

3 – Hosea, Gomer And God’s Heart (Hosea 1:1-3:5)

I. The Timing of the Prophecy (Hosea 1:1)

- The writer introduces the book as the prophecy given to the prophet Hosea.
- It was given to the prophet during the days of Uzziah and Jeroboam II through Hezekiah.

II. The Symbolism of Hosea’s Marriage (Hosea 1:2-2:1)

A. The Marriage (Hosea 1:2-3a)

- The Lord tells Hosea to take an adulterous woman as his wife.
- This marriage was to portray Israel’s unfaithfulness to the covenant with the Lord.
- Hosea responded in obedience and took Gomer, daughter of Diblaim, as his wife.

B. The Children (Hosea 1:3b-9)

1. Jezreel (Hosea 1:3b-5)

- Gomer conceived and bore Hosea a son.
- The Lord told Hosea to name the son, Jezreel.
- The name reflects that the Lord was avenging the bloodshed of Jehu at Jezreel.
- This is because Jehu attacked the house of David and killed Ahaziah, king of Judah.

SCRIPTURE 2 Kings 9:27–28

- The Lord will also bring the northern kingdom to an end.
- The northern kingdom will be defeated in the valley of Jezreel.

2. Lo-Ruhamah (Hosea 1:6-7)

- Gomer conceived and bore Hosea a daughter.
- The Lord told Hosea to name the daughter, Lo-Ruhamah.
- The name “Lo-Ruhamah” means “no mercy.”
- The Lord states that he will no longer have mercy on the Northern Kingdom.
- The Lord states that he will utterly take them away in exile.

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SCRIPTURE 2 Kings 17:6

- The Lord proclaims that he will continue to have mercy on the house of Judah.
- He states that he will save them, but not by military might.

SCRIPTURE 2 Kings 19:32-36

3. Lo-Ammi (Hosea 1:8-9)

- When Gomer had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived and bore Hosea a son.
- The Lord told Hosea to name his son Lo-Ammi.
- The name “Lo-Ammi” means “not my people.”
- The Lord proclaims that the Northern Kingdom are not his people.
- He also proclaims that he will not be their God.

C. The Promise of the Future (Hosea 1:10-2:1)

- While the Lord pronounces judgment, he gives a promise to the Northern Kingdom.
- The Lord states that the number of children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea.
- He proclaims that in the same place where he stated that they are not his people, they will be called sons of the living God.
- He states that the children of Judah and Israel will be join together again and appoint a head.

III. Judgment and Restoration (Hosea 2:2-23)

A. Israel’s Punishment (Hosea 2:2-13)

- The Lord calls for formal charges to be brought against Israel for her adulteries.
- Israel has proclaimed that she will go after her lovers, who she says provided for her.
- The Lord will bring judgment on Israel so that she finds no provision from her lovers.
- Israel did not know that God provided for her the things she offered to Baal.
- The Lord will take away the provision as a judgment and expose her nakedness.
- The Lord will destroy her crops and punish the people for their worship of Baal.

B. Israel’s Restoration (Hosea 2:14-23)

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- The Lord will initiate reconciliation with Israel.
- The Lord will give her vineyards and she will sing as when she left Egypt.
- Israel will express intimacy with the Lord by no longer calling him “my master” but “my friend.”
- Israel will no longer name the Baals and she will remember them no more.
- The Lord proclaims that he will be betrothed to Israel forever.
- The Lord will proclaim that Israel is his people and they will proclaim that he is their God.

IV. Hosea’s Marriage Restored (Hosea 3:1-5)

- The Lord tells Hosea to go and love Gomer, who is committing adultery.
- Hosea was to do this just as the Lord has love for Israel, who looked to other gods.
- Hosea bought his wife back for a substantial price.
- Hosea tells Gomer that she will not return to her adulterous life and he will remain faithful as well.
- The Lord states that Israel will live many days with a king and Temple worship.
- Israel will return and seek the Lord and David their king.
- Israel will fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days.