

Nov 27th 2005: OT review: HOSEA: Chapter 14: The Overcoming Love Of God

To properly understand....book Hosea.....Need to place...in his spot in history of...
And straightaway.....find ourselves backtracking through the centuries....2 separate...

For Hosea was God's prophet of coming judgment to the Northern Kingdom
from the time of her prosperity under Jeroboam 2nd ...to her destruction by Assyria 722BC

.....**After Solomon**... kingdom split.....Israel and Judah
Israel very quickly went after other gods...
(selling themselves to gods made them feel good)....and never had a god fearing king

Judah was rescued from such continuous wickedness.....by several good kings....

Consequently Israel was destroyed.....her people taken into exile by Assyria....in 722
Judah with Jerusalem....cried out to the Lord.....and were rescued
But eventually their wickedness led to their downfall.....**Babylonians in 586** (136yrs)

Hosea then.....is God's prophet of doom and judgment...to a people that had forsaken..
His words are mainly aimed at the Northern Kingdom of.....Also calls Ephraim

In his book Hosea speaks for God.....and He explains why God is so angry.....
He describes again and again....**specific** sins of this nation
Being the worship of every other god but.....And running to ancient enemies for help

He also explains what God is about to do.....Hand them over to their enemies....
And why He must do so

**For some examples of this turn with me to chapter 4.....1-3....6-9.....
5:3-7.....9.....**

*In chapter 6 Hosea exposes a feeling in Israel.....That God was a softie
All they had to do was say the right words.....and he would come running to forgive*

But God knows the real state of your heart says Hosea....What God says→v4...

**In 7:8 Hosea explains→ v8—11..... Then in 8:5-6.....And in v9.....
Then look at 10:5-7.....**

**Chapter 11: especially shows us not only the unfaithfulness of
But also the painful impact....had upon the heart of God.....11:1-4.....**

**It is this insight into the hurting heart.....that makes Hosea a unique prophetic book
This book more than any other.....shows God heartbroken over the rejection of Him by
→Yet refusing to give up on them...He pursues...thru judgment....so that...may return**

THE WAY THIS IS DONE.....IS WHAT MAKES THE BOOK OF HOSEA UNIQUE

**For in it.....Hosea's personal life.....His marriage.....His family
is exposed to the Nation...As a living illustration of how their behav was seen by God
And how God would now act towards them.....and why**

God conveys to us His emotional reaction to sin and rejection

In a way that we can understand

Through the personal pain of one of His servants.....Hosea

*(Several years ago.....Roger.....stunned.....betrayed....angry...heartbroken...
feel so angry at times could kill...but I know...that if she came back.....)*

**Since then I have shared with many husbands.....Not the usual reaction
But it is the way Hosea felt.....and that is why God chose to portray His love thru....**

In 2:2-3 we read.....At first it seems strange that.....

But in fact the Hebrew expression used here.....a woman in whom dwells the spirit...

What seems to have happened.....Is that Hosea married Gomer...

And together they had three children

Children that Hosea named as the Lord directed...with names that expressed a meaning

So v4..... Then v6..... Then v8.....

It was sometime after this....that Gomer deserted her husband and family
She became a cult prostitute.....Offering herself in the Temples of the Baals
Owned body and soul by the priests who used her

Suddenly Hosea.....Prophet of God.....was humiliated amongst the people
He had loved Gomer.....Yet she had passed him over.....for the vilest life.....
How could he....a man of God.....**now** continued to show his love
By the laws of Moses.....he must separate himself from her

Then in chapter 3God not only gives him permission.....but sends him forth to..
He buys her backand because she is not trustworthy.....he isolates her....until
.....once again.....she is willing to accept his love

And Hosea's life....open and vulnerable.....**Becomes** for the people....A Picture
Of the heart of their God

God's people had treated Him....just as badly....worst...than Gomer had.....
But He could not give them up either

Instead He too would use the coming judgment.....**to constrain** them for a time
In order that they too would return....into His loving embrace
So 14:1 says 1-2.....and the Lord replies in v4-6.....

Our God does not change.....He still feels the hurt of the sin and rejection....
of those He has made.....**Yet rather** than visit the world with judgment...
He chose to take it upon Himself.....**Because He** could not give us up either

His love for you and me is overwhelming...*(In an effort to make it real...Lucado tells)*
This morning...thro this book....God reveals again to us the Passion of His love
So that we who have received it....Praise & glorify....But also...

