

## Cool, Tough, and Tender

### *Hosea*

#### *Outline*

- I. General information
  - A. Prophets— prophets prophesies prophesy.
  - B. The “minor Prophets” are called “minor” due to their shortness in length.
  - C. A few reasons to study the minor prophets:
    1. The minors reveal much about God: who He is, what He does and what He wants.
    2. The times they were written in many ways mirror today.
    3. So that we will learn more about God’s Word.
  - D. Historical and Biblical context.
    1. The Old Testament is the story of God calling the Israelites to be his people.
    2. Moses warned Israel that if they ever forsook God they would be “exiled”.
    3. They did forsake God and they were exiled!
      - a. The Northern Kingdom—10 tribes “Israel”
      - b. The Southern Kingdom—2 tribes “Judah”
    4. Chronology of the minors.
      - a. First six books—from about 800 BC to Israel’s destruction and exile. Hosea is the first in this time period.
      - b. Books seven to nine—from Israel’s destruction and exile to Judah’s exile (136 years).
      - c. Last three books—After Judah’s restoration to the end of Ezra and Nehemiah’s reforms.
- II. Hosea
  - A. Where many prophets “proclaimed” their prophesies, Hosea demonstrated his.
  - B. Main message—“*follower of God, you can mess up, sin, run from God and He will take you back!*”
  - C. Hosea is a picture of God and his prostitute wife is a picture of Israel.

- D. Israel was a harlot in that they were unfaithful to God in three areas: Religion, politics and morals.
- E. The three approaches of God.
  1. Cool.
  2. Tough.
  3. Tender.

III. **The faithless wife** (Chapters 1-2) God says “*Hosea, you are going to play the part of me, Gomer your wife will play the part of My people, you Hosea will reveal to My people the pain they have caused me through their unfaithfulness.*”

- A. The three children.
  1. Jezreel—“God scatters”
  2. Lo-ruhamah—“No mercy”
  3. Lo- Ammi—“Not My people”
- B. “**And yet...**”—You are not My people and I am not your God, AND YET....You will be My people and I will be your God.
- C. Gomer does what harlots do... they go prostituting (Chapter 2).
- D. The pattern (throughout the Bible!)
  1. God as our provider.
  2. People reject God.
  3. God withdraws His provisions.
  4. AND YET... He restores His people.

IV. Future restoration (Chapter 3)

- A. Hosea goes to the market place and “redeems” Gomer and takes her back to be his wife.
  1. This is a picture of the future event when Israel will return to God *and Jesus* and be fully restored to being God’s people.
    - a. At present Israel has no king and Jesus has no throne, but that is about to change! (Hosea 3:5; Revelation 19:11-16).

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### Sermon Notes

I have a small collection of small books called “*Crossway Short Classics*”...Each book contains a writing from a great theologian from the past... they literally are very small... they average about 80 pages with pretty large print...and wide margins...

At first you wonder how can they really be of much value being so short... I like what the forward to the series says... a quote from John Piper... “*Books do not change people, paragraphs do...*”

That “pithy” statement gets close to the idea at the heart of what we call the minor prophets in the Old Testament of the Bible... some of the greatest, profound and penetrating, informative biblical truths are found in these short twelve books we call the minor prophets...

Before we dive into our first minor prophet let me give you some general information to help put all these into context and perspective...

All 12 of these books are written by “Prophets”... an Old Testament ***prophet prophesies prophesy***.... Let me try this for an illustration... Warren Wiersbe wrote this...It goes like this, a true story... “*in 1930..Britain’s King George V was to give the opening address at a special disarmament conference, with the speech relayed by radio from Great Britain to the U.S.*

*As the broadcast was about to begin, a cable broke in the New York radio station, and more than a million listeners were left without sound. A junior mechanic in the station, Harold Vivien, solved the problem by picking up both ends of the cable and allowing 250 volts of electricity to pass through him.*

[I went and did a bit more digging on Friday and came across this actual news article from The Huntsville Daily Times, January 21st 1930. The journalist writes, “*His arms twitching with shocks from electric current, Harold Vivian, a young radio engineer, literally spliced with his body a broken link in the vast hookup and made it possible to listeners in on 59 North American radio stations to hear King George’s speech today...*”

“*...Vivian, chief control operator, grasped the wires together in his hands to restore the circuit. Leakage of current threw his body to the floor shook his arms with spasms, but he held on without a break for 20 minutes until new wires could be connected.*”...so....

Harold Vivian literally became the transmitter between the King and the people...The King spoke THROUGH Harold to the people..... THAT IS WHAT A PROPHET IS..... a prophet is the transmitter...the conduit between God and His people.... and I might add... God’s prophets experienced much voltage going through them at times!

These twelve are not called minor prophets because they aren't as important as *the* major prophets... it is because they are short and concise... the books of the Bible were copied onto scrolls. The longer Prophetic Books required their own scrolls...

but the 12 shorter Prophetic Books fit together on a single scroll. So the Major ("long") Prophets were grouped together first, and the Minor ("short") Prophets followed them....

Why study the prophets today?

- ***We learn so much about God in the minors...*** Ray Ortlund wrote the forward in my little book.... this is how he begins: *Do we treat God as real? Or do we treat God as hypothetical? Is God to us our living and glorious helper moment by moment? Or is God to us, an orthodox concept that simply exists while we keep making the important things happen in our own ways....*

*This is a searching, unsettling question. Let's not answer it easily. Let's answer it honestly. Everything else in Christianity, everything else in the whole of our lives, hangs on our personal reality with the living God.*

We find the real living God in the minor prophets... we need to know the real living God!

- ***The times they were written in many ways mirror today....*** I won't expound on this because I will be showing that every week in more detail. The bottom line is that these short books are relevant to us...in our world, culture and individual circumstances.

They will help us navigate through our complex Christian lives.

- ***So that we will learn more about God's Word.*** Hosea tells us **Hear the word of the Lord O children of Israel... for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land... there is no faithfulness or steadfast love...AND NO KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IN THE LAND....there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery...they break all bounds and bloodshed follows bloodshed....** We need the knowledge of God... found in this book!

The classic verse we come back to often... 2 Timothy 3:16-17 **All Scripture is [a]nspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.**

EVERY word...every portion of Scripture is beneficial for us....

We seldom open the Old Testament.... You rarely hear a sermon on one of the 12 minor

prophets.... If you just glance at them they seem so irrelevant.... So insignificant to us living in this world is THIS day....BUT THAT IS SO WRONG!

It's important to know the historical and biblical context of these 12 books:

The Old Testament is the story of God calling the Israelites to be his people and they were to reveal God to the world... and reveal to all nations how to come to him.... When Moses rescued the Israelites from Egyptian enslavement and brought them to the Promised Land, he warned them that if they ever forsook God, God would drive them out of the land into exile.

The kingdom was at its greatest under the reigns of David and his son, Solomon...the problem is that the tribes of Israel are made up of people.... and people have a hard time getting along.... There were always many divisions between the twelve tribes.... After Solomon died... through his son Rehoboam... the united kingdom split into two kingdoms: A northern kingdom and a southern kingdom...

(1 Kings 12:19). **“So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day”**...Israel VS Judah... The northern kingdom is called “Israel” (or sometimes “Ephraim”) Israel is often referred as Ephraim in Hosea (Ephraim was the largest tribe in the Northern Kingdom)... and the southern kingdom is called “Judah.”

Of the 12 tribes... 10 went north to form the northern kingdom... 2 went south (Judah and Benjamin) to make up the southern kingdom....

From God's viewpoint... the division was a judgment on Israel for not keeping His commands... specifically the commands prohibiting idolatry... From a human viewpoint, the division was the result of tribal discord and political unrest.... Rehoboam was over taxing the kingdom and some didn't like that!.... **The principle is that sin brings division.**

The northern kingdom Israel abandoned God right away, descending into violence, injustice, abandonment of truth and morality.... oppression of the poor, sexual promiscuity, idolatry, and even child sacrifice.... Judah had times of faithfulness which delayed God's judgement for 136 years after judgement fell on the northern kingdom... but eventually turned to the same corruption.

When the nations abandoned him, God sent prophets to warn the people to return to him [repent] lest he drive them out...and abandons them. When they refused to repent, the prophecies changed to judgments: Now... it's too late and exile is coming.....**AND YET** (remember those two words!)....**and yet**... the prophets also promised restoration.

Chronologically, the Minor Prophets come after the reforms of Elijah and Elisha (which ended about 800 BC). They're clustered around three time periods...over about 380 years.

- The time leading up to and surrounding Israel's destruction and exile to...The Kingdom of Israel was destroyed by the Assyrian Empire around 720 BC. The records of Sargon II

of Assyria indicate that he deported 27,290 inhabitants of the former kingdom to Mesopotamia...everyone else was destroyed.... Killed. ....

This deportation became the basis for the Jewish idea of the Ten Lost Tribes..... *The first six books* (except perhaps Joel and Obadiah) are a warning prior to this devastating reality....Hosea is the first of these...(Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah)

- The time leading up to Judah's (Southern Kingdom) judgment and exile to Babylon (586 BC...136 years later): Books seven to nine...(Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah)
- The time after Judah's restoration (538 BC) until the end of Ezra's and Nehemiah's reforms (430 BC) when the temple and wall of Jerusalem are rebuilt...: Last three books (Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.)

So let's get into this first one... Hosea... but first let's pray for us as we begin this I hope to be an amazing journey through the minor prophets!

*Lord, may we learn from your Word the importance of following you closely and embracing your ways. May we comprehend how you are ending evil and bringing your people into your Kingdom, where evil cannot exist. Thank you for the Minor Prophets that teach us these things. May we learn to respond to your plans as Habakkuk did:*

*"Though the fig tree does not bud And there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stall, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior." (Habakkuk 3:17-18)*

*Amen.*

*"Take my life and let it be.... Nothing like the life of Hosea!*

We said that a prophet is a transmitter from God to His people... as we will see God transmits His message in different ways... Usually through proclamation... **"Thus says the Lord..."**...The prophet Jeremiah preached to his people with deaf ears for what... 40 years?

Sometimes God transmits through His prophet through *demonstration*... boy does Hosea demonstrate!...Hosea himself and his situation is a word picture... a pageant or play... a living parable...Hosea makes me glad I'm not a prophet!....

As tragic as what Hosea had to endure, the message of Hosea is "good news"... it is gospel!... It is wonderful news for all of God's people... There are many messages but the main message is... *"follower of God... you can mess up... you can sin...you can fail and sin horribly... you can turn your back on God.... **AND YET**... He will take you back!"*

What God does with Hosea is *visibly* illustrates the relationship between God and His people Israel..... their unfaithfulness and His response.... And did I mention "vivid"?... the very first thing God tells Hosea is:

Verse 1...**Go take for yourself a wife of harlotry... and have children of harlotry...Go find yourself a prostitute and marry her!**... the picture is straight forward... Hosea is a picture of God... and the harlot a picture of God's people Israel. God married a prostitute **for the land (Israel) commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking the Lord.**

A harlot is a prostitute... a woman who sells her body for monetary gain... that's bad... but what is worse is a woman who enters into a covenant relationship with her husband... "*I pledge to be faithful to you and only you*"..... yet goes out and sells her body to whoever is on the street willing to pay her...that's what Gomer did with Hosea.... That's what Israel did to God.

God in a covenant relationship with His people... the picture like a marriage relationship...God will take care of His people...provide for them... bless them... enrich them.... All He asks is for them to be faithful to Him....a marriage relationship...

Since Genesis 17 God was in a covenant relationship with His people... I counted 28 times God says "**I will be their God, they will be My people**".... Exodus 19:5-6 (with 20:2) "**Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, **JUST BE FAITHFUL TO ME!****"

In every direction His people have been unfaithful to Him... we could put all their unfaithfulness in three categories.

1. Religion—they took for themselves other gods... idolatry.
2. Politics—They merged with other countries and followed their statutes.... Making their laws their laws... going against God's laws.
3. In Morals—what morals?... unbridled sex and violence.....

***In all areas of life***..... Israel basically cheated on God and took for themselves a harlot... If God was like me.... us,.... We might just write them off... waste no more affection on the cheating nation... have nothing more to do with them.. wash our hands of them..... But that is not the story of Hosea....

There is anger here.... There is judgment... but God continues in His relationship with Israel... there are three approaches that God takes... these three approaches are something we might respond to in our culture today...

**1. Play it cool**.....you look at all the problems of society and you could just "play it cool"... just let it all play out on its own... the facts of life will eventually bring people to their senses... There are times God plays it cool.

**2. Play it tough**... bring in judgement... make things difficult to make them see the errors of their ways... God plays it tough at times.

**3. Play it tenderly**... love them... appeal to their hearts... forgive... show grace... God does all three of these with His people.... (I think that is how He deals with us today!). He's cool...HE's tough... and He's tender.

There are 14 chapters in Hosea....There are two obvious parts... chapters 1-3 We will spend most of our time in the first three... that is where we get the word picture of Hosea... the last 11 chapters we see the details regarding how the picture prelates to Israel.

Let me suggest for us 4 divisions....Chapters

- 1-2..... The faithless wife
- 3.... Future restoration...God's restoration of His sinful people.
- 4-10.... A fickle nation (Israel and all people).... The actual picture that Hosea's wife Gomer was illustrating .
- 11-14..... A faithful God..... which is the good/great news..... let's quickly go through this.

## 1. The faithless wife (Chapters 1-2)

### Read verses 2-3

There's some argument whether or not Gomer was actually a harlot before they got married... God was just warning Hosea what would happen... what she would become... I don't think so.... The pageant has started...

God says *"Hosea, you are going to play the part of me... Gomer your wife will play the part of My people.... You Hosea will reveal to My people the pain they have caused me through their unfaithfulness."*

About the kids...three of them... they are as much in the pageant as well.... Who they are and WHAT they are called... will be the embodiment of God's word to Israel and to us... each of them are a living sign.

### Jezreel

The first one is a son

### Read verse 4....

They name him **Jezreel**... after a valley in Israel... the Jezreel valley... the name means **"God sows"** or **God scatters**... this is referring back to a time in 2 Kings 10 where there was a bloodbath by King Jehu... annihilated King Ahab and all his associates... he also annihilated all the Baal worshippers of Israel... the problem was...Jehu himself too up idolatrous worship...that why it is mentioned here through this son many years later.... God wants everyone to know He has not forgotten about what happened then.

Jehu was a butcher... a man of blood... much of his killing was directed by God... God used him to cast judgement on His people... but Jehu made sacrifices to Baal.. God says He is now going to cast judgment on Israel.... That's what He means in verse 5

### Read verse 5

What this means is that God is going to take the nation of Israel and JEZREEL them... scatter them...and in 722 BC... the Assyrians did in fact "scattered".... Displaced Israel... killing most



of them... scattering the rest.... And for all intent and purposes....as it says in verse 4... the house of Israel ceases...this all happened... but at the time of Hosea it is future.

### **Lo-ruhamah**

#### **Read verse 6**

Lo-ruhamah.... “Lo” means “No” and “Ruhamah” means “mercy”... “no mercy”... her name is NO MERCY...Today we put a lot of thought in choosing names for our children don’t we?... My middle daughter Jamie is scheduled for delivery of her first child next month...a girl... and the struggle she and her husband are having choosing a name!

You don’t want to choose a name that brings back any bad memories like an ex girl-friend... you don’t want to name her after somebody that was mean to you and every time you hear the name it conjures up negative thoughts...you don’t want to pick a name that will become a bad nickname...it takes a lot of thought.... The child is going to have to live with that name the rest of their lives!

What was it like for Lo-ruhamah to be walking down the street and someone asks her “*What’s your name?*” and she has to say “*No Mercy!*”... “*Don’t mess with me!*”... “*I’ve got no mercy!*” that would be tough!

God is saying to Israel... *You have been unrepentant in your sins... you continue in your idolatrous ways... you have rejected Me.... I shall have no mercy on you!*... they have a third child.... Another boy.

### **Lo-ammi**

Lo- ammi... “Lo”, “not.... “ammi”, “people.... *Not-My-People*....Lo-ammi is a picture...many believe in part his name suggest he was not Hosea’s child but a child of one of the men Gomer sold herself to.... NOT MY PEOPLE....but for sure it is God telling Israel.... **You are NOT my people and I am not your God**.... This is so important and so amazing....

You are not My people and I am not your God..... **and YET...** remember I said remember those two words?.... and YET... two words repeated throughout the Bible.... So similar to two other words and they mean basically the same thing.... **BUT GOD**.....

**You are not My people and I am not your God... AND YET.... (10) ...the number of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered**...obviously referring back to Genesis 22... where God promises Abraham that from him will come a people like the sand of the sea..... cannot be numbered...

*It will be said to you... you are not My people AND YET...You are the sons of the living God. .... You are not My people and yet....YOU ARE MY PEOPLE!... You are My children!*

This is a foreshadowing of the message of Hosea!... *You are not my people.... you have played the harlot and have exchanged Me... the true living God for wooden idols... you have turned your back on Me....AND YET... BUT GOD...for this can only happen by God....Because of*

***My love for you and by My grace...I will take you back ...IF YOU REPENT FROM YOUR SINS.....YOU ARE THE SONS OF THE LIVING GOD!***

### **Read verse 11**

History has shown us most of Israel did not return to God... remember most of them died at the hands of the Assyrians... and only a remnant of those scattered returned to God... yet that remnant along with Judah.... Carries on that great promise.

By the way... one of the truly “And Yet’s”.... “But God” can be found in Ephesians 2....

Ephesians 2:1-8

**2 And you were dead in your offenses and sins, 2 in which you previously walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all previously lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),**

Gomer does what harlots do... in chapter two we see the details of this mess...

### **Read chapter 2:1-4**

Gomer has left Hosea to live as a prostitute...it's a divorce... she has no concern for her husband nor children... she's all out for herself.... She's running wild...

**(5)...I will go after my lovers, who give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink...** she is out looking for anyone who will satisfy her needs...her wants....her desires.... She THINKS she's going to find someone better than her husband Hosea..... ***remember this is a picture of God's people!***

*I'll take on many lovers and they will wine and dine me.... make me wealthy.... What a life!...* by the way.... **Inserted into the story of Hosea and Gomer are comments by God concerning His harlot....** They are coinciding together.....

His harlot Israel thinks she's getting all this stuff..... wine....oil...flax.... silver and gold from the pagan nations they have chosen to live in and with... just like Gomer.... God says in verse 6

### **Read verse 6**

This is God being a bit tough [maybe a bit passive aggressive... a little cool and tough]... this is what a loving God does to his children who deliberately stray from Him.... He messes up their path!...He puts thorns in your life... You think you are really living it up in your sin... *this is the life....I don't need God....* or what we normally do... keep God over there on Sunday and I'll take care of myself and do things my way Monday through Saturday.....

*But there's all these thorns on our paths interrupting the whole thing....it's not working out the way I had envisioned it.....*

**Read verse 7**

There's a pattern that repeats itself throughout Scripture...and it gives us great insight to our God... we see it here in chapter 2....

**1. God as our provider.....** James 1:17 **Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.**

Gomer thinks that all these luxuries.... All these things are being provided to her by her paying customers... Israel thinks the same....

**Read verse 8a****2. People reject God****Read verse 8b**

It's God who provides.... But when His people reject Him... *they took all My provisions and worshipped their idols with it*...what does God do?.....

**3. God withdraws His provisions****Read verse 9...11...12****AND YET....BUT GOD...****4. He restores His people****Read verses 14-16...19**

This has not happened yet!... this is still to come.... This is the promise to Israel....

[Just an aside... verses 19 and 20 are memorized by every orthodox Jewish boy...and for the rest of their lives... as they get dressed in the morning... they would wrap their arm with a cloth to hold on the prayer phylactery ...a little box that contains passages of the Torah in it...as they wrap the arm with the cloth... they recite Hosea 2:19-20

**“And I will betroth you to Me forever;**

**Indeed I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice.**

**In lovingkindness and in compassion, and I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness**

**Then you will know Yahweh”]**

**.....2:23**

So Gomer has been living the wild life...she's been the harlot... the prostitute.... Sleeping with countless men... leaching off of them... all the while not thinking once about her family..... her once husband... she is apparently currently with someone..... some man off the street...

## 2. Future restoration (Chapter 3).

### Read chapter 3:1

Gomer and Israel... By the way raisin cakes... Jeremiah tells us that these cakes were a part of a pagan celebration over the Queen of Heaven...Even then...in Jeremiah Israel was actually baking these pagan raisin cakes in celebration of the pagan queen of heaven..... **THEY LOVE THE RAISIN CAKES!**

[What are our raisin cakes?... what are the things we love that the pagan world around us loves... and are an affront to Almighty God?... **BUT I LOVE THEM!**]

Hosea goes and finds Gomer... she's on the streets...*and he actually buys her back*... she didn't cost much...

### Read verse 3:2

In that day the cost of a slave “*gored by a bull*” was 30 shekels of silver ... which by the way was what Christ went for before He was crucified on the cross..... Gomer is in the backwash on the streets of Israel... and Hosea bargains for her...to buy her back!...God tells him get her and love her again!

Is this not an amazing picture??....It's the picture of the gospel of Jesus Christ... forgiveness...mercy...grace...but this is redemption!...Jesus Christ bought back sinners with His blood on the cross....

There are several different words in the Bible for redemption... There is a Greek word that expresses what Hosea has done for Gomer and what God has done for His people Israel and what God has done through His Son for you and me.

“*Agorazo*” – means to buy, to purchase...that is what Hosea did in the marketplace... but even greater than that.... Hosea *Ex-agorazo* means *to buy back*. Literally... *to buy back OUT of the marketplace*. Specifically to buy out of slavery....Gomer is redeemed by Hosea... let the beauty of that settle into your mind.....

### Read verse 3:3

***You will be committed to me and I will be committed to you... You will from now on be faithful to me and I with you.***

These final two verse are really amazing....

### Read verse 3: 4

This is a prophetic verse...and the prophesy has not yet been fulfilled...Israel will go a long time without a king... and guess what?.... they have gone a very long time without a king!....2500 years ago King Zedekiah....just before judgement fell on Judah... King Zedekiah was the last king of Judah.... Remember this is 136 years after the fall of Israel in the north.

Jerusalem and the temple was also destroyed in that judgment.... But both were rebuilt later.... Only to be completely destroyed again in 70 AD..... so since then... there has not been any **sacrifices or sacred pillars... .. No king for 2500 years!**

Now think about this... there is no king in Israel.... Oh... Jesus came as king... but John 1:11 tells us He came but His people did not accept Him... they rejected Him.... So Jesus never took His throne on earth....

So Jesus is heaven without a throne..... and Israel is down here without a king!

Revelation 19:11-16

**11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many crowns; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will [a]rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the [b]wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”**

Israel will have a king...Jesus will have His throne!

(3:5) **Afterward the sons of Israel...** that remnant of Israel joined with Judah...**they will return and seek Yahweh their God** this hasn't happened yet!...but it will! **And David their king...**David's been gone for almost 700 years...this can't be actually David.... It must be referring to the Messiah.... Jesus Christ!

**Revelation 22:16**

**I Jesus, sent My angel to bear witness to you of these things for the churches I AM THE ROOT AND DESCENDENT OF DAVID, the bright morning star.**

What a great prophesy... the Jews ultimately repent... turn from their sins... acknowledge the one true God.... **and His Son Jesus Christ.**

**Romans 11:26–29**

**“And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.’**

Chapters 4-14 show us in detail the relationship between God and His people Israel..... what Hosea and Gomer played out in their amazing pageant...[Israel “half baked cake...”

What do we take from this?....

Maybe we are not so different than Gomer... we are no better than Israel.... We are all sinful... We are all rebellious to God at times... we love raisin cakes!!... I imagine at least two groups in this building....I know there's more:

**1.** Like Israel and Gomer you were found by God... you were loved by Him... He prospered you with His provisions... and in "prosperity"... His great riches He lavished on you... you have become complacent... you think the oil, flax silver and gold are the results of your efforts, your abilities... your "connections".... Forgetting they are all from Him.

And you've been running.... Running away from your God... engulfed in your sins.

Facts

- Sin will harden your heart..... if it's hard now it will harden further! "*Sin destroys the sensitivity of the heart*"...it distances you from God... does God feel NOT THERE?...
- You can't run from God.... He will put *thorns on your paths and build walls so you can't find your paths!*... at time God is going to be **cool** and let you run... until the mess you make of things gets your attention..... He will get **tough** on you.... **He will take back His grain at harvest time...** withdrawing His provisions.....**AND YET.....BUT GOD...** but He will be **tender**... **I will betroth you to Me forever...**

**2.** Others of you may be more like Hosea... You've been wounded and wronged... somebody has hurt you, betrayed you You're greatest temptation is to fall into resentment...revenge... become bitter.

Be used of God as Hosea was... "*use your scars and turn it into your message*"

But I think all of us are like what the great hymn says....*prone to wander...Lord I feel it!...Prone to leave the God I love... Here's my heart...O take and seal it!...COME THOU FOUNT OF MANY BLESSINGS!*

Don't look around but do know that you are all surrounded by some of the best kept secrets... but we look pretty good on Sundays don't we?.... I mean if the tragic part of each one of our lives were all of a sudden exposed.... Revealed... after our shock and awe... we would be blown away by what God's grace can actually do...with all the debris of our humanity!

### Read 1 Corinthians 6:9

1 Corinthians 6:9-12

**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 [a]homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor those habitually drunk, nor verbal abusers, nor swindlers,[Such terrible people!]...none of these will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 **Such were some of you;** but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and [b]in the Spirit of our God.**