

MERCY PERSONIFIED

Hosea 1

Idolatry northern Israel.

Baal - "god of weather!" "*The god of rain and dew.*"

(Psalm 104:30) "...And You renew the face of the earth."

"Spiritual prostitution" - Leviticus 20:4-6.

(Leviticus 20:7-8) Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the Lord your God. And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am the Lord who sanctifies you.

(v.1-3) "*Go take yourself a wife of harlotry*"

The first child (v.4, 5) Jezreel – means: God sows (scatters liked seeds).

Background to this judgment: I Kings 21

God promised to "avenge" Naboth's death, (1 Kings 21:19)

Jehu (2 Kings 9, 10).

To break a "soldier's bow" was a sign of "total defeat." The Assyrian invasion, **2 Kings 17.**

"Valley of Jezreel" was the very place where the pagan god Baal once "reigned."

Lesson: the very thing we "spiritually prostitute" ourselves for will be our demise!

"Good news" - (Luke 19:10) "...for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

The second - Lo-Ruhamah: "no mercy." (v.6, 7).

In **2 Kings 19** – deliverance of Judah. Assyrian army, which

What sword or battle, horse, or horsemen (*our strength*), **could not do**, God accomplish by His “mercy!”

Ephesians 2:1-5.

The **third** child - Lo-Ammi: “not My people.” (v.8-11).

“You are sons of the living God!”

(John 1:12) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

(v.11) “Then” – Israel will be united under “one head.”

“One head” possibly refers to Christ! **(Ephesians 4:15) “...but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ.”**

In Christ we are not fatherless!

(Romans 8:15-16) For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

CONCLUSION:

GOMER: complete. HOSEA: salvation.

Communion: “mercy was personified,” on the cross!