

## The Faithfulness of God

### Hosea 2:1-23

- The Prophet Hosea is told that his life will be a living testimony of what Israel had become and the consequences that awaited them because of it. That in the midst of all this rebellion and disobedience God was still going to show remarkable grace upon His people, in demonstration of His faithfulness in keeping His Word.

#### V1-23

- Last week Hosea was told to marry an unfaithful woman named Gomer and to have children with her that will reflect exactly where the children of Israel were in their spiritual walk with The Lord. The first child was named “**Jezeel**” The Lord will scatter, a sign of judgment, the second child name was “**Lo-Ruhamah**” no mercy, and the third child’s name “**Lo-Ammi**” not My people. So every time these children’s names were called it reminded everyone that judgment was coming to Israel.
- This seemed like an unredeemable situation, that Israel is doomed, that there is no coming back from this right? Wrong! God is the God of the second chance, and in verses 10-11 of chapter 1 we see God wasn’t through with Israel, and that they were going to recover from this dark and dismal time, and although millions will be displaced, scattered, and killed, God was going to restore them to the point that their population numbers will be so plentiful that you won’t be able to number them.
- **V1** where there was no mercy, being called not My people, judgment fast approaching, mercy and grace appears. Yes the Assyrians will come with all their cruelty and lead the northern kingdom away from their homeland scattering like the wind ten of the twelve tribes of Israel displacing them into foreign lands and territories away from family and friends in an attempt to get them to forget their God.
- **V2-3** just in case when hearing what’s ahead Israel says this is too cruel, what have we done so bad that we deserve this? God responds by painting them as an adulterous wife who has refused to honor her position as a Godly mother or a Godly wife but has gone out and played the harlot multiple times. In the natural if anything like this occurs what will happen to that marriage? It will be dramatically broken.

- So God in His mercy is warning Israel and primarily the Northern Kingdom to turn from this disastrous path, stop offering yourselves to other gods in a way that a promiscuous woman would offer herself to different men. Because if you don't put away (stop) your harlot like ways you will be stripped naked, exposed meaning no covering to protect you, and become a barren place (the wilderness).
- Sadly that's exactly what happened to them when the Assyrians came in **722 B.C.** they stripped naked all their captives, put hooks through their noses, paraded them in the streets from town to town, city to city, and left them in utter disgrace to populate wastelands and outposts that were in the desert just as Hosea prophesied
- **V4-5** we see where the source of the problem was, Israel believed because it was profiting from those other nations and who worshipped other gods that it was okay for them to forget Jehovah God and copy and imitate them. This is what we see in our society also, anyone who seems to be popular, or successful, people follow, regardless of how godless, immoral, and shameless they are, all it takes for that person to become a role model to imitate is attention, and people will admire.
- **V6-7** God says to bring Israel to repentance He will set a hedge of thorns on the sides of her path, that sounds painful doesn't it? **Prov 13:15** reiterates this by saying "the way of the unfaithful or sinner is hard" its like being dragged through sticker briars with no clothing on just a painful path one to be avoided if possible.
- This is all done to cause Israel to make a U-Turn and go back to their first love which is God Almighty. Please don't ever forget this **Rom 2:4** says "**it's the goodness of The Lord that leads people to repentance**", and for many people the only way for them to realize this is to experience how bad it can be without The Lord, just as the prodigal, now they have something to compare God's wonderful goodness to.
- **V8-13** even when Israel was being disobedient God was still taking care of her, and she was wrongly crediting and serving the false god baal. Think about when you were unsaved doing some really shady things and it seemingly either worked out or you didn't get in trouble for it, little did we know God was looking out for us even then. At some point God removes the protection and allows us to experience the consequences of our sin so that we can repent and reconcile to Him.

- **V14-15** again a reminder that God doesn't forget His people, even in the midst of pain and punishment for their sins God is still pursuing them, wooing them back to Him. While she is in the wilderness notice God says He will "**allure her**", not force her, drag her, or drive her, but He will draw her, attract her, to Himself Wow!
- How does He do that by blessing us, showing us how much He loves us > **Ps 34:8**- letting us taste and see how Good He is. God will turn "the valley of achor" which means trouble, the place where Achan's sin was discovered and judged, and turn it into a door of hope, a place of restoration > **Is 61:3**- God turns beauty from ashes.
- **V16-23** the relationship is restored, and Israel will call God their husband and not betray Him, but serve Him, not out of obligation or fear, but out of love, as they embrace the grace of God, and not The Law of Moses. This will only happen when Christ returns and sets everything in its proper place, as not only is Israel transformed, but also the earth itself, both ecologically and politically.
- Scattered, no Mercy and not My people, will now have been replaced with restoration, mercy and acceptance amen!.