

A black and white, high-contrast photograph of a woman's face in profile, looking upwards and to the right. Her hair is dark and slightly tousled. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting her features against a dark background. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# Living with Gomer

Hosea 1 - 3

# The Prophet Hosea

- Hosea: name means "salvation" (Joshua and Jesus are derived from the same word)
- His father was named Beerli (Hosea 1:1), but nothing more is known of his ancestors
- Hosea may have been a priest

# The Prophet Hosea

- The Date
  - Hosea prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah; Jeroboam II also reigned during this time in Israel - Hosea 1:1
  - Most place the time of his work at 750-725 B.C.
  - Hosea was probably a young man when Amos was almost through with his ministry
  - Hosea prophesied during the course of sixty-six years
- His work in relation to other prophets during this period of time:
  - Amos and Hosea prophesied to Israel
  - Isaiah and Micah were prophesying in Judah

# The Prophet Hosea

- Background - 2Kings 14-17; 2Chron. 26-29
  - The northern kingdom of Israel was on its last legs
  - Sin was even more rampant than in the book of Amos
  - Religious, moral, and political corruption was universal
  - One word sums the condition of the nation of Israel: harlotry, used thirteen times in the book

# The Prophet Hosea

- Understanding the book
  - An analogy is made between Hosea's experience with Gomer and the Lord's experience with Israel
  - Fifteen shekels was the price of Gomer, 6 oz. of silver at \$29 per oz. comes to \$174 or two months wages. A homer of barley about eight bushels, the homer and half Hosea paid was about twelve bushels. A pint of barley was a day's ration for a grown man. 75 pints in a bushel times 12 bushels would feed a man for 2½ years

# Hosea's Family As An Analogy For Israel

- Hosea is commanded to marry Gomer, “a wife of harlotry”
  - Hosea 1:2-3 - “When the LORD began to speak by Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea: Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry And children of harlotry, For the land has committed great harlotry By departing from the LORD. 3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.”

# Hosea's Family As An Analogy For Israel

- Gomer bears three children
  - Hosea 1:4-9 - “Then the LORD said to him: Call his name Jezreel, For in a little while I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu, And bring an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. 5 It shall come to pass in that day That I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel. 6 And she conceived again and bore a daughter. Then God said to him: Call her name Lo-Ruhamah, For I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel, But I will utterly take them away. 7 Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, Will save them by the LORD their God, And will not save them by bow, Nor by sword or battle, By horses or horsemen. 8 Now when she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. 9 Then God said: Call his name Lo-Ammi, For you are not My people, And I will not be your God.”

# Hosea's Family As An Analogy For Israel

- The first son is named "Jezreel" which means "God scatters"; his name prefigured God's judgment on the ruling house of Israel -Hosea 1:4-5
- The daughter is named "Lo-Ruhamah" which means "no mercy"; her name describes God's attitude toward Israel - Hosea 1:6-7
  - Some suggest that the daughter and son to follow were not Hosea's; note it does not say she bore "him" (Hosea) a daughter, as with the first child
  - Gomer had become a harlot by this time - Hosea 2:4
- The second son is named "Lo-Ammi"; his name means "not my people"; thus God declares his rejection of Israel - Hosea 1:8-9

# Hosea's Family As An Analogy For Israel

- Israel's restoration foretold
  - Hosea 1:10 - 2:1 - “Yet the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There it shall be said to them, 'You are sons of the living God.' 11 Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel Shall be gathered together, And appoint for themselves one head; And they shall come up out of the land, For great will be the day of Jezreel! 2:1 Say to your brethren, 'My people,' And to your sisters, 'Mercy is shown.'”

# Hosea's Family As An Analogy For Israel

- Paul and Peter apply this promise to believing Jews and Gentiles in the church
  - Rom. 9:25-26 - “As He says also in Hosea: I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved. 26 "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God.”
  - 1Peter 2:10 - “Who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

# Hosea's Family As An Analogy For Israel

- Israel's unfaithfulness
  - Hosea 2:2-5
  - God's rage for Israel's unfaithfulness in terms of an enraged husband who learns not only of wife's adultery, but that the children are not his

# Hosea's Family As An Analogy For Israel

- Punishment for her sinful conduct
  - Hosea 2:6-13
  - Israel's foremost sin was idolatry; God viewed idolatry as a form of harlotry

# God Commands Hosea To Love Gomer Again

- God directs Hosea to go back to his wife, even though she is committing adultery. It isn't in the past; it is in the present.
  - Hosea 3:1 - “Then the LORD said to me, Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans.”
  - Hosea paid for her, brought her home, and restored her to her position as his wife.

# God Commands Hosea To Love Gomer Again

- How many times should a husband or wife forgive?
  - “If I keep forgiving I simply affirm her in her pattern of sin.”
  - “If I keep forgiving, she’ll think she can get away with anything she wants.”
  - “If I keep forgiving, others will think I approve of her behavior.”

# God Commands Hosea To Love Gomer Again

- Christ teaches there is no end to forgiveness.
  - Matt. 18:21-22
  - Forgiveness does not necessarily mean that we must suffer in silence.
  - Neither does forgiveness necessarily mean we cannot take positive steps to guard against the sin recurring.

# God Commands Hosea To Love Gomer Again

- Forgiveness does mean that we will pay for the other person's offenses.
- We will refuse to retaliate in any way to make the guilty person pay.
- We will absolve her of guilt insofar as we are capable.
- That is the lesson of Gomer, the lesson of forgiveness.

# God Commands Hosea To Love Gomer Again

- God's people kept going back to sin
  - Hosea 6:4 - "O Ephraim, what shall I do to you? O Judah, what shall I do to you? For your faithfulness is like a morning cloud, And like the early dew it goes away."
  - Hosea 11:1, 8 - "When Israel was a child, I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son. 8 How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I set you like Zeboiim? My heart churns within Me; My sympathy is stirred."
  - Hosea 14:1 - "O Israel, return to the LORD your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity"

# God Commands Hosea To Love Gomer Again

- We are filled with many romantic illusions about love, and one of these illusions is that love has very little to do with our will - we are just “captured” by love and follow whatever course it leads. But in principle, the Scriptures show us another way: That love is largely a matter of the will, and when we direct ourselves to love someone God tells us we must love, it can and will happen. When we think of the greatness of God’s love and compassion towards us, it should make us much more loving, compassionate, and forgiving towards others.