

HOSEA CHAPTER 2

5/10/20

Let me start this morning by wishing each of you a HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!! I hope you get to be with your children today and if not at least that you get to talk to them.

A quick recap of last weeks lesson. Israel, the Northern Kingdom, was so steeped in idolatry that God sent first Amos and then Hosea to warn them of their imminent danger if they continued in their sin and disobedience. God wanted to show Israel how He felt about the nation so he sent Hosea to pick a wife of promiscuity or whoredom, whichever term you like best. He was to marry her and love her in spite of the fact that she would be unfaithful to him.

She bore him three children, 2 sons and a daughter. The first child, a son, was called Jezreel which meant "God will scatter". God was saying He would scatter the nation Israel and He would avenge the blood of Jezreel in that they would be "cut off." Then she gave birth to a daughter and depending on the scholar you are currently reading most agree that she was probably illegitimate. Her name translated to No Compassion; for God said He would no longer have compassion on them. The third child was also a son and he was called, Not My People. God was plainly telling them that through their harlotry, their chasing after other gods they had produced children of no compassion and God said they are "not my people and I will not be your God!"

The last half of the chapter refers to a time in the future when God will finally reconcile all of Israel to Himself and they will appoint themselves one head; Messiah.

Now, on to chapter two.

Four prophecies were pointed out in chapter one.

1. Israel will experience a great increase in population (verse 10)
2. In the nation there will be a great turning to God (v. 10)
3. The Northern and Southern Kingdoms will reunite so that the 12 tribes will again form a single nation (v. 11)
4. They will appoint themselves one head, who will be the Messiah (v. 11)

Let's look at verse 1.

Verse 1 *Call your brothers: My People and your sisters: Compassion.*

- Note the lack of the use of Lo before each name. The LO means (not). So, what God is saying to the nation is that the day is coming when He is going to say, "You *are* my people." But the day is not yet, and we are talking about a man with a broken heart over a woman who has proved unfaithful to him. We need to keep sight of the fact that we are talking about two things at the same time here:
- A man who loves a woman who has proven unfaithful to him and in spite of the fact that she continues to be unfaithful, he loves her still.
- And a nation who has proven unfaithful to the God who loves them and has provided for them for so long while they continually followed after other gods.

- God's intention is to lead Israel to a place of self-judgement of her past ways as He describes Hosea's wife, He is also describing Israel.

Verses 2-4 *Rebuke your mother; rebuke her. For she is not My wife and I am not her husband. Let her remove the promiscuous look from her face and her adultery from between her breasts. Otherwise, I will strip her naked and expose her as she was on the day of her birth. I will make her like a desert and like a parched land, and I will let her die of thirst. I will have no compassion on her children because they are the children of promiscuity.*

- Verse 4 is the reason most scholars believe at least the last two children were probably illegitimate.
- Israel, like Gomer, was unfaithful and went back to practicing prostitution. God is applying Gomer's sin to the nation. As you go through the entire history of Israel you will see a pattern emerge. It seems they are very easily led astray. Any shiny calf would do. Every time they ended up in hot water, they would finally remember the Great God who delivered them in the past and they would cry out to Him. He would deliver them and sometimes it was costly for Israel. But they did not listen, they did not learn and another shiny golden calf would come along and off they'd go whoring after it.
- We must be very careful not to be guilty of the same thing. Those of us who are materially minded will get swept away by some brand new, state of the art, high-tech *thing*, and before you know it, we are making a god out of it. Those of us who like money and can't make enough of it fast enough, we drive ourselves to achieve our goals and in the mean time we lose our family, our friends; and even if we gain the objective we have sought it is an empty victory with no one to share or care. And like Israel when we have managed to get ourselves in some mud-pit or another, we cry out to the wonderful God who has seen us through so often and He generally bails us out. How tiresome that must be for God. Well, He put up with it for many generations and now He's warning that His patience is about gone.
- Dr. McGee says, that judging from what the scriptures teach, the worst sin one can commit is to become unfaithful to on who loves you. Applying this to our own lives, the greatest sin a Christian can commit is unfaithfulness to God who has redeemed us and who loves us more than anyone ever could! The verse says, "Go to your mother and rebuke her or contend with her as the King James says. In other words, tell her to come back to Me. Tell her to turn away from her idolatries (v 2). Tell her what will happen if she, (the woman) or she (the nation) does not repent. Look at the words used to describe her: "Stripped naked". The most vulnerable a person can feel is when they are completely naked. "Make her like a desert and like a parched land." The King James uses the phrase wilderness. I look it up in the dictionary and one of the descriptions was "an empty or pathless area." It conjures up the picture of an empty, dried up shell of a person wandering aimlessly without propose or destination. Such was the picture of Israel in God's eyes. He said, "she is not my wife."
- In verse four God says, He will not have compassion (mercy) on her children because they are the children of promiscuity (whoredom).
- God is applying the sin of the nation to the individuals who compose the nation. They are illegitimate children, and God will judge them.

- At this time in Israel's history apparently the entire nation, Northern and Southern Kingdoms alike, had turned to idolatry. God says, He will not have mercy on the children of Israel, for they are the children of harlotry.
- **Verse 5** *For their mother is promiscuous: she conceived them and acted shamefully. For she thought: I will go after my lovers, the men who give me my food and water; my wool and flax, my oil and drink.*
- Money seems to be her motive; she is doing it for money. This may imply that Hosea was not a wealthy man and therefore unable to provide Gomer with the luxuries she desired; so, she practiced harlotry on the side.
- Israel's sin was the same; she had turned to idols, which was spiritual adultery. The people of Israel were crediting the idols for providing for them. *I will go after my lovers, the men who give me my food and water.* Those are the necessities of life. *My wool and flax, my oil and drink...* Those are the luxuries. And all the while it was her loving God who was providing these things.
- Likewise, Israel, as she danced and chanted around pagan idols celebrating harvests, and seasons, they had forgotten where the blessing came from.
- **Verse 6-7** *Therefore, this is what I will do: I will block her way with thorns; I will enclose her with a wall, so that she cannot find her paths. She will pursue her lovers but not catch them; then she will think: I will go back to my former husband, for then it was better for me than now.*
- Then comes the day when the harlot is no longer beautiful and her lovers lose interest in her. She finds herself alone and neglected.
- The same thing was happening to the nation Israel. They had forsaken Him for idols. He should give her up for a time and leave her to the idols of her choosing for her correction, and in her trouble, she will find none to answer. Broken-hearted, world-weary, chastened and disciplined by her experiences, she would cry, *I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better for me than now.*
- Dr. Ironside, who speaks so sweetly, says "Amazing is the grace that, after such heartless abandonment on her part, would yet cause Him to open His arms to her again in the day of her genuine repentance."
- It is the same love and grace that every sinner and faltering saint finds when they truly seek God's face, confessing the sin and shame of their evil deeds.
- No transgression is too great for His pardon or His mercy for the genuine, repentant heart.
- This story has a familiar ring to it. The Prodigal Son-wasted his riches, all that he had, on frivolity. Riches that he hadn't earned but had been given to him by his father. When he found himself flat broke, face down in a pig-sty, he again thought of his father. He said, *I'll get up, go to my father, and say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I'm no longer worthy to be called your son.*"
- And we know that story well. The father welcomes his son home with a feast and a celebration. For to his father, it was as if he had returned from the dead.
- **Verse 8-13** *She does not recognize that it is I who gave her the grain, the new wine, and the oil. I lavished silver and gold on her, which they used for Baal. Therefore, I will take*

back My grain in its time and My new wine in its season; I will take away My wool and linen, which were to cover her nakedness. Now I will expose her shame in the sight of her lovers, and no one will rescue her from My hands. I will put an end to all her celebrations: her feasts, New Moons, and Sabbaths—all her festivals. I will devastate her vines and fig trees. She thinks that these are her wages that her lovers have given her. I will turn them into a thicket, and wild animals will eat them. And I will punish her for the days of the Baals when she burned incense to them, put on her rings and Jewelry, and went after her lovers, but forgot Me.

- Likewise, Israel had forgotten the true source of her blessings. The verse says, *She did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal.*
- The treasures He with loving hands provided, she poured out upon the alters of her shame. Now God would withhold His favor until she learned that her false gods could bring her no good thing, only sorrow and want.
- One by one, all that she valued would be stripped from her until she learned that in God, whom she had so dishonored, will all blessings be found.
- She had attributed His gifts to her idols saying, “these are my rewards that my lover’s have given me “(v 12) But in the end, when all is lost, she will learn that she had been deluding herself and dishonoring Jehovah.
- Coming into verse 14 and 15 we are looking ahead to the time when at last she has learned her lesson. What beautiful grace is in store for her to be revealed at her repentance. Dr. Ironside says this is the tender and precious theme of the rest of the chapter.
- **Verse 14-15** *Therefore, I am going to persuade her, lead her to the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her vineyards back to her and make the Valley of Achor into a gateway of hope. There she will respond as she did in the days of her youth, as in the day she came out of the land of Egypt.*
- God loves to remember the days of her first betrothal to Himself; when she followed Him in the wilderness. Those days of her first love are to be renewed. Once more, He will persuade her and draw her away from scenes of her captivity and dishonor. He will plead with her face to face. *I will lead you into the wilderness of the peoples and enter into judgement with you there face to face. (Ezekiel 20:35*
- The Valley of Achor literally means “the Valley of trouble” It refers to the incident recorded in Joshua chapter 7. When the children of Israel entered the Promised Land, they faced three major enemies in the center of the land who had to be conquered first so that Joshua could divide the enemy and then concentrate on taking one section at a time.
- The first enemy was Jericho; Jericho represents the world. Next, they made an attack upon Ai, and they thought it would be easy because Ai was a small city. Ai represents the flesh, and a lot of people think they can live the Christian life on the strength of their own flesh, which always leads to defeat.
- Joshua was defeated at Ai, but a great lesson was learned. God had instructed the men not to take any unclean things at the destruction of Jericho. One man disobeyed and the

result was a great defeat at Ai. When God informed Joshua of the sin, they ferreted out the one who had sinned. His name was Achan. He and his property were taken to the Valley of Achor where they were destroyed and buried. From then on it was victory for Israel under Joshua. *And the valley of Achor for a gateway of hope.* God is saying, "I'll judge your sin, and after I have judged your sin, there will be a glorious, wonderful hope for you in the future.

- There is not much singing in Israel today what with all the Arab/Israeli conflict. The fulfillment of this promise is still to come.
- **Verse 16** *In that day the LORD'S declaration-you will call Me: My husband, and no longer call Me: My Baal.*
- Dr. McGee says, the meaning of this is quite lovely. Ishi (KJV) means "my husband" and Baali is connected with Baal and means, "my lord or my master." It seems, the people of Israel were placing the true God on the level of Baal and were trying to worship both. Of course, this is impossible to do and God says to them, that the day is coming when Israel will call Him "My husband." Let's look at this more closely.
- The husband relationship implies that which is intimate and personal and is based on love. It is the highest relationship in the human family.
- That kind of relationship in a marriage produces a happy home. The secret is love. If you love, you have everything. You can work out your financial needs, adjust your personality conflicts, and work together in raising and dealing with your children. *If you love each other.*
- It is wonderful to have that kind of relationship with our Lord. We, the church, individual people, can actually have a warm and intimate relationship with the God of the universe through prayer and the study of His Word. The love we show Him is returned to us many times over. One day Israel too will have that kind of relationship with God. One day Israel will say, "You are my husband."
- In the day of Israel's restoration, she shall be owned as the wife of Jehovah. It is important to notice the difference between her place and portion and that of the bride of the Lamb in Rev. 19 and 21. The one is earthly; the other heavenly. The former (Israel) is not called a bride because she is a restored wife who had long wondered from her husband.
- The latter (the church) is presented as the bride for the first time at the Marriage supper of the Lamb in heaven. In the millennium the Lamb and His heavenly bride will reign over all redeemed creation. On the earth, the restored wife of Jehovah will have her place in the land of Palestine. The New Jerusalem above is the capital city of the Bride or the Heavenly Kingdom and the newly rehabilitated Jerusalem on earth is the capital of the restored wife or the earthly kingdom. Then will the words of verse 16 be fulfilled, *In that day the LORD'S declaration-you will call Me: My husband, and no longer call Me: My Baal.*
- **Verse 17-20** *For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth; they will no longer be remembered by their names. On that day I will make a covenant for them with the wild animals, the birds of the sky, and the creatures that crawl on the ground. I will shatter bow, sword, and weapons of war in the land and will enable the people to rest*

securely. I will take you to be My wife forever. I will take you to be My wife in righteousness, justice, love, and compassion. I will take you to be My wife in faithfulness, and you will know the LORD.

- Even the *name* of Baal will be forgotten. They will turn from their idolatry. It will be a time of universal spiritual light and blessing and best of all, the curse will be lifted from the ground.
- When Adam and Eve sinned, God did not curse them, He had already blessed them. So, He cursed the ground instead. At the millennial, the curse will be lifted and the lion will no longer wish to eat the lamb but will lie down next to it. *In that day will I make a covenant with the beasts of the field... (v 18)*
- God is going to woo the nation Israel. The word betrothed actually means to “woo a virgin” or “to court a girl”. What a lovely picture this is. God says, I intend to win you for Myself. He says, with righteousness and in judgement and in loving kindness and in mercies. Israel will never prove unfaithful again. Her blotted past will be forgotten. These words in verses 19-20 pertain only to Israel who at the end of the fast-concluding “times of the Gentiles” will be grafted in again into the olive tree of promise, restored to God and to their land, and made the inheritors of the promise that were assured to the fathers.
- **Verse 21-23** *On that day I will respond-the LORD’S declaration. I will respond to the sky, and it will respond to the earth. The earth will respond to the grain, the new wine, and the oil, and they will respond to Jezreel. I will sow her in the land for Myself, and I will have compassion on No Compassion; and he will say: you are My God.*
- “In that day” is a technical expression that pertains to Israel, the Great Tribulation period and the coming of Christ to set up His kingdom on Earth. In the soon-coming day of Messiah’s glory, heaven and earth will be in tune.
- Jezreel means that God will scatter or sow. In this instance He is regathering, not only is He regathering them but He will no longer refer to them as Not My People or No Compassion for God will say “You *are* My people and I *will* have compassion on you.
- The Earth, freed from the primeval curse, shall no longer yield thorns and briars but will respond with overflowing supplies of corn, wine, and oil. The desert will rejoice and blossom as the rose.
- Footnote: We are seeing some of this even today in Israel. The condition the country was in at the time that Jews were being allowed back in the land was barren and deserted. In the years following their independence in 1948, they have turned it into a thriving, self-sustaining country using the most high-tech advances in agriculture available to them. They are world renowned for their contributions in scientific, technological and medical advances.
- Israel will be sown as the seed of God in the very land that once was stained with the blood of the righteous one, and since in awful retribution, with their own blood.
- This will be the closing scene of the day of Jezreel. No more shall sin, sorrow, war, and desolation sweep the plains of the field of blood, but become the scene of joy and blessing when Jesus is recognized as sovereign LORD.