

The Marriage of Hosea from a Harlot

“1 The word of the LORD that came unto Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel. 2 The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD. 3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son.” (Hosea 1:1-3 KJV)

This can be one of the strangest marriages that the Bible speaks of. Here the prophet of God was requested to go and get married to a prostitute, and that is a terrible matter for the man to bear.

Now this will not justify those who will go and marry a non-believer. Here the prophet Hosea married that harlot whose name was Gomer because God had spoken to him to do that and He told him what was the purpose behind that. The people had departed from God and prostituted themselves with other gods and idols, but God still loved them and He wanted them to come back to Him. The Prophet Hosea chiefly prophesied against the ten tribes of Israel; reproved them for their sins; exhorted them to repent; threatened them with destruction in case of impenitence, and comforted them with the promise of the Messiah, and the happy state of the church in the latter days.

Hosea prophesied to the ten tribes of the Israelites; that their ruin and destruction are foretold in the names of the children he had by his wife, and by what is said on the occasion of the birth of each one of them, *“4 And the LORD said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel. 5 And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel, in the valley of Jezreel.” (Hosea 1:4-5 KJV)* Here God declared by asking Hosea to call the name of his son Jezreel that God will revenge the blood that Jehu shed on the place of Jezreel by killing the sons of Ahab and executing the priests of Baal. It was not wrong that Jehu killed them because that was the judgment of God on them, but what wrong Jehu did, was that he continued to worship the golden calf in Dan and Bethel. **The message here is that God will revenge on those who continue in their idols’ worship.**

“6 And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And God said unto him, Call her name Loruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away. 8 Now when she had weaned Loruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son. 9 Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God.” (Hosea 1:6, 8-9 KJV) Due to sin there will be no more mercy for the people of God, and the Israelites they will be no more called the people of God. But mercy and salvation are promised to Judah, *“7 But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.” (Hosea 1:7 KJV)*

And this first chapter of Hosea is concluded with the followings:

A. A glorious prophecy of the faithfulness of God manifested by the multiplication of the Israelites and the conversion of the Gentiles and they will be called the children of God: “10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.” (Hosea 1:10 KJV)

B. And the union of Judah and Israel under one Head and Saviour, Christ; and of the greatness and glory of that day: “11 Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel.” (Hosea 1:11 KJV) The meaning of Jezreel here also is the seed of God or the arm of God, and it can be applied to Christ, the seed of God; and the whole Gospel dispensation may be called His day, the day of salvation, the joyful day the Lord has made: or rather by Jezreel, the seed of God, is meant His spiritual offspring, the children of Judah and Israel; who shall now be gathered, by the arm of God, His powerful and efficacious grace, and that in large numbers, so that great will be their day.

From the story of this marriage, we can also learn the importance of keeping the newborn children under breastfeeding. Gomar was feeding her children from her breasts: ***“8 Now when she had weaned Loruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son.” (Hosea 1:8 KJV)*** Breastfeeding can also give contraception. Women most probably will not get pregnant while they are feeding their children milk from their breasts. But once they will wean their children then they will get pregnant again.

The Hebrew Word meaning for Gomer is ‘complete’. *** God shall give you the perfect partner for marriage and that is why you need to listen to God and marry the partner that He chose for you. * The partner that He is choosing for you may not agree with what is in your mind, but God knows what you need and what is suitable for you to have in marriage. * When you listen to God and obey Him you will discover later on why God had chosen to you your partner and as days go in your marriage God shall confirm to you the good things that He had put and stored in your partner. * Marriage will usually last many years and the good qualities of your partner you may not need at the beginning of your marriage, but later on, as age goes on then you will start to appreciate a lot of things that God had installed in your partner.**

Prophet Hosea maybe was not happy with what had been chosen for him, but that was suitable for him to express the message of God to the Israelites. The marriage life that this prophet lived for God was the message of God to His people; blessings to the faithful and destruction to the wicked, but God’s love is still for the sinners, even if He said, ***“I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away.” (Hosea 1:6 KJV)*** This include also God’s willingness to forgive them and to take them back to Him out of their prostitution, out from their spiritual adultery, idols, and false gods, and to call them back to Himself even if He said, ***“For ye are not my people, and I will not be your God.” (Hosea 1:9 KJV)***

In reading chapter three from the book of Hosea we can see how God used the marriage of Hosea to describe the spiritual adultery of Israel and how God still wanted to take them for Him and His willingness to receive them inspite of their unfaithfulness toward Him if they would repent:

“1 Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine. 2 So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley: 3 And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee. 4 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim: 5 Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.” (Hosea 3:1-5 KJV) What we learn from the good example of the prophet Hosea that he was willing to marry the person that God wanted him to marry. He was willing to sacrifice his life and marry even a woman who is unlovable and non-acceptable in obedience to God and letting the message of God and His love toward His people pass through the marriage of Hosea with Gomer. Complete is the love of God, complete His plans, and complete His choices unto us.

The meaning of Hosea is ‘*salvation*’, The marriage relationship of Hosea with Gomer was symbolic of God’s relationship with wayward Israel. The calling of God to Hosea was in His marriage. When Hosea obeyed God his marriage brought glory to God and set an example to others to humble down to keep aside their plans and wishes and do the very thing that God wanted them to do.

* The marriage life of the prophet Hosea is a great encouragement to us not only that we need to obey the choices of God for us in marriage, but as well as to trust Him when our marriages got a wild course. * Certain times our marriages may go through struggles and painful strife, and we may get worried how the message of God will pass through us to the people of God and the nations of the world around us. In such moments as long as we made our choices of marriage based on God’s will, we need to get calm and to trust that the hardship that our marriage is passing through and the outcome of such trial will be the message of God to the people around us. * The devil may try to confuse you and mislead you to do certain things to make your marriage to be more acceptable to the people around you. You don’t need to worry, God is in full control and He will let His message pass through your marriage to the people that He wants to reach through your life, and you just need to obey Him.

Marriage can either bring you to Heaven or hell. Many, who are not willing to humble down before God’s choices and marry the person that God wants them to marry, will end up failing God and move away from Him. **While few, among whom Hosea are willing to marry the strange choice of God and end up with a glorious story and ministry that would please God and give Him the glory through their lives and their marriages testimonies.**

The choice of God for Hosea to marry Gomer was so shameful for a prophet of God to do it, but he agreed to demonstrate the love of God to the lost world. Hosea was asked by God to purchase an adulterous woman, loved by other men. Hosea obeyed that and he purchased her for fifteen pieces of silver, and a homer and a half of barley. Hosea is a type of Christ, who was willing to purchase us, we who are unfaithful, with His own blood, when He was willing to leave His place in Heaven being at the right hand of God the Father and came down to earth to suffer for us to purchase us with His own blood. He was not ashamed when He was crucified naked on the cross, to purchase us and give us eternal life.

Hosea taught his wife that she needed to abide with him and live her life with him together. **The same of Christ, when He called us from darkness and purchase us back from death by the shedding of His blood for our sins on the cross, He taught us to be faithful to Him and to be faithful to His Word till He will come and take us to Heaven.**

Even when God’s people move away from God, He will remove all that He gave them to put them in suffering and in need to make them think once again to come back to Him, and He will still be faithful, waiting for them to return and to seek the Lord and His Word and His ordinances, and to fear Him and follow Him, ***“4 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim: 5 Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.” (Hosea 3:4-5 KJV)***

Husband and wife need to live in the fear of the Lord. Each should follow God’s choice for him or her in marriage. Willing to humble down, willing to give up their own and personal plan, willing to bear the shame from the world and the people comments and opinions, willing to forgive one another, willing to teach, willing to discipline, willing to be patient and to wait for one another till their partner come to the point of repentance and turning back toward God.

My Dear and Beloved: God had placed before you great and wonderful ministry with the kind of marriage that He asked you to go through. Even if you are married and you are passing a hard time with your partner the message of today gives you hope and gives you direction of what you need to do and persevere to mend the wounds and restore your marriage life. God asked you to please Him; He is asking you to humble down, to accept His choices, to accept His will, and to accept His ways. God asking you to forgive, to be patient, to be kind, to be loving to your partner, and to persevere until he or she will be changed and transformed. ***“6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” (1 Peter 5:6-7 KJV)*** Put your full trust on God, for He has a good plan for you. Trust His will and His choice for you in your life. Trust Him that He cares for you, ***“5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV)***

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your Word that showed me a clear example that I can apply in my life to live in accordance to your will and plan. Lord thank you for all the corrections and the admonishments that I received in this message. Lord thank you for all your good promises to me as I put my full trust on you.

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your worldliness, your covetousness, and your love for money and material things. Confess and renounce all your lust, immoralities and your extra-marital affairs. Confess and renounce your pride, disobedience, non teachable spirit, and stubbornness. Confess and renounce doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God, especially in pertain to marriage. Confess your lack of reading God’s Word and your lack of prayers. Confess and

renounce your yoke with non believers, many friends and in bondage with the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your bad example, your wrong choices and your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins

Lord I commit myself to serve you and to live my life according to your plan and will for me, and according to the teaching that I received in this message to forgive, to love, to bear, to be patient, and in pertain to the person whom I need to marry. Lord I humble myself before you and accept your will and your plan for me and to set good example to others to follow. Lord uphold me with your grace and provide for me so I will continue to serve you.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and humbled themselves, returned to you and willing to follow your will and plan for them, to be content and accept you to lead them into your whole will. Lord bless them and continue to provide for them and use them to serve you. Lord I pray for others who still not repented and are doing their own will. Lord humble them, teach them your ways and grant them repentance so they will follow your will.

Lord, bless us as your church. and help us to continue to teach and implement the preparation for Godly marriage and to prepare your people to do your will and your plan in their lives, so when you come we are ready to take us. Lord we ask you to refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in order to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

The Marriage of Hosea from a Harlot. Hosea 1:1-11. Hosea 3:1-5. 1 Peter 5:6-7. Proverbs 3:5-6.

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