

## The Second Best Story in the Bible – Hosea 1

Everyone loves a good story! But what makes for a good story?

- A relatable hero, - A compelling conflict, - An engaging plot
- A triumphal victory, - A lasting impact/legacy

The greatest story ever told is the story of Jesus – His birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension and coming return!

- Jesus was/is a relatable hero!
- Sin/death present a compelling adversary & conflict!
- Jesus' earthly life, given to defeat those enemies, is an engaging plot!
- Jesus' death & resurrection is the greatest triumphal victory in history!
- The legacy & impact of Jesus' victory is eternal!

There is no greater story, no greater truth, no greater hope than that which we receive in the person of Jesus & in what He accomplished on our behalf!

But there is another story, that precedes the story of Jesus, that serves as a foreshadowing of the greatest story ever told - & that's the story of Hosea!

Hosea was a prophet of God during the time of the divided kingdom of Israel. He was called to deliver the message of God to the people of God!

The message he was to bring to Israel, was not to be simply spoken with words, but was to be lived out, for all to see in the lives of 5 people!

- Hosea - the husband, Gomer - the wife, Jezreel – the 1<sup>st</sup> son, Lo-Ruhama - the daughter, & Lo-Ammi – the 2<sup>nd</sup> son.

Vs. 2 - "When the Lord spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea..."  
"Go take to yourself a wife of whoredom & have children of whoredom..."

Why would God have Hosea, a man of God, take for his wife a prostitute?  
– "for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord!"

God must have thought that His message would have a greater impact if it was experienced through an example instead of heard through a sermon!  
Vs. 3 – "So he (Hosea) went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim..."

Was Gomer a prostitute before she married Hosea or after?

All we know for sure is that she was a depiction of Israel & their infidelity!

Israel was the bride & God was the groom, but Israel was worshipping other gods, and playing the prostitute instead of keeping her covenantal vows!

God wanted Israel to see how wrong their actions had been, and so the spokesman for God (the prophet, the pastor) took for himself such a bride.

God also wanted Israel to see what their infidelity would produce, so He causes Gomer to conceive & bear children.

Vs. 3 "& Gomer conceived & bore him (Hosea) a son. And the Lord said to him, 'Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, & I will put an end to the house of Israel.'"

Why would God want Hosea to name his first born such a name? As a warning to Israel of how their adultery has bore for themselves a coming destruction!

Vs. 6 – "Gomer conceived again and bore a daughter..." This may be a sign of Gomer's (and Israel's) continued infidelity – Hosea is not mentioned here as the father! It could just be omitted from the text, or it may be that from Hosea's perspective, he may not have been sure who the father truly was!

"And the Lord said to him, 'Call her name Lo-Ruhama - 'No mercy,' for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all."

Again, a name that communicates the penalty for Israel playing the whore!

God's covenant relationship w/ Israel was established w/ blessings & curses!  
The privileges/blessings could be removed temporarily & replaced w/ curses.

But still no change in Gomer/Israel, "When Gomer had weaned 'No Mercy,' she conceived and bore a son. And the Lord said, 'Call his name Lo-Ammi - Not My People,' for you are not my people, & I am not your God."

Now God was not about to break His own covenant vow, but if Israel continued in their sin, it would prove that they never were of "My People"!  
Romans 9:6, Matthew 7:21.

Just as it was possible that Lo-Ruhama & Lo-Ammi were not Hosea's true children, it was possible that those in Israel were not God's true children.

Where is the good news? Where is the evidence of this story being the second best story in all of the Bible? It begins in Hosea 1:10-11

What is scattered, He will plant & multiply! Where promises are forgotten they will be upheld by God! Where sin reigned, grace & love will triumph!

The day that Hosea's prophecy is declaring is the coming day of Jesus Christ!

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