry, Jeroboam II was king, and it was a time of great prosperity. But the nation was rotting away inwardly and getting involved with foreign alliances instead of trusting God to lead and protect them. Hosea lived to see Israel taken captive by the Assyrians. (see 2Ki 15 – 17)

Hosea’s message is to the nation of Israel, exposing their sins and warning them of coming judgment. There is also a message of hope for the future. But the unique thing about his message is that he had to live it himself before he could preach it to the people. The prophet had to experience deep agony in his own marriage because of the sins of his wife, this was to serve as an object lesson to Israel.

Hosea was commanded by God to marry and have children with a prostitute named Gomer. And it wasn’t just that she was a prostitute, it was that she would continue to be one. Hosea was going to marry a woman he knew would be unfaithful to him. He knew she would betray his trust over and over again. And that’s exactly what Gomer did, even when he begged her not to. She simply would not listen to him.

### Christ is seen:

As prophet,

Ac 3:22-23 “Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed to everything He says to you. 23 ‘And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’

As fulfilling the Law

Mat 5:17-18 17 “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. 18 “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Redeeming love

Jn 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Hosea a type of Christ

Gomer leaves Hosea for other men. He begs her to stay, but she will not listen. She becomes a sex slave, and Hosea buys her back.

Like Gomer, Israel is guilty of immorality and adultery. Like Gomer, Israel leaves her first love and sells herself to evil. And like Hosea, Jesus provides a way to return. Hosea provides a way to redeem Gomer. He buys her back. Jesus gave His life to buy us back.

In this story of Hosea and Gomer, we find ourselves. The choices we made took us away from God. He longs after us, waiting for repentance. God gave the best gift possible, His Son, Jesus, to provide redemption. In Jesus Christ, we find restoration. He provides the balm we need; He brings healing. In Jesus, we find redemption. Through His stripes, we are healed. Redemption! That is the scarlet thread woven through the Old Testament, pointing forward to the new covenant.

## Foreshadowing:

Hos 1:10-11 Yet the number of the sons of Israel Will be like the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered; 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." 11 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 great will be the day of Jezreel. (Rom 9:26)

Hos 2:23 "I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, And I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they will say, 'You are my God!' (Rom 9:25)

Hos 2:14-23 "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Bring her into the wilderness And speak kindly to her. 15 "Then I will give her vineyards from there, And the valley of Achor as a door of hope. And she will sing there as in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt. 16 "It will come about in that day," declares the LORD, "That you will call Me Ishi [*my husband*] And will no longer call Me Baali [*my master*]. 17 "For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, So that they will be mentioned by their names no more. 18 "In that day I will also make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, The birds of the sky And the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land, And will make them lie down in safety. 19 "I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In lovingkindness and in compassion, 20 And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the LORD. 21 "It will come about in that day that I will respond," declares the LORD. "I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the earth, 22 And the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine and to the oil, And they will respond to Jezreel. 23 "I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, And I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they will say, 'You are my God!' "

## The Bridegroom - Typified in Hosea's faithfulness to his adulterous wife (Hos 3)

When Jesus claimed the church as His Bride, He knew we as a people would be unfaithful to Him. He knew we'd ignore Him, keep going back to our old haunts, and grow fond of our personal idols. Yet, He made that commitment and kept His vow to be faithful to the church. In this same way, we see Hosea a type of Christ.

Jesus keeps seeking us out, finding us, and returning us to His fold if we are willing to go with Him. This story shows us the importance of fidelity to Jesus Christ and the pain associated with our sinfulness and infidelity to Christ.

Like Christ, Hosea demonstrates the working of repentance, redemption, and restoration. Hosea does this for his wife, Gomer, and Jesus does this for His people, the church.