

Hosea: The Stubborn & Holy Love of God

LESSON 6: REDEEMING ISRAEL (HOSEA 3)

Intro:

And the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.”

- This account shifts from the _____ person to the _____ person. _____ speaks.
- We see the same pattern: _____ => action => _____
- God’s words harken back to chapter 1: “*Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom...*”
- More powerful _____ if he re-marries _____. Very weak symbolism if he doesn’t.³¹
- If Hosea represents God, it is not as if God went out & got another _____.
- Her _____ was well-established at this point. He is called to love her again.
- He is to _____ her even though she “*is loved by another man.*”
- YHWH “*loves the children of Israel though they... love raisin cakes.*”
- It is God’s love for _____ that ignites Hosea’s love for _____ again.
- The “*again*” indicates there was some separation: either _____ or _____.
- Not sure if it refers to “*go*” or “*love*”. Derek Kidner argues the latter: same woman.
- The _____ many commentators seek to avoid in chapter 1 is _____.
- Try to avoid the problem again: it is another _____ marriage (Stuart). Only a _____ (Calvin).
- The maximum penalty for adultery was the _____ penalty. But not _____.
- The husband was usually _____ with regard to the _____.
- “*they turn to other gods*”, some translate that as “embraced”: idea of _____.
- They need to turn away from those _____, just as she needs to turn away from her _____.

¹⁸ And I will surely hide my face in that day because of all the evil that they have done, because they have turned to other gods. **Deuteronomy 31**

²⁰ For when I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to give to their fathers, and they have eaten and are full and grown fat, they will turn to other gods and serve them, and despise me and break my covenant. **Deuteronomy 31**

⁴ Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 19

³¹ Pratt, pp. 50.

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- Hosea is _____, offering no description of her adulteries unlike Ezekiel (see 16 & 23).
- It involved political _____ (paying _____), child sacrifice, high places.
- The “*love cakes of raisins*” is explicitly tied to their _____ to other _____.
- He loves her faithfully & deeply – covenant faithfulness- and she loves _____ cakes!
- There is “scattered evidence for baked goods as _____ symbols”.³²

¹⁸ But since we left off making offerings to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine.” ¹⁹ And the women said, “When we made offerings to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, was it without our husbands' approval that we made cakes for her bearing her image and poured out drink offerings to her?” **Jeremiah 44**

“The abrupt mention of raisin cakes seems odd. That is the point. Her love is oddly misplaced.”³³
“From a human perspective, Hosea would have been justified in abandoning Gomer in her own lusts and inclinations. . . . From a human perspective, the gospel makes no sense, and herein is its beauty.”³⁴

² So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley. ³ And I said to her, “You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you.” ⁴ For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods. ⁵ Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the LORD and to his goodness in the latter days.

- Just as in chapter 1, Hosea is _____ to the _____ of the LORD.
- He paid for her with 15 _____ of _____ and an unknown quantity of _____.
- A homer is quite a large quantity, being 10x more than an ephah or a bath.
- A lethech is only mentioned here, but seems _____ than a homer. Not sure how much.
- A footnote in Calvin has them at 1 ½ loads of a _____.
- A slave was reported to be worth _____ shekels of silver (Ex. 21:32).
- Perhaps the barley was worth the additional _____ shekels.
- The point was that she was in _____ due to her promiscuity & needed to be _____.
- Don't forget he had already paid a _____ price for her. Loving her is _____ to Hosea.

³² Dearman, pp. 135.

³³ Ortlund, pp. 73.

³⁴ Barrett, pp. 87.

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- OR, “That price seems a modest one, implying that Gomer was not worth much to anyone by then.”³⁵
- Loving _____ is costly to _____, but He keeps _____ her.
- There is a _____: “*You shall not play the whore.*”
- This is why Stuart argues for a 2nd _____ whom Hosea never _____.
- It was temporary! For him to _____ withhold _____ rights would have been _____.
- “*Without*” is repeated to emphasize their future _____.
- Israel, Samaria, will cease to be a geo-political _____.
- The _____ had also initiated many of the political _____ they sought.
- Israel, Samaria, will cease to have a functioning “_____” or _____.
- No _____ in exile. The priest wore an _____ to perform his duties.
- These all describe a _____ people.
- The “pillars” or _____ stones were connected with false gods & forbidden (Dt 7:5; 12:3; 16:22).
- The household gods refer to small _____ used for _____.
- They had mixed the _____ & legitimate with the _____ & illegitimate in worship.
- After, or at the end of, the exile, “*Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God.*”
- The one king over Israel & Judah (1:11) is _____.
- Their forsaking of “David” also meant they forsook the _____ (see 2 Chron. 11:13-15).
- They will be characterized by “fear” or _____ to God for His _____.

“Israel’s future depends finally on the character of its electing Lord and his goodness, not on its own ability to come to its senses.”³⁶

“The ambiguity of the text seems to indicate that who received the payment and the exact amount of the payment are incidental. The point is that Hosea did what was necessary to restore Gomer and then impose on her the restrictions designed to protect her and to facilitate her purity from that time forward.”³⁷

“The life of whoredom she has chosen must be purged from her national soul; but through all the agony required for the cleansing to be thorough, nothing will be able to separate her from the love of Yahweh.”³⁸

³⁵ Ortlund, pp. 74.

³⁶ Dearman, pp. 141.

³⁷ Barrett, pp. 86.

³⁸ Ortlund, pp. 75.

¹³ And the priests and the Levites who were in all Israel presented themselves to him from all places where they lived. ¹⁴ For the Levites left their common lands and their holdings and came to Judah and Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons cast them out from serving as priests of the LORD, ¹⁵ and he appointed his own priests for the high places and for the goat idols and for (the calves that he had made. ¹⁶ And those who had set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came after them from all the tribes of Israel to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the LORD, the God of their fathers. ¹⁷ They strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and for three years they made Rehoboam the son of Solomon secure, for they walked for three years in the way of David and Solomon. **2 Chronicles 11**

Why the Exile

⁷ And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods ⁸ and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced. ⁹ And the people of Israel did secretly against the LORD their God things that were not right. They built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. ¹⁰ They set up for themselves pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, ¹¹ and there they made offerings on all the high places, as the nations did whom the LORD carried away before them. And they did wicked things, provoking the LORD to anger, ¹² and they served idols, of which the LORD had said to them, “You shall not do this.” ¹³ Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the Law that I commanded your fathers, and that I sent to you by my servants the prophets.” **2 Kings 17**

- They _____ or revered other gods, seeking their blessing thru their devotion.
- They walked in the customs of the _____ who were removed from the land for those customs.
- They set up pillars & _____ on the hills surrounding their towns for false worship.
- They rejected the _____ that had been sent to warn them and call them to repentance.

“Therefore, as disgusting as Gomer may appear, every Christian must admit the Gomer that is in his or her own heart.”³⁹

Gospel Fulfillment

⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. ... ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you

³⁹ Barrett, pp. 85.

have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. **1 Corinthians 6**

- God didn't save "angels" but the _____, sinners, and _____ of God.
- Those who _____ in unrighteousness will not inherit God's kingdom.
- That unrighteousness includes _____ sin like _____.
- But it includes others sins we tend to downplay: _____, drunkenness, bad _____.
- Paul reminds them that some of the Corinthians _____ in these sins.
- They were washed, or _____, and therefore sanctified in the name of Christ.
- They were justified, or declared _____, on behalf of Christ the righteous One.
- They experienced a definitive _____ with their sinful past.

"God here comforts the hearts of the faithful, that they might surely conclude that they were loved, even when they were chastised."⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Calvin, pp. 124.