

## Hosea 1 & 2

9-12-02

### “A Living Parable!”

#### 1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Pray for Albania team:** Danny & Maureen Arthur; Mary McCaslin, Kim Peck(from Bible College)
  - 1.1.1. There is trouble crossing the border. Pray they get through.
- 1.2. **Dave Roever Story**– Vietnam war vet who had a white phosphorous grenade go off in his hand.
  - 1.2.1. He watched his skin fall off his face. His clothes were on fire, even caught his stretcher on fire(phosphorous chunks were still burning inside of him 12 days later in a Texas hospital). He was grossly disfigured w/3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns.
  - 1.2.2. **How would his wife react to her husband-“monster”?** Would she reject Dave?...W/o any expression of shock, Brenda kissed him & said, **“Welcome home, Davey.”** {book out w/this title – seen on TBN}
    - 1.2.2.1. Brenda demonstrated unquitting, unfailing, unrelenting Hoseanic kind of love!!!
- 1.3. **Minor Prophets:** Less pages, not less important; small in size, big in truth; These are **minor** prophets preaching a **major** message!
  - 1.3.1. Yet, Hosea is actually larger than Daniel.
- 1.4. **Hosea:**
  - 1.4.1. **Book Overview:** Ch.’s 1-3 Adulterous wife yet a faithful husband; Ch.’s 4-14 Adulterous nation yet a faithful God.
  - 1.4.2. **Main Theme:** God’s faithful love toward His unfaithful people.
  - 1.4.3. **Story in a nut shell:** Hosea married a woman who bore him 3 kids, & then deserted him & became a prostitute. - He finally buys her back from the slave market. - This was a sermon to the nation of Israel, for committing “spiritual adultery”.
  - 1.4.4. **The state of Israel:** Prospering outwardly, but decaying inwardly.
  - 1.4.5. **Hosea:** His name = Salvation.
    - 1.4.5.1. He’s the only prophet to come from the **Northern** kingdom.
    - 1.4.5.2. Not mentioned anywhere else in scripture.
    - 1.4.5.3. His ministry lasted around 40 years.
  - 1.4.6. **Master of imagery:** “Like a...” (24 x’s) {see 2:3}
    - 1.4.6.1. **Like a:** calf, moth, lion, morning cloud, flaming fire, silly dove, treacherous bow.

- 1.5. **The Times?** – These are the last few swirls before the kingdom goes down the drain.  
 1.5.1. This book represents God’s last gracious effort to “**plug the drain**”!<sup>1</sup>
- 1.6. **Contemporaries?** - **Jonah**(who went to the Assyrians); **Amos**(No. Kingdom also); **Isaiah** & **Micah**(So. Kingdom).
- 1.7. **Outline: Hosea!**(1:1-9); **Future Hope!**(1:10-2:1); **Harlotry!**(2:2-13); **The Door of Hope!**(2:14-23)

## 2. **HOSEA! (1-9)**

- 2.1. **Q:** Have you ever wanted to know what someone was thinking?  
 2.1.1. In the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 chapters of this book we have “**exactly**” what God is thinking regarding “**sin**” & “**love**”!
- 2.2. (1) **Q:** Have you ever felt the **heart-break** of a child walking away from the Lord? **Q:** Have you ever had someone be “**unfaithful**” to you? **Then you’ve sensed a smidgen...of the hurting heart** of God!  
 2.2.1. Hosea had to live out 1<sup>st</sup> hand...loving one who was **unfaithful**.  
 2.2.1.1. **Marital unfaithfulness** is unfortunately “**nothing new**”!  
 2.2.2. Some of you have also have suffered through the same in your marriage or in a past relationship. **There must be no deeper wound!**  
 2.2.2.1. **You truly have known the “fellowship of His sufferings!”**  
 2.2.2.2. **You have forgiven as God forgives!** “**And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.**” (Eph.4:32)  
 2.2.3. **Hosea** was going to feel on the **temporal** scale, what **God** was feeling on the **eternal** scale.
- 2.3. (2) **Q:** **Has anyone had a stranger start to their ministry?**  
 2.3.1. “So you want to be in ministry ey?”  
 2.3.2. **Isaiah** had to walk the streets dressed like a **prisoner of war** for 3 yrs. – **Jeremiah** walked around for 3 months w/a **yoke** around his neck. – **Ezekiel** even turned the painful **loss of his wife** into a sermon.  
 2.3.3. “**Expect to pay a price if you want to have a ministry to others!**”  
 2.3.3.1. 2 Cor. 1:4,6 “(the God of all comfort)**who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble,**”...“**Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation.**”

<sup>1</sup> Wilkinson & Boa; Talk Thru the O.T.; pg.236

- 2.4. **A problem: Q:** Did God violate the moral standard of His own laws by asking Hosea to marry a prostitute?
- 2.4.1. **A wife of harlotry** - Some have maintained that she was a **common prostitute**. {but would God call her to violate His standard?} - Others have maintained that she was a **cultic prostitute** in the service of Baal. - Some have suggested she **symbolized** Israel's worship of many gods. - Still others have believed she was an **ordinary woman who became unfaithful** after her marriage to Hosea.
- 2.4.2. (i.e.) "Go, take to yourself a wife who will prove to be unfaithful."
- 2.4.3. I think the last view is the best one/accept seems to weaken what God is calling him to do!
- 2.5. (4,5) **Jezeel** – God sows(2:22). Here **God scatters!**
- 2.6. **Jehu** – This refers to Jehu's slaughter of his enemies in Jezreel.
- 2.6.1. **Wait!** This was Prophesied by **Elijah**, commanded by **Elisha**, commended by the **Lord** Himself(2 Kings 9,10).
- 2.6.2. Jehu went **too far** in his zeal.
- 2.6.3. The prophesy was to take out Ahab's household which he did
- 2.6.3.1. **Read** 2 Kings 10:7,11,17. (& Jezebel 9:30-37)
- 2.6.4. **But he also took out** Jehoram(king o Is./rt. between the shoulders & thru the heart); Ahaziah(king o Judah/shot also in his chariot); + his household(42 of them); + the servants of Baal in Samaria(massacre/80 guys outside the temple).
- 2.6.5. **Poetic Justice** – Israel's **bow** would be broken at the very site of Jehu's sin.
- 2.7. (6) **Lo-Ruhamah!** (No-Mercy)
- 2.7.1. "Mercy" is a girl's name, but "No-mercy"? (Imagine naming your girl that!)
- 2.7.2. This is the situation of **Israel today!** God is providentially guiding the Jewish nation, yet they are not enjoying God's mercies as before.
- 2.8. (6) **Lo-Ammi!** (Not-my-people)
- 2.8.1. **Q:** What mixed feelings might Hosea have about his 3 children? (Are they mine?)
- 2.8.2. This speaks of God's temporary rejection of the nation because of their sins.
- 2.8.3. **Q:** Ever meet someone whose name **did** or **didn't** match their character or characteristics?

2.8.3.1. **Q:** Ever meet a “**Mercy**” who didn’t show Mercy? (Grace; Joy; Patience, Hope)

2.8.3.2. **That’s ok, God’s into name changes!** – No matter what your **birth-name** is, He can give you a **new one!**

2.8.3.3. **Name some?**

2.8.3.4. Other times people wanted to change there own name: **Naomi**

### 3. **A FUTURE HOPE! (1:10-2:1)**

3.1. Here we have a great affirmation of Hope!

### 4. **HARLOTRY! (2:2-13)**

4.1. (7) As **Luke** presents the **prodigal son**, so **Hosea** portrays the **prodigal wife!**

4.1.1. Lk.15:17,18 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! **I will arise and go to my father**, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,"

4.2. (8,9) Israel accepted **God’s gifts** but used them to worship **idols**.

4.2.1. **Q:** Do you ever use your **God-given resources** for things that **grieve Him?**

4.3. **Q:** What are the 2 deepest pangs, of this sin? **[1]** It **violates** God’s exclusive claim on our love & reverence! **[2]** It **contaminates** our loving response to God.

4.3.1. **1<sup>st</sup> steps to fix an adulterous situation:** **Repent** to whom you’ve sinned against(God & spouse/*marital covenant*); **100% cutting off of old relationship**(no loose ends/often times a letter that the spouse reads before sending).

4.4. (13) “It’s easy for the church today to prostitute itself to the world & still claim to be faithful to the Lord.”<sup>2</sup> (see **James 4:4-10**)

### 5. **A DOOR OF HOPE! (2:14-23)**

5.1. (14,15) **Valley of Achor** –

5.1.1. Only God can give **new meaning** to old names, & wipe out painful associations w/old places.

5.1.2. Here the **Valley of Achor**(valley of trouble), where Achan was stoned(Joshua 7:24-26) will became a **door of hope!**(a valley of hope)

<sup>2</sup> Warren Wiersbe; pg. 571

- 5.2. **A door of hope** - Some years ago, **Donna Rice's** name hit the tabloids in a highly publicized sexual scandal with former **Colorado senator Gary Hart**. In the aftermath, Hart's bid for the 1988 Democratic nomination was trashed and so was Rice's reputation. Rice disappeared from the public eye, but she's back--passionately committed to God and to **"Enough is Enough,"** a Christian organization fighting to keep pornography out of the hands of minors. - Thankful for the support of her family, friends, and her Christian husband, Jack Hughes, Rice is most thankful for God's work in her life: "God loves us, but he doesn't grant us immunity from the consequences of our choices. However, when we mess up, if we ask his forgiveness, he'll redeem those choices, using our mistakes as a **'door of hope'** for other people (Hosea 2:14-15). I have great empathy for victims of sexual abuse and pornography. **God has brought purpose to my pain.**" -- from Today's Christian Woman. Christian Reader, Vol. 35, no. 2.
- 5.3. **(16) Play on words here.**
- 5.3.1. Call me "ishi"(husband) no longer "baali"(master)
- 5.3.2. They were used as synonymous terms. Like in 2 Sam.11:26 **"When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband(ish) was dead, she mourned for her husband(baal)."**
- 5.3.3. Were not going to use that term anymore in Israel!
- 5.3.3.1. Baal, the chief god of the Canaanites, was considered to be the god of the crops & fertility.
- 5.3.3.2. These "Baal's had become Israel's "lovers"!
- 5.4. **(19) Martin Luther called this verse a wedding ring w/6 precious stones! (he also said...)**
- 5.4.1. **"It is the highest grace of God when love continues to flourish in married life. The first love is ardent, is an intoxicating love, so that we are blinded and are drawn to marriage. After we have slept off our intoxication, sincere love remains in the married life of the godly; but the godless are sorry they ever married."**<sup>3</sup>
- 5.5. **Q: What do these 2 chapters reveal to you about how your own sin affects the Lord?**
- 5.6. **Q: How can this glimpse into God's heart affect your thoughts & behavior this week?**

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<sup>3</sup> Martin Luther. "William and Catherine Booth," Christian History, no. 26.