

Hosea

Chapter 3

The Historical Setting

1. Once again, God speaks to the prophet Hosea and issues a difficult command for him to obey. vs. 1
2. Gomer (Hosea's wife) had once again become involved in sexual sin. She was involved in an adulterous relationship with a "friend."
 - It's almost as if the story of Hosea and Gomer picks up from 2:2, where Hosea is decrying her sexual wanderings.
3. God's command to Hosea is to "*Go yet*" and love her.
 - This word "yet" means "again, repeatedly, still, more."
 - Despite her wretched and awful condition, despite her total disregard for Hosea and her breaking of their marriage covenant, God commanded Hosea to love her.
4. This was to be a picture of God's unending love for the children of Israel, despite their spiritual adultery with pagan, false gods.
 - As an adulterous wife with wandering eyes, Israel had looked to other gods.
Jeremiah 2:11-13, 26-28
 - Instead of loving God with her whole heart, Israel loved "flagons of wine." This was grapes (or some other fruit), closely pressed together into a cake and used in idolatrous ceremonies. **Jeremiah 7:18**
5. How did Hosea respond to God's command? Verse 2 says, "*So I bought her to me.*"
 - It appears that Gomer's sin had literally enslaved her, and Hosea had to pay a redemption price to release her from the bondage in which she found herself.
 - Hosea had married her, but then (because of her sin) had to pay a purchase price to redeem her back to himself.
6. Hosea pays the ransom, sets her free, and brings her unto himself. He speaks comfortably unto her and reestablishes the marriage relationship. vs. 3

The Prophetical Teaching

1. This is one of the greatest passages in the Bible that succinctly lays out for us the future program of prophecy for the nation of Israel.
 - Some refer to it as the Romans 11 of the Old Testament.
2. Hosea's dealings with Gomer are a picture of God's future dealings with the nation of Israel.
3. In verse 4, Hosea prophesies that Israel will go through a time of testing and adversity.
 - They will be without a king, a prince, a sacrifice, an ephod.
 - There will be no governmental system for them to turn to.
 - There will be no religious system for them to turn to.
 - They will also be without an image or teraphim.
 - There will be no idols or false gods for them to turn to.
4. The "*many days*" of verse 4 prophetically looks forward to a future time described as the great tribulation. **Matthew 24:21-22**

- This will be a time period of 1260 days in which the anti-Christ will usurp authority over Israel's temple and launch a full-scale attack against the Jewish people. **Matthew 24:15-20; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**
 - Israel will be forced to flee into the wilderness (**Hosea 2:14; Revelation 12:6, 13-17**) where God will protect them, speak comfortably to them and betroth them unto himself once again (**Hosea 2:14-20**).
5. Afterward (after the many days of verse 4), Israel will have a momentous return (verse 5). This "return" involves a return to the Lord which, in turn, will mean:
 - A return to their land - **Hosea 2:15, 22; Jeremiah 23:7-8**
 - A return of their kingdom - **Hosea 14:4-7**
 - A return of a King to sit on the Davidic throne - **Hosea 3:5; Jeremiah 23:5-6**
 6. To summarize:
 - Hosea pays the redemption price for Gomer.
 - She abides for Hosea many days.
 - Hosea reestablishes the marriage relationship.
 7. This was a picture of Israel's prophetic future:
 - God paid Israel's redemption price through His sacrifice on Calvary.
 - Israel will abide for God many days in the wilderness (everything else is stripped away and God betroths Israel unto Himself).
 - God reestablished the marriage covenant with Israel at Christ's Second Coming. **Isaiah 54:5-8; Jeremiah 31:31-37; Isaiah 35:4-10**
 - All of this takes place in "*the latter days*." This refers to the time period right before and at Christ's Second Coming. **Isaiah 2:1-5**

Practical Application for the Body of Christ

1. True God-like love is action.
 - When God told Hosea to go yet and love Gomer, the next verse did not say, "So I went and loved her." It said, "*So I bought her*."
 - This is love in action - Hosea demonstrated his love in a tangible way.
 - This is what Christ did for us when He died upon the cross. **Romans 5:8; Galatians 2:20**
2. True God-like love is sacrificial.
 - Hosea scraped together the redemption price and sacrificially gave what was necessary to redeem Gomer.
 - Christ laid down His life in order to redeem wayward Israel (**John 10:11**). He also died as a ransom for all of lost mankind. **1 John 2:2; 1 Timothy 2:6; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15**
3. True God-like love is unconditional.
 - Despite Gomer's failings and wickedness, Hosea loved her.
 - When we love people with an unconditional love, we are loving them the way God loves us. **Romans 8:35-39**

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ISRAEL IN ADULTERY

CHRIST PAYS THE REDEMPTION PRICE



Old Testament

Time of Grace for all people

Prophetic Program Interrupted

The Mystery

MANY DAYS OF HOSEA 3:4

Great Tribulation

CHRIST RETURNS TO DELIVER ISRAEL

GOD REESTABLISHES THE MARRIAGE COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

3 1/2 YEARS

3 1/2 YEARS

KINGDOM ON EARTH

Latter Days

HOSEA PAYS THE REDEMPTION PRICE FOR GOMER

SHE ABIDES WITH HOSEA MANY DAYS

HOSEA REESTABLISHES THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP

