

In conclusion of the previous lesson, we saw that Gomer, the wife of Hosea, gave birth to a daughter. The daughter was named Lo-ruhamah, meaning “not knowing a father’s pity.” This baby was illegitimate. As we proceed through the book of Hosea, let us be reminded that it is the family of Hosea that God is using to show us the state of Israel in Hosea’s day. Israel is living in whoredom like America is living in today. The message of God to Israel through the prophet Hosea is “please return to God and depart from idolatry.” They have wandered away from the relationship with their true father God and are walking in spiritual whoredom.

(Verse 8-9)

In verse 8 another child is born to Gomer. This child is a son. This is the third child in the household. It was said in verse four that the first child was born unto Hosea. This is not said of the second and third child, for they are illegitimate.

The name of the newborn child, a son, is Lo-Ammi. This name means “not my people.” If put in singular form the name means “not my child.” There is no question this child is illegitimate. What is God’s message to Israel? The message found in verse 9 is “for ye are not my people.” Why would God say this to His people? Because they have gone into idolatry worshipping strange gods, and they no longer serve Jehovah God.

The Abrahamic covenant has not been broken. Israel is still the seed of Abraham *physically*, but they have departed from God *spiritually*. They no longer act and behave like God would have them behave. Maybe at some time as a parent you have jokingly said of a child who misbehaved “that is not my son.” God is not joking. Israel, as the children of God, has strayed so far away from God to serve strange gods He says “they are no longer my children.” Is it possible for a saved person to act in such a way that they don’t appear to be a child of God? The answer is “yes.” Some believe that saved people are not capable of wrong. Yet, how can you read the pages of God’s Word and believe in such a manner?

(Verse 10–11)

Despite the depth of Israel’s sin, Hosea now presents a ray of hope for Israel. Rest assured, God is not finished with the nation Israel. God’s plan for Israel is still unfolding. There are presently dealings between God and Israel and those dealings will continue.

The Hebrew people have been decimated again and again by persecution- think of what Hitler did! Yet, here lies proof in God’s

Word that He is going to increase their number. In fulfillment of the prophecy of Hosea, the Assyrians around 722 B.C. ran roughshod through the land of Israel and slaughtered tens of thousands and took the people into slavery. Hitler killed an estimated 6 million of the Jewish people. Yet Israel still thrives today. God promises in verse 10 *“the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea.”* Verse 10 promises that in the very place where Hosea stands and prophesies their doom, God will stand and say *“ye are the sons of the living God.”*

Verse 11 points to the blessed day wherein the kingdom is reunited. As Hosea is preaching we know the kingdom is divided. There is the northern kingdom, Israel, and the southern kingdom, Judah. This division of Israel began in the time of the judges. In the lifetime of some living today, we have seen the reuniting of Israel. They have harmony though there is still disbursement. Many Jewish people are still residing in other countries from the great dispersion that God brought upon them in judgment for their sin. A total re-gathering and total harmony will one day come. In that day there shall be *“one head,”* verse 11. That head shall be the Messiah, Jesus Christ himself. Only the Messiah can bring re-gathering and total harmony to this people. That day lies ahead, but that day is very close. Re-gathering and unification is commonly referred to as *national restoration*.

Chapter 2

(Verse 1)

Verse one of Chapter 2 rightly fits with chapter 1. In the day of restoration, the brethren shall be called Ammi. Ammi has the meaning “my people.” The third child, a son, was called Lo-ammi, meaning **“not my people.”** When restoration comes in its fullness, Israel will once again be known to God as “my people.” Lo- Ammi shall become Ammi.

In chapter 1 verse six the daughter born was named Lo-Ruhamah meaning “no pity.” In the day of restoration, sisters shall be referred to as Ruhamah meaning “obtained mercy.” As Hosea preaches Israel is unfaithful to God. Did God leave them? Did God disown them? Did God wipe them entirely from his mind? No-God has abundant mercy. How I long in my heart for the day when I will witness God embracing Israel as a father embracing a lost son. Glory!

Over and over in the pages of God's eternal Word we keep finding proof that God is long-suffering. God is merciful. Man is a failure. Man has no mercy. Man continually walks in fidelity toward God. Yet, God is so good and merciful. If you are today estranged from God, He doesn't want it to be that way. He has told us in II Corinthians 6:17-18 *“Wherefore come out from among*

them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

We pause to ask this question- “if God is so good and merciful, why does he send judgment?” The answer lies in the simple fact that God **hates** sin. God is righteous, holy. He knows no sin. He loves sinners yet “is angry with the wicked every day” because of their sin.

(Verse 2-5)

Hosea's family is in shambles. His home has not one, but two, illegitimate children. It is worth restating that God gave us details of Hosea's personal life as a picture of Israel's soured relationship with God. Hosea says “*plead with your mother, plead.*” The word “plead” carries the implication of a great contention. It signifies great trouble. Israel has become like Gomer, unfaithful to the husband and practicing prostitution. Hosea married a girl named Gomer from a family of whoredom. After they had been married for some time, she went back to prostitution. Yet, all the while this man Hosea loved her! It seems to me the worse sin is not murder or theft or lying. Seems, after we search the Scriptures, the greatest sin one can commit is to become unfaithful to the one who loves you.

Applying this to our own lives, what is the greatest sin a Christian can commit? Maybe you feel that it is cursing or murder or lying or coveting. The greatest sin is unfaithfulness to God who saved you and who loves you and gave His son a ransom that you may be purchased from the slave market of Satan and be spared from hell. Hosea's message to Israel is “God wants you to come back, He loves you.”

Verse 3 speaks of God's impending judgment. No, God cannot turn His head to sin. Every sin ever committed must be reconciled unto God in one of two ways; it must be forgiven by placing it beneath the blood of Jesus Christ or it must face the judging hand of God. Hosea speaks in verse three and says “*lest I strip her naked, and set her as in the day that she was born.*” We all came into this world naked. Many men have been stripped by sin. Men have experienced prosperity and been blessed of God. Men have risen to great heights of fame and fortune only to find themselves naked due to sin.

Verse four is an interesting verse: “*And I will not have mercy upon her children.*” While Israel is in a state of immorality, children are born. Those children are born with the curse of their parents' sin upon them. You may not believe the “sins of the father are visited unto the son,” but if you don't, you don't believe the

Bible. There will be babies born today who will bear unbelievable judgment in their lifetime because of the sin of mom and dad. The best advice I can give to a mom and dad is not to set up an annuity for their children. It is not to establish a dowry for their children. It is not to give them a college education. My advice, based upon the indisputable accuracy of God's Word, is "live for God." I personally know men and women who are living for God today. However, if we take a look back over their Christian life, they strayed away from God and sowed wild oats. Though they live for God today, their past sin is manifested upon their children. What a shame for a mom and dad to curse their offspring.

Gomer boasted in verse five that she would "*go after my lovers.*" Why did she crave her lovers? What drew her to them? They gave her bread, water, wool, flax, oil and drink. The root of the problem in Israel in Hosea's time is the same as the root of the problem in America today. The problem lies in idolatry. After we are saved, we still have the option to serve God or not to serve Him. You have the choice of being in God's house on Sunday or over in the mountains looking at the leaves or over at the lake riding in the boat. You have the option after you are saved of watching television every free moment of your day or reading God's word and praying. After you are saved, you have the option of being true to your wife or your husband or "messaging around" down at the office or the factory.

God has never *made* one of His children serve Him. After you are saved, you can have God or you can have idols. America is stooped in idolatry. The church, God's children, is stooped in idolatry. You may say "I have no statues of brass or wood or silver at my house." You're right- your idol is down at the bank in an account or a safe deposit box. Your idol is 22 men on a field of grass chasing a bag of wind. You don't have statues of brass in your home, your idol lives across town and is called "grandchild." What is an idol? An idol is any person, place, thing, or activity that interferes with the affection that God expects you to have toward Him. Be not deceived, an idol can have 2 legs or 4 legs, 2 wheels or 4 wheels, metal roof or shingle roof.

The first commandment reads "*Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*" Exodus 20:3. Because that truth is in the Old Testament does not make it invalid and out of date. Exodus 20:5 "*Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God...*" If God is jealous in the book of Exodus, He is jealous in the book of John. God cannot change.

