
HOSEA 3:1-5

1 ¶ Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine. God is telling Hosea that remember, God told Hosea to marry a harlot, they have 3 children, then she leaves Hosea for another man who gives her the finer things in life (she's a high-maintenance chick). After a period of time, God tells Hosea to go take her back. Remember, Hosea represents God and the harlot represents Israel. Israel has fallen out of fellowship with God and God wants her back even though she's left Him for the finer things in life, gone after other gods and have dishonored Him. "Flagons of wine" should be "cakes of raisins" in the Hebrew. These were special cakes made as offerings to the false gods. God does things in His own way, in His own time, and with His own means. We are not to question Him; just accept and believe.

2 So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley: notice the price he pays; it's less than the price of a slave. Slaves cost 30 pieces of silver. Barley was used to feed slaves and animals. This guy she's living with thinks this is a great deal.

3 And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee. Here are the conditions Hosea tells her that she has to live under: you will stop worshipping false gods, you will stop running to other men. He's telling her he bought her for less than the price of a slave – that's how much that guy thought of her. You will not be for any man, not even me in the husband-wife way. She has to be celibate. Again, this is a picture of Israel. She's not being treated as a wife.


4 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim: Israel is going to abide many days without a king-they have no ruler, without a prince-there is no royalty, without a sacrifice-the temple was destroyed by the Romans, without an image-they don't have the arc of the covenant or any things that were in the temple, without an ephod-the ephod was a jacket that the high priest wore, and it had 2 onyx stones with 6 tribes of Israel inscribed on each stone, making up the 12 tribes. There were also 2 stones called lights and perfection. The high priest would go to God and ask a question and interpret the answer thru the reaction of these 2 stones. It's interesting that God would use this type of communication system, but He did. Without a teraphim-these were little gods, statues, that the Israelites kept in their houses.

5 Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days. The children of Israel will return after the tribulation period. Hosea is speaking of future time of what will happen to the nation of Israel. May 14, 1948 is when the nation of Israel was reborn after not being a nation for over 2700 years. Two-thirds of them will die before the end of the tribulation period, according to the

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book of Zechariah. The Jewish people that survive the tribulation period will call on God. They will be the ruling nation of the world with Jesus Christ as the ruler. All the people on earth will fear and respect Him and peace will reign on earth.