

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 04 Sept 2022 Amos 01-02 Listen to God
- 2) 11-Sept Amos 03-04 Turn to God
- 3) 18 Sept Amos 05-07 Seek God
- 4) 25 Sept Amos 08-09 Hope in God
- 5) 02 Oct Jonah 01-02 No Escape
- 6) 09 Oct Jonah 03-04 No Compassion
- 7) **16 Oct..... Hosea 01-03..... The Unfaithful Bride**
- 8) 23 Oct Hosea 04-07 The Hollow Promises
- 9) 30 Oct Hosea 08-12 The Sin Harvested
- 10) 06 Nov Hosea 13-14 The Restoration Promised
- 11) 13 Nov Micah 01-03 Leaders Needed
- 12) 20 Nov Micah 04-06 Humble Beginnings
- 13) 27 Nov Micah 07 Hope Found

INTRODUCTION

- Hosea's audience was so despicable God had Hosea marry Gomer, possibly a cult prostitute, as a powerful analogy to provoke Israel to realize how her loving husband (God) was still willing to woo her back into His arms even after her horrendous affairs
 - ♦ This would be akin to Billy Graham marrying Heidi Fleiss – a high profile brothel madam. It would definitely get everyone's attention.

Passage	Comments
Hosea 1:1-11	<p>A Family Nightmare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosea, like all godly young men, was saving himself for the right woman – a soul mate he could easily love and who would serve God wholeheartedly with him • v2. BUT, God had other plans for his life. He was to find a "sexually immoral" woman to marry for the purpose of emulating Israel's unfaithfulness to God • Gomer was probably a cult prostitute associated with Baal worship, which was prolific throughout the land • What kind of emotions did Hosea experience? Nausea? Anger? Humiliation? Frustration? Despair? Anxiety? Any "agape" love for his unfaithful spouse? • What kind of emotions would you experience if your spouse horrendously cheated on you? • 1st Child, Jezreel – "God will Scatter" – The Northern Kingdom of Israel will one day be no more • 2nd Child, Lo-Ruhamah – "No Mercy" – God was going to stop showing mercy to Israel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ But realize this, for the most part these Israelites were not backslidden believers, but they were unbelievers labeled as God's people ("<i>For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel</i>" – Rom 9:6) ♦ There is a tough principle that even the righteous remnant who might be sprinkled throughout the land of Israel will suffer along with the wicked ... Ezek 21:4 • 3rd Child, Lo-Ammi – "Not My People" – "But one day the [true] children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea" – and they will be known as the sons of God • These kids would be life-long reminders of Israel's sins • v6. What would prompt God not to show compassion or offer forgiveness to His once-beloved child, Israel? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this. Unrepentant wicked behavior forces God to ratchet up the severity level of judgment

Passage	Comments
2:1-13	<p>Israel's Shame</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. God used graphic and intimate imagery to convey the terrible act of betrayal of one's vows to be faithful • v3. Captured people in the ancient world were often marched naked to mock their defenselessness. Some have to be shamed into changing their unrighteous behavior, assuming they do not have a seared conscience where they no longer can blush..... Jer 6:15 • v5. Can we, too, be considered adulterous when we chase material things instead of God? ... <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • v7. Like the prodigal son who came to his senses once he realized nobody gave him anything, the adulterous spouse often seeks to return home when their lovers stop meeting their needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Would we take them back? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No ♦ Should we take them back <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • vv8-13. Like a dog that returns to its vomit or a fool to his folly and needs to be crushed in a crucible to remove his foolishness, God needed to crush Israel
2:14-23	<p>God's Compassionate Promises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once foolishness and unfaithfulness is removed God can restore Israel to full favor & change their names to Ruhamah ("Mercy") and Ammi ("My People") • v16. Intimacy is restored as God's name changes from Baali (i.e., Master) to Ishe (i.e., Husband) • v18. Protection is restored as the once-unfaithful spouse can now lie down in safety and serenity • vv21-23. Prosperity and confidence are also restored
3:1-5	<p>A Husband's Redemptive Love</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-2. Presumably, Gomer went back to her old lovers, but her loving husband chased her and paid a price to rescue her from herself. Would we do this? • vv3-4. But there needed to be a time of reflection, a time of repentance, a time to hunger for righteousness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Often times we don't realize how precious God's blessings are to us till we lose them • v5. Fortunately, God wants to restore and fully reconcile with His wayward people. For Israel, however, that time is in the future – The Millennial

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- God did everything conceivably possible to encourage His people Israel to consider their state and repent or risk total destruction
- God will only wait so long for sinners and backsliders to seek Him – then the inevitable judgment must come
- Therefore, whatever state of faithfulness or unfaithfulness we find ourselves in, seek God early and often with a humble/contrite heart

NEXT WEEK: Hosea 4-7. The Northern Kingdom of Israel had become a nation where young women were anything but pure, married women entertained other men, the husbands chased prostitutes, and the religion of the land was focused on pleasurable experiences. Is America far behind this? BUT Israel's restoration is coming.

Judean Kings	Reign	Character	Prophets	Northern Kings	Reign	Prophets
11. Joash (Jehoash)	835-796	Good-Bad	Joel	12. Jehoahaz	814-798	Jonah, Amos, Hosea
12. Amaziah	796-767	Good-Bad		13. Jehoash (Joash)	798-782	
13. Uzziah (Azariah)	767-740	Good-Bad	Isaiah Micah	14. Jeroboam II	782-753	Hosea
14. Jotham	740-732	Good		15. Zechariah	753-752	
15. Ahaz	732-716	Bad		16. Shallum	752	
16. Hezekiah	716-687	Very Good		17. Menahem	752-742	

