

# Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

## Hosea: Healed by Love

### Message 1: A Gospel Pageant

#### Hosea 1:1-11 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD that came to Hosea, the son of Beerī, 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. <sup>2</sup>When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD.”

<sup>3</sup>So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

<sup>4</sup>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, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. <sup>5</sup>And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”

<sup>6</sup>She conceived again and bore a daughter.

And the LORD said to him, “Call her name No Mercy (Lo-Ruhamah), for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all. <sup>7</sup>But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen.”

<sup>8</sup>When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son.

<sup>9</sup>And the LORD said, “Call his name Not My People (Lo-Ammi), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.” <sup>10</sup>Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, “You are not my people,” it shall be said to them, “Children of the living God.”

<sup>11</sup>And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

#### The story:

*“Hosea, I want you to marry a woman who is going to prove unfaithful to you but to whom you are nevertheless going to be faithful. You will love her, but she will disgrace your love. I am asking you to do this because we are to present a pageant to Israel by your marriage. It is going to be symbolic, an object lesson. You are going to play the part of God. The woman is going to play the part of my people. The reason she is going to run away and be unfaithful is that this is the way my people act in the spiritual marriage that I have established with them. You are going to be faithful, because I am faithful to Israel even though she dishonors my name.”*

The **overarching theme**? God’s \_\_\_\_\_ for His people.

## History or allegory?

Hosea's ministry spanned the time of \_\_\_ kings ... a period of \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Hosea lived at the time of \_\_\_\_\_ (who prophesied to Judah in the south) and of \_\_\_\_\_ (who visited the northern kingdom of Israel)

### A **snapshot** of the times:

The people were religiously active and 'devout', but their religion was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The true religion was \_\_\_\_\_.

Politically, they felt \_\_\_\_\_ and even \_\_\_\_\_.

But \_\_\_\_\_ was rampant, and \_\_\_\_\_ was forthcoming.

The great sin of the people was their \_\_\_\_\_ to God, in spite of His blessings and protection.

### Why we find Hosea so **hard to accept** as "real":

We struggle imagining God leading anyone into anything that doesn't " \_\_\_\_\_ " them or make them " \_\_\_\_\_ ".

God does not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ as we do.

God, however may be calling us into distress and difficulty because He ...

... Seeks his own \_\_\_\_\_ and not our \_\_\_\_\_

... Is \_\_\_\_\_ me something about His \_\_\_\_\_.

... Is giving me the opportunity to show his love and \_\_\_\_\_ in a hard situation.

... Is calling me to display the \_\_\_\_\_ in real life ways.

### The symbolism of the **names**:

Hosea:

Jezreel:

Lo-Ruhamah:

Lo-Ammi:

## What can we learn from Hosea and his family?

As we look in shock at Hosea's faithfulness to Gomer in spite of her gross unfaithfulness, we must be reminded that ...

We must learn what a horrible thing is our own spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ and how to return to Him who loves us.

From Jezreel:

Hosea is a story of God's steadfast love (*hesed*). One sometimes-forgotten aspect of God's love is His \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. He loves us too much to allow us to run from Him and be satisfied with the results!

From Lo-Ruhamah:

God is merciful. God is long-suffering. His love does endure forever. However, when we continue to sin without regard for God, He will \_\_\_\_\_ us to our sin so that we might suffer the consequences and \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

From Lo-Ammi:

The people of Israel were His people. They will be yet again. But now His people are those who become so by \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ. Those who claim such a relationship must make sure that they are – in fact – saved. (Rom. 11:17-18)

A promised **end**:

### **Hosea 2:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>Say to your brothers, "You are my people," and to your sisters, "You have received mercy."

*Next week:*

*Hosea: God's Grace and the Great Reversal*