

HOSEA, A TYPE OF CHRIST

HOSEA 1:1-2 • TV144B

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Hosea 1:1-2

“The word of the LORD that came unto Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel. The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.”

I want to give you just a moment to find the little **Book of Hosea** in the Old Testament. I am going to be speaking to you in just a few moments on the subject: **“HOSEA, A TYPE OF JESUS CHRIST.”**

I won't say that this is going to be the most unusual sermon you have ever heard but I will say this, this is going to be a different message. I would like for you to listen to it carefully, all the way through: **“HOSEA, A TYPE OF JESUS CHRIST.”**

Now, there are very few sermons preached from the **Book of Hosea**. Most of you have never heard a sermon from the **Book of Hosea**.

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But, this is really surprising because the name Hosea, means deliverer; that's what the name means, deliverer or salvation.

The word Hosea is very similar to the Old Testament word Joshua and the New Testament name Jesus; that's right. Hosea means deliverer and means salvation.

I will tell you; Hosea was given this name, because he like Joshua is a beautiful type of Jesus Christ our Lord. His writings, though difficult at times to understand, are filled with grace and love.

I believe that I can give you in this half hour program a key to the **Book of Hosea**. Find the little **Book of Hosea** and look at it with me, will you?

First of all: I am going to read from **Hosea chapter 1:2**. Read it with me. *“And the Lord said to Hosea; go take unto thee a wife of whoredom and the children of whoredom.”* In other words, God came to his prophet Hosea, to this preacher, and said to him; “go down to a country, down to a tribe of people whose common practice is prostitution; that's a way of life for these people; *you go down* there and pick out a woman and love her and enter into a covenant with her and marry her.” That's exactly what he said in **Hosea 1:2**: *“go and love her. Go take unto thee a wife of prostitution, down in the land of whoredom.”*

That's a strange and a mysterious command; that's a mysterious command, but my friend:

**“Our God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform
He plants his footsteps on the sea
And he rides upon the storm.**

**Judge not the Lord by feeble sense
But trust him for his grace
Behind a frowning providence
God hides a smiling face.**

**His purposes will ripen fast
Unfolding every hour
The bud may have a bitter taste
But sweet will be the flower.”**

When God told Hosea to go down into the land of prostitution and marry a harlot, I know it shocked him. I know that it was a mysterious and strange command.

Our Lord has a divine purpose in everything that he does. His providence and his purpose will work together for his glory and for our good. I know that God is the first cause of all things.

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Even though we know that, even though we know that God is the first cause of all things and that “*all things work together for good to them that love God*” and everything that God commands us to do or permits to happen in our life is for our good and his glory.

Still, human nature asks why, why? Why would God command a prophet to marry a prostitute? Why would God command one of his preachers to marry a harlot, why? Human nature wants to know why.

Well, I know that Moses wondered why he was kept on the backside of that desert for 40 years. He was all set to lead Israel out of Egypt when he was 40 years old.

He became a judge between the people of Israel. He was all set. He said: “I’m going to deliver you folks out of this place.” Then, he killed an Egyptian and God took him out there to the backside of the desert and kept him until he was 80 years old. Don’t you know that he wondered why?

Then, there is Joseph. Don’t you know that Joseph wondered why that he should be sitting down in Egypt in a prison while his evil brothers were at home enjoying the love and blessings of their father.

Don’t you know that Job wondered why all of his family and possessions were swept away? They were, just in a moment. He had nothing. I know he wondered why.

John Bunyan, the great preacher and writer of *Pilgrim’s Progress*; don’t you know that he wondered why he was in prison for 12 years instead of out preaching the Gospel that he loved?

Charles Spurgeon, who was one of God’s greatest preachers back in the 19th Century spent 30 years of his life sick, out of his pulpit three, four, and five months at a time, why, why? “God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform.”

Well, let me give you the reason. God gives us the reason here in **Hosea chapter 3:1**. Look at **chapter 3:1**; here is the reason God commanded Hosea to marry a prostitute. Here’s the reason why God sent Hosea down into the land of whoredom to pick out a wife and to love her and to enter into a covenant relationship with her:

Listen to **Hosea 3:1**: “*Then said the Lord to me; go yet, (no matter what she’s done or what she is); go yet; love a woman, an adulteress, according to the love of the Lord toward the children of Israel who look to other gods.*”

Here’s a man who was told to marry and love and live with a woman who loved other people who gave herself to other people, who did not love him.

God says: “What I am teaching you Hosea is this; this is what I am teaching: I am saying that you are a type of Christ. You are a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ who loves sinners (who didn’t love Him). You are a picture of Him who loved the people (who didn’t love Him, but looked to and served other gods, who gave themselves to other gods, and had no need for Christ)”.

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“God commended his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Herein is love, not that we love God; he loved us and gave himself to be a propitiation for our sins. We love him because he first loved us.”

That’s the reason. You see; the Lord God in the Old Testament illustrates the redemption of Christ; all the way through the Old and New Testament. The Bible is all about Christ!

From the very first pages of the Old Testament you have Christ in promise. Later on you have Christ in prophecy. Later on you have Christ in picture. Then, in the New Testament you have Christ in person.

When God came to this faithful man Hosea (who was unmarried) and told him to go take a wife, He said: “When you take a wife, don’t pick out the finest, fairest, lady in the land: You go down to the skid-row; you go down to the red-light district, down to a tribe of evil people and pick you out a harlot and marry her and love her. Then you will see my love for sinners. Then you will show my love for sinners.”

Well, let’s cover four or five points. I told you that it would be an unusual sermon, different anyway!

First of all: Hosea chose a bride from one of the most sinful people of his day! He went down among a vile race, a most sinful tribe, and he took a young lady named Gomer (that was the girl’s name who was to be his bride).

He entered into a covenant relationship with her. Marriage is a covenant. When a couple stands before a preacher they promise that in the sight of God and assembled witnesses that they will be this, that, and the other, to one another; it’s a covenant.

Hosea went down to the land of whoredom and picked out a young lady named Gomer and entered a covenant relationship with her. He chose her to be his bride. What is this showing? God chose His bride from among fallen sinners.

It says: *“The Lord hath chosen the foolish to confound the wise. God hath chosen the weak to bring to naught the strong. God hath chosen the base; the despised hath God chosen that no flesh should glory in his presence.”*

Romans 5:8 says: *“God commended his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. When we were enemies, enemies, (enemies of holiness, enemies of truth, and enemies of light), we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son.”*

Gomer didn’t deserve this love and we didn’t either. Gomer didn’t deserve this mercy of Hosea and we didn’t deserve God’s love and mercy. Gomer didn’t love Hosea; she didn’t love him but he loved her.

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You see; God's love to us is not based on our loveliness, on what we deserve; God's love for us is based on His mercy!

Hosea's love for Gomer was not because she was lovely, not because she was pure, not because she was holy, but because he loved her, not for any good in us, not for any foreseen merit; the covenant of mercy is just that, a covenant of mercy.

When our Lord came into this world, the angel who announced his birth said: "*call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins.*"

The Son of man said: "*I have come to seek and to save the lost.*"

Paul said: "*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*"

This is why He came into the world, to seek and to save the lost, to die for sinners.

Secondly: Hosea chose his bride from among an evil people!

He chose an evil girl and he entered into a covenant relationship with her but even after he made this covenant and fulfilled this marriage, she followed the ways of her people.

She didn't adopt his ways. She didn't go his way; she went the way of her people. Listen to what Hosea says after they were married and after a few children came along: **Hosea 2:5**, "*your mother, (my wife), has played the harlot.*"

Gomer was from a people of prostitution. That was the way she was raised. That was the way she was taught, "*A land of whoredom,*" the Scripture says. She was an evil person from an evil tribe and an evil people.

Even though she was loved by Hosea and was chosen by Hosea and married to Hosea, when she became of age she walked the ways of her people. She walked the way that she was raised. She followed the behavioral pattern that was in her from a little girl, what she had lived with, what she had been taught, and what she was used to.

Let me apply that now: though God loved us from the foundation of the world, He said: *I have loved you with an everlasting love. Christ was the lamb slain before the foundation of the world.*"

Paul said this about the Lord God: "*God who separated me from my mother's womb and chose me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me.*"

Although God chose Saul of Tarsus, for 40 years Saul of Tarsus followed his race, he followed his nature, his nature of evil, lust, sin, hatred, bigotry, prejudice, ceremonialism, and all of this corruption.

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You see, even though Hosea had chosen Gomer and loved her and made her his own, she followed the way that she wanted to go; she followed the ways of her people.

That's what we do, all of us do. **Psalm 58** says: *"We come into the world speaking lies. The wicked are estranged from the womb."*

They are born of sinful parents; we are born of evil parents. We come forth and sin is natural to us, just like this was natural to Gomer. That's a way of life with her.

"The heart is deceitful, desperately wicked, who can know it? From the sole of the feet to the top of the head, there is no soundness, nothing but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores. In sin my mother conceived me." It's our nature.

When she went home with Hosea she followed her nature. She walked the path of evil because she was of an evil people. We walk the path of evil because we are an evil people.

The Scripture says: *"She went after her lovers and forgot me, saith the Lord. Israel followed her sins and forgot me saith the Lord."* Paul said in **Ephesians 2**: *"We walked according to the course of this world;"* we are of the world by nature, by birth, and by practice; we are people of the world.

We are born in this world. We are born of worldly parents and *"we walk according to the course of the world. We fulfill the lust of our flesh and the lust of our mind, and we were by nature the children of wrath even as others."*

Do you have the picture? Hosea is the deliverer, salvation, a type of Christ. He loved a woman that he found in whoredom and though he loved her and though he made her his own and though he entered a relationship, a covenant relationship with her, she walked the ways she was used to, she went the way she loved. She went the way of life that she was taught and that's what we do.

But, Hosea provided for her even in her sin. Look at **Hosea 2:8**. He is talking about her here. She left him, she left him and she set up her own room somewhere where she entertained her lovers. He said in **Hosea 2:8**: *"She didn't know; I gave her corn, wine and oil. I multiplied her silver and gold."*

Evidently he would go down there at some time and leave it by the front door of her place. He would leave her corn and wine and something to eat and drink. He would leave oil. He would leave silver and gold.

All this time Gomer was saying: *"my lovers are taking care of me."* She was praising them for giving her the things that she wanted and the things that she needed. She didn't know that all this time that Hosea was the one who was providing everything that she needed. They weren't giving her anything but a miserable time.

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Oh how the Lord takes care of his people, how he takes care of his own, even in the days of their sin, even in the days of their evil, even in the days of their rebellion, even in the days of their terrible sins, even in the days when they did not love him, He provided for us and He protected us.

“He gave his angels charge lest we dash our feet against a stone, angels (guardian angels) sent to be the ministers of those who will be the heirs of salvation.” He leads our steps and keeps us from harm.

Yes sir; old Saul of Tarsus, how he hated the name of Christ, how he hated the people that believed on Christ but he was one of God’s own, chosen by grace, loved by God, and redeemed by Christ.

But even on his road of rebellion, God took care of him and God wouldn’t let anything happen to him. God clothed him and God fed him and God gave him breath to breathe and eyes to see and ears to hear and legs to walk.

All the time we praise ourselves. We are self-made men. We take credit for our good fortune or we praise others for our good fortune but it is God who gives everything: *“every good and perfect gift cometh from above.”*

“A man can receive nothing except it be given him from heaven.” God gives us everything fit to eat and fit to wear and fit to love; it’s all a gift of God.

The song writer put it this way:

**“In shady green pastures
So rich and so sweet
God leads his dear children along,**

**Where the waters true flow
Bathes the weary one’s feet
God leads his children along,**

**Some through the waters
Some through the flood
Some through the fire
But all through the blood,**

**Some through great sorrow
But God gives a song
In the night season
And all the day long.”**

God provides; God protects, and God’s providence watches over his own. All this time that Gomer was living away from home and was violating her covenant relationship and sinning against this man that loved her, he loved her, took care of her, watched over her, and provided for her.

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That's a picture of God's grace and mercy; that is prevenient grace, restraining grace, supplying grace and sufficient grace, God's love.

The story has not ended; thank God it's not ended. One day Hosea's wife Gomer came to herself. She was brought down in humiliation; she was brought down. This is what God will do to every one of his children.

They may be raised high and mighty. They may fly higher than a kite. They may be without trouble or sorrow. They may be self-made men but if God has His hand on them, He is going to bring them down.

You see, a man never partakes of grace until he tastes guilt. A man will never be found until he is lost. A man will never be saved until he is a sinner. So, God has got to bring us down. He has to bring us down to the end of ourselves, to the end of our rope. In **Psalm 107** it says: *"to our wit's end."*

Listen to it in **Hosea 2:10**, God says: *"I will discover to her, her lewdness; I am going to open her eyes. I am going to show her what she is. I am going to discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers and nobody will deliver her out of my hand: I am going to cause her joy to cease. Her life is going to become a burden. Her sweetness will turn to bitterness. Her joy will turn to mourning. Her happiness will turn to sorrow. That which she once loved, she is going to hate."*

God stripped her and He broke her and He humbled her and He made her life a heavy bitterness, a heavy toil, a heavy bondage and He brought her down to where she was sorry and broken and wanted to go home.

She wanted to be free from this awful, awful, evil and sinful life. She wanted to be rid of it. God brought her down. This is Holy Spirit conviction of sin. God who chooses us and permits us to walk our way, *"all we like sheep have gone astray; we've turned everyone to his own way."*

There will come a time when you will hate your way. When you hate your way, which you once loved, when you won't want your way, you will want God's way. You will come to see that your way is the way of destruction.

You will hate your thoughts, you will hate your ways, you will hate your words, and you will *"abhor yourself."* That's what Job said: *"I see you Lord, now I hate myself."*

This is what Isaiah said: *"I have seen the Lord, woe is me. I am a man of unclean lips."* Though God chose us and permitted us to go our way and provided for us and loved us while we were in our own way, one day by Holy Spirit conviction, like the Prodigal Son who came to himself and said, "What am I doing here? What am I doing sitting on a pig pen railing? What am I doing eating corn husks? What am I doing getting the juice out of a corn cob when in my father's house, even the servants eat better than this. What am I doing here?" He hadn't thought of that before but he came to himself.

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God brought Hosea's wife down. My friend, you can't taste of grace until you taste and are weary of sin. You can't flee to Christ until you are convinced of your guilt.

I know that human nature compared to human nature doesn't look too bad. Human nature seen in the light of God's holiness is rottenness, hell itself and exceeding sinful. So, Gomer was brought down, low, broken, sorrowful, and mourning.

But, you might say, "Why didn't she go home?" She couldn't; she belonged to somebody else. She belonged to a slave master. She had sold her soul and she had sold her body. She was in bondage to a fallen system. She had sold herself. Now she was a slave; she wasn't free to go. Somebody else owned her.

God says there in to Hosea in **Hosea 3: verse 1**: "*go yet, and love a woman, an adulteress, according to the love of God, toward the children of Israel who look to other gods.*" So, Hosea said in **Hosea 3: verse 2** "*I bought her.*"

Here she is; her loveliness has turned to shame and humiliation. Her joy and laughter have turned to bitterness and tears. There she is standing on the slave block. She is for sale now, probably stripped to the laughter and gaze of the multitude out there.

The people are bidding for her. They are offering different prices. They are going to buy her. People are going to offer for her and here comes a man right up in the middle of them.

Everybody turns around and sees him coming. Somebody says: "That's her husband; that's Hosea. He wouldn't want her back. Surely he wouldn't bid on her."

As the bidding starts; a man starts the bidding and Hosea raises him. Another man raises that one and Hosea raises him. As they raise him, he raises it higher, and someone turns to him and says: "Hasn't she brought you enough grief? Hasn't she brought enough shame upon you? Hasn't she caused you enough trouble? What do you want with her?"

He said: "I love her; she is my wife and I love her and I'm going to buy her. I will pay whatever I have to pay. I will pay whatever is required but I am going to stand here until I have the highest bid and I am going to buy that woman."

He looked up at her and loved her and the Scripture said; "*I bought her to me of fifteen pieces of silver.*" He paid the price of a slave; he paid heavily but he bought her back, he bought her back.

When she came down off that block, when he had paid to the man what he had promised to pay, he put his arms around her and he said in **Hosea 3:3**: "*thou art mine now and thou shall never leave me. Thou shall not leave for another. Thou shall abide with me for many days,*" and he took her home.

Do you know what I see there? I see, my friend that I have sinned, though God chose His people, and though He loved them, and though He entered into a covenant, He said: "I entered into a covenant

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with you, an everlasting covenant, a covenant of mercy and grace and you became mine, you were mine.”

He said to Jeremiah: *“Before I formed you in the belly I knew you. Before you came out of your mother’s womb I sanctified you and ordained you; you are mine.”* I set you apart.

We walked our own way and we became obligated, we became enslaved, we became a captive of the law, the holy law and justice of God almighty. Justice and the law had us in chains and had us in slavery and we were on the block and Christ Jesus said:

“I love them; I love my people. I love them with an everlasting love. Having loved His own He loved them even to the death of the cross. I will buy them, whatever the law requires; whatever justice demands, whatever the wrath of God has against my people, I will pay every jot and every tittle. I will pay every cent and every dollar.”

Our Lord Jesus Christ paid it too; He paid it. He went to the cross of Calvary and there He shed His blood. There He bore our sins and sicknesses and sorrows and our diseases, our sins and our transgressions, and our iniquities *“and by his stripes we were healed.”*

We are bought with a price and what a price it is. Hosea didn’t pay anything for Gomer compared to what my Lord paid for me, but He bought me. I came down off that slave block, and you talk about loving somebody, the Scripture says: *“to whom much is forgiven, they will love much.”*

I want you to just imagine; you know how Hosea loved Gomer; can’t you imagine how from that moment on she loved him? Can’t you imagine? She says: “I will never leave you.”

Anybody who loves me like that and is willing to pay the price and bare the shame; her shame was great but his shame was greater to take her back, to love her still.

I will tell you this, my shame was great, but my Lord’s shame was greater because sin to Him is so much more shameful than to me. He bore all my shame and He put His arm around me and He said, “You are not going away you are mine and I bought you; I redeemed you and you are mine. I chose you, I loved you and I bought you. You are twice mine. I made you and I redeemed you and you are going to be with me forever.”

He said to his disciples: *“I go to prepare a place for you. If I go to prepare a place for you I am coming back to get you and coming back for you that where I am you may be also.”*

My friend; you can talk about in grace and out of grace and falling from grace and losing grace all you want to but when my Lord sets His affection on an object of His love He is going to have him, He is going to have him.

Whatever it costs, He is going to have him. If you are one of His He will have you; He will buy you and you will love Him forever!

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