

“Israel – The Restored Wife of God”

Hosea 2

The Historical Setting

1. It appears that Hosea's wife, Gomer, is the focus at the beginning of the chapter. She had returned to a life of whoredom, breaking her marital vows with Hosea. vs. 2
2. But immediately it becomes apparent that Gomer typifies the nation of Israel. In verses 3-5, God outlines Israel's sin in departing from Him.
3. God had made it very clear to Israel when He gave them the land of Canaan that He would not tolerate any kind of spiritual infidelity in following after the pagan gods of the heathen nations. **Exodus 20:1-6**
4. When God led Israel out of Egypt, He married them in the wilderness, and vows were made to one another. **Jeremiah 31:32**
5. Israel had broken her vows and played the harlot, seeking and worshipping the false gods of the heathen (her lovers). **Jeremiah 3:20**
 - Israel did exactly what God had warned them about in **Deuteronomy 6:10-14**. They forgot the Lord and attributed their material blessings to pagan gods. vs. 5, 8
6. Verse 8 begins with the words "*For she did not know...*" But she certainly should have. God had redeemed His people from Egypt, established a covenant with them, given them promises, and provided for them His written law.
7. They were to be a light to the heathen nations, but instead committed spiritual adultery with the gods of these nations. Instead of being a light, they had learned the way of the heathen. **Jeremiah 10:2; Ezekiel 11:12**

The Prophetical Teaching

1. Sin always brings consequences. In response to Israel's wickedness, verse 6 begins with, "*Therefore, behold, I will....*"
2. In the following verses (verses 6-13), Hosea prophesies to Israel of impending judgment.
 - The prophets of the Old Testament were like highway warning signs to Israel: Stop, Yield, Dead End, U-Turns Allowed, Danger Ahead. **Jeremiah 2:19-21**
3. In judgment, God would cut off Israel from her lovers. vs. 5-7
 - There is a glimpse of future hope and repentance in verse 7, but for the present time Israel remains stubborn and defiant of their husband, Jehovah God.
 - So, since they won't return to Him, in verse 9 God says, "*Therefore will I return...*"
4. Hosea prophesied that God would return in judgment and take away all of Israel's blessings that they had prepared for Baal. vs. 8-9, 11-13; **Ezekiel 16:28-39**
 - The context gives the idea of God destroying the land and laying it desolate. This is exactly what happened when the Assyrian armies invaded Israel in 722 B.C.
 - Although God used the Assyrians to accomplish His purposes, verse 10 makes it clear that Israel was in God's hand. These judgments were from His hand.

5. When everything looks dark and without hope, all of a sudden a ray of hope shines, and in verses 14-23 we have one of the greatest passages in Scripture concerning the future blessing God has in store for the nation of Israel.
6. Israel will once again be brought into the wilderness by God. vs. 14
 - In the Tribulation time period, Israel will once again flee into the wilderness and be protected by God. **Revelation 12:6, 14**
7. After this wilderness time, God gives Israel twelve "I wills" in verses 15-23. These are divine promises from the mouth of God to the nation of Israel.
8. God will once again give Israel their land, never to be uprooted again. vs. 15, 23a ("sow" means "to plant"); **Jeremiah 32:41-42**
9. God will remarry Israel, and this time the marriage will last forever. vs. 16-17, 19-20; **Isaiah 54:5-8**
 - In verse 16, "Ishi" means "my husband." Israel will never depart from the Lord again.
 - All of Israel will know the Lord. vs. 20; **Hebrews 8:10-11**
10. God will tame nature (**Isaiah 11:6-8**), make war a thing of the past (**Isaiah 2:1-5**), and cause Israel to dwell safely in their land (**Ezekiel 34:25-31**). vs. 18
11. God will cause the land to bring forth abundantly. vs. 21-22
12. God will lift the Lo-ruhamah sentence (not pitied) and have mercy upon Israel. vs. 23
13. God will lift the Lo-ammi sentence (not my people), and say to them, "*Thou art my people.*" vs. 23
 - As a bride and groom exchange vows, in that day God will say to Israel, "*Thou art my people*" and Israel will say to God, "*Thou art my God.*"
14. When will all of these kingdom blessings occur? They won't show up until the King shows up. **Jeremiah 33:14-17**
15. All of prophecy points to this day - the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to earth. **Joel 3; Revelation 19**

Practical Application for the Body of Christ

1. Just as Israel was in a union with Jehovah God, we have been made one with Jesus Christ. **Ephesians 5:30**
2. Just as Israel became enamored with idols and forgot God, we can do the same today. **1 Corinthians 10:14**
 - We must remember the great mercy and grace that God has shown to us in Christ. **Ephesians 2:11-13**
3. Just as there was no excuse for Israel's spiritual ignorance, there is no excuse for spiritual ignorance among God's people today. We have His written Word. **1 Corinthians 14:36-38; Ephesians 5:17-18**
4. Just as Israel took God's blessings and used them for their own idolatrous practices (poured them out on the altars of Baal), we can be tempted to do the same.
5. We are to yield ourselves to Christ (**2 Corinthians 8:5**) and use our blessings to be a blessing to others (**2 Corinthians 9:6-7**).
6. Just as Israel's final end has been settled (glory and peace), our final end has been settled. **Ephesians 2:5-7**
 - But in the present time, there are consequences for sin and disobedience. **Galatians 6:7-8; 1 Corinthians 11:30-34**

Hosea - Chapter 2

