

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

Hosea was commanded by the LORD to take to himself a wife who was a known harlot and to make provision for her, which he faithfully did. Yet this woman, Gomer, continued to prostitute herself and take many lovers, even considering that it was them who made provision for her. *“For she said, I will go after my lovers, that give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink.”*

Little did she know that the husband whom she disrespected and had no regard for was in reality that one who continually, (even in her unfaithfulness); saw that her needs were met. *“For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal.”* The LORD here is using Hosea, as typical of HIS provision for the whorish nation of Israel.

By all rights the LORD should have cast off the nation of Israel, numerous times, yet in order to show HIS everlasting love for the True Israel of GOD, HE extended to her great overtures of kindness and mercy, even though she had no appreciation for it, even attributing HIS demonstrations of goodness to her, to her many “lovers”. Gomer is an illustration of the bride of CHRIST who has willingly sold herself into bondage and lain with many lovers. She has often disregarded HIS many overtures of kindness and knowingly disrespected HIM. She is estranged from HIM not because HE rejects her in any wise, but because she has become an enemy in her own mind by wicked works. Thus, HE has come once in the end of the age to reconcile her unto HIMSELF.

We see Hosea going to the slave auction to buy back his own wife for fifteen pieces of silver and one and about a gallon of barley. Barley was considered one of the poorer grains and its value far less than wheat. So, we see that she was of no worth and none looked upon her favorably or was willing to pay for her deliverance, but Hosea. In this consideration I am reminded of the LORD’s words to Ezekiel, concerning HIS regard for HIS remnant, *“Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite. And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born. And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live.”*

As Hosea loved Gomer and valued her life in spite of her great wickedness and rebellion against him, so too has the LORD loved HIS bride from the beginning and has never ceased to provide for her even to the laying down of HIS own life for her. She has no worth of her own, she has no covering nor provision except that which HE in HIS mercy has gladly supplied. In like fashion has CHRIST paid a price to redeem HIS bride from bondage and in so doing has set forth the means whereby she might be reconciled unto HIM. For HIS own part HE has never been un-reconciled unto her and has always seen her as “perfect and complete” but has now made provision that she might throw down her arms of rebellion and be reconciled in her own mind unto HIM. Thus, HE has purchased her redemption, not simply from the condemnation of the law which she despised but by this same purchase has made her to love HIM. For in the same blood with which HE has justified her, HE does give her guilty conscience rest and binds her unto HIMSELF with cords of love.

So, could it be possible that the GOD of Heaven and Earth, should fail to possess that which HE paid for with HIS own blood on Calvary’s cross? *“He shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: From whence this fear and unbelief? Hast thou, O Father, put to grief*

Thy spotless Son for me? And will the righteous Judge of men
 Condemn me for that debt of sin Which, Lord, was charged on thee?
 Complete atonement thou hast made, And to the utmost farthing paid
 Whate’er thy people owed; How then can wrath on me take place,
 If sheltered in thy righteousness, And sprinkled with thy blood?
 If thou hast my discharge procured, And freely in my room endured
 The whole of wrath divine, Payment God cannot twice demand,
 First at my bleeding Surety’s hand, And then again at mine.
 Turn, then, my soul, unto thy rest; The merits of thy great High Priest
 Speak peace and liberty; Trust in his efficacious blood,

Nor fear thy banishment from God, Since Jesus died for thee. *“Thy free grace alone,”#11If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthepoor@windstream.net*