

# 1 HOSEA AND MODERN TIMES - 1997 ELM

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

The Minor Prophets, only called 'minor' because of their length, not because of their content, as the prophecies in them are most important, had prophetic relevance when written, but also particularly for the "end time" leading up to the return of Jesus Christ.

The first seven of the twelve Minor Prophets, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, and Nahum were written during the Assyrian period, 8<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> century B.C. The next two, Habakkuk and Zephaniah were written during the Babylonian period 6<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> B.C. The last three, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi were written in the post-Babylonian era.

The book of Hosea was written 8-7<sup>th</sup> Century before Christ. It is the first of the twelve 'minor' prophets,

The twelve Minor Prophets, (and there are of course twelve tribes of Israel) are all really mainly addressed to Ephraim and the Northern tribes of Israel, although Judah and the other tribes who lived in the Jerusalem area, and even all the Gentile nations are also included.

All nations are also included in these prophecies because of their being infected with false religions, false ministers, who might appear to be 'godly', as many people who call themselves Christians or Jews do, but who are in fact riddled with pagan ideas and practices.

The Bible chronicles the virtually continuous rebellious idolatry of all humankind from Adam and Eve to this day and until the return of Jesus Christ in the face of God's love and His desire that His sheep will enjoy the benefits of a close relationship with their Creator.

Even the most religious of people whether Jews or Christians, think they are doing right, but God has closed their eyes and their ears, and they do not realize that they are totally deceived in their beliefs and practices and get resentful and hostile if challenged about them.

Although God has made it difficult for them to understand the One True God and His message, He still holds human beings, His children,

responsible for not being faithful to Him, as difficult a theology as that might be to accept. It requires faith and trust that only God can provide, but provide it He does to those he calls now.

And so the majority will never receive the blessings they have been promised since time immemorial until they abandon their 'whoredoms' and return to the worship of the True God, and this will not happen until the final chapters of this era, just before the return of Christ.

In chapter 1, Hosea is ordered to marry a prostitute whose name is Gomer, who is a Gentile from Japheth with Gentile proclivities. His wife, who is a type of all Israel, is keeping the worst idolatrous practices of the Gentiles which is a form of 'unfaithfulness'. As a result, Hosea will divorce her, but eventually he will have her back as his wife.

God is righteous and Holy, but He said, "Take a wife of whoredoms, because Israel has, and is committing whoredom. He can use His laws as He thinks fit to achieve His purposes. This also requires faith.

This is the theme of the problem of Israel throughout the Minor Prophets, that Israel's and Judah's going after Baal, deserting God, (and even the Gentile's worship of anything before God), but will eventually come back to their 'husband' which is Christ. Because of their unfaithfulness to God, He will 'divorce' them, and only after they have learned their lesson, will God take them back as His people.

Geographically, in Palestine, Jerusalem was located in an area where the mountain ridges were North/South orientation. Once above Jerusalem, the mountain ridges become East/West and so were not as protected as was Jerusalem. Israel was surrounded by peoples who were worshipping Baalam or Baal. All the tribes were to some degree, keeping her feasts, her days, and had easy access to their practices.

Israel tribes, including Judah, were prone to be very affected by the Gentiles they lived amongst, who further complicated the problem by divorcing their legal wives, and marrying Gentile women which was forbidden by God's law.

Baal actually meant 'Lord' of 'husband'. God got upset being called 'Lord' when His people, his 'wife' were being unfaithful to Him, and told Israel to stop using the word 'Lord' to refer to the worship of Yahweh. Interesting that Jesus said, "woe unto you who call me 'Lord, Lord' but do not the things that I say."

Israel were to be 'scattered', and were never to become mighty nations until they eventually returned to the country of Palestine, and be faithful to their God.

The events pictured here actually happened at the time of the writing of the prophecies, but they are only a type of a greater series of fulfillment at the 'time of the end.'

Hosea was told to marry a whore. Hosea in marrying Gomer, was like God marrying Israel, who had in effect, by their spiritual 'fornication' become a 'gentile' nation of whores who had left their husband.

God told Hosea to call his first son 'Jezreel' which means 'the scattered one'. So the word 'Jezreel' means 'whom God sows' or 'broadcasts' as in seeds. I will cause to cease Israel being a nation, and to be the diaspora (seed spreading).

Where is God going to 'sow' Israel? The 'diaspora' theme is consistent and constant. James, Peter, and Paul followed on with this theme in the New Testament.

The valley of Jezreel, northern part of area was Sea of Galilee, the Mount Carmel, verdant area, where the main place was Megiddo, the place of the future Armageddon.

Lu-Ruhamah – I will not more have mercy on Israel, I will save Judah, but not yet, that happened about 150 years later.

Verse 8 Lo-Ammi, not My people, a severe judgement against Israel, and theme is about Israel being scattered throughout the whole world. When Israel finally does return she will be a proper wife.

9, As the sand of the sea in number, they are scattered and continue in their Baalim practices to this day, but in the future, Israel will once again become, 'My people', relinquish their idolatry, repent, but this will not happen until the 'end time'.

## Chapter 2

Speaking for God, Hosea says tell her I am going to put her away, and I will not have mercy on them because they have behaved shamefully. They accepted money and stuff like whores do. Later when in the wilderness she

Gomer, (Israel) will be unhappy that things are not going too well for them, and when they finally realize why, they shall then seek for help, and return to their God.

B side.

As we saw in chapter one, God told Hosea to marry a whore, and have three children with specific names by her to illustrate what was going to happen to God's "wife" Israel.

The firstborn, Jezreel, a type of Israel (Gomer) was to be scattered as in broadcast seed, and that is exactly what has happened. And once she finds herself in the wilderness, she realizes that things are not so comfortable as they were, and that God is not blessing them as He had promised, but they cannot understand why!!

Hosea 2:1 Say ye unto your brethren, Ammi; and to your sisters, Ruhamah. 2 Plead with your mother, plead: for she is not my wife, neither am I her husband: let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts; 3 Lest I strip her naked, and set her as in the day that she was born, and make her as a wilderness, and set her like a dry land, and slay her with thirst. 4 And I will not have mercy upon her children; for they be the children of whoredoms. 5 For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: 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. 6 Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths.

Israel had been blessed by God, but they went off into all types of idolatry and forgot their relationship with God. They sacrificed, observed solstices, astrology, etc., and learned the ways of the heathen.

When we look at our society today, all forms of religion are riddled with paganism, heathen rites, the observation of all kinds of practices which have nothing at all really to do with the worship of the One True God described in the Bible.

Hosea 2:7 And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now. 8 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. 9 Therefore will

I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax given to cover her nakedness. 10 And now will I discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of mine hand. 11 I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts. 12 And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, whereof she hath said, "These are my rewards that my lovers have given me": and I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them. 13 And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the Lord.

She (Israel) wants to flirt with paganism and heathenism, and forget all about Me? Then she can have it! She can have all the Baalistic activities I will visit them upon her until she is drunk with them, all the xmas rituals, the easter rituals, all the church ritual services that people love to indulge in, and in reality they forget all about the real God. Oh yes, they sing carols and hymns, and talk about the "Little Lord Jesus" but it is all a nonsense, a counterfeit and a sham.

This entire scenario is still being played out today in our 21<sup>st</sup> Century world, and has spread to many of the Gentiles as well, and this is destined to continue right up to the time immediately before the return of Jesus Christ.

God will take her (Israel) back, and this is actually against His law Deut 24:1-4 not to take the 'woman' back after divorcing her, and God can use his law in any way He chooses for His wonderful purpose.

9:17 'A' is judgement, and 'B' is mercy, and this type and anti-type is repeated over and over again.

They shall be wanderers among the nations of the world. They are not going to become mighty nations, these are the ten tribes of Israel, they are not the US and GB as some think!

Amos 9:9 I will sift and sow Israel through all nations. This theme carries on in Zechariah 10:9 speaks of Ephraim being sown among the people, and they will turn again to me. Dia = through, spora-seeds, scattering seeds through the land all over the world's nations.

Israel were never destined to be great nations, but wanderers who would eventually want to return to their 'husband'. This tells of how Ephraim and

Judah will eventually come back together and be in Palestine, I will bring them out of Egypt, Assyria, not out of the U.S., or GB. They will settle in Gilead, Lebanon etc., i.e. in Palestine, and this began to happen in type as soon as the nation of 'Israel' was set up in 1948, and continues to this day.

James' epistle is written to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad. He knew where the tribes of Israel were! This was in the hey-day of the beginning of Christianity. In the day of "Jezreel", the day of scattering, shades of Revelation here. Peter too, says, to the 'strangers' scattered Galatia, Pontus, Cappadocia, outside Palestine, and all nations of the world, even to India and China, and after 70 A.D. the Jews were also scattered.

The Apostle Paul says this in the 26<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts, before Agrippa, being allowed to speak for himself.... "Unto which our twelve tribes, who instantly (constantly) serving God and were looking forward to coming back to God. Verse 7, intelligent, from a University system, he had a great understanding of where the Israelite tribes were.

Israel, because of their whoredoms were 'lost' spiritually, but certainly not physically lost. The peoples of Biblical times clearly still knew where they were or the apostles would not have addressed their letters as they did.

Zechariah chapters 1-9 were written by him. The last chapters 10, 11, and 12, were written by Jeremiah and tacked onto the end of this book. As clear as day Israel are going to be brought back to the land,

Since 1948 when the nation of "Israel" was first formed, millions have returned to the land. All over the world there are people in synagogues who are part of the diaspora. Their hearts are wanting to return to the land of Canaan. In the latter days, they will accept God, and He will call them My Wife, and He will be their 'husband'.

Jezreel will find a conclusion. The valley of Esraeldron, (Jezreel) the armies will congregate in the valley for Armageddon.

These prophecies have never had their completion.

God is going to make a new contract with His people.

'A' and 'B', 'A' and 'B', over again.

I will heal their backsliding, I will heal them, because my

Cast forth their roots down like the cedars of Lebanon, and the beauty of the Olive trees, dwelling under God's shadow. Ephraim will soon give up the idols.