God Speaks to a People at Ease

*Studies in Jonah, Amos, Hosea*

**Mercy is Shown**
Lesson 8
Hosea 1-3

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*
*October 23, 2016*
Hosea

- A dysfunctional marriage
- The Word of the LORD to Hosea (1-3)
- The Word of the LORD to the sons of Israel (4-14)
- Rejection for vile sin
- Restoration for no apparent reason
An Enigma

- Something mysterious, puzzling, hard to understand
- Rejection and Restoration
- Hosea 6:4-5 – “God’s dilemma”
- Hosea 11:8 (12) – wrath v. compassion
- Hosea 14:9 – wisdom and discernment needed
- The solution found in the ways and character of God
Hosea – Outline

- Hosea’s family (1-3) – a dysfunctional family
- Hosea’s four messages (4-14)
  • Hosea 4:1-6:3 – The case against Israel
  • Hosea 6:4-11:7 – Lament #1
  • Hosea 11:8-13:16 – Lament #2
  • Hosea 14:1-8 – The solution
- Hosea 14:9 – Epilogue – a word to the wise
People in Hosea

- Hosea – prophet, husband, father
- Gomer – prostitute, wife, mother
- Jezreel, Lo-ruhamah, Lo-ammi – children of Gomer
- The northern kingdom – Israel, Ephraim, Samaria
- The southern kingdom – Judah
- The combined kingdom – Israel, Jacob
Biblical Context

- Genesis 12:1-3 – promise of a Great Nation
- Romans 9:25-26 (Hosea 1:10) – Gentile salvation
- 1 Peter 2:10 (Hosea 1:10; 2:23) – a holy nation
- History or metaphor?
Lesson 1: Mercy is Shown

- Hosea’s marriage to a prostitute (1)
- God’s message to Hosea’s family (2)
  - Condemnation (2:1-13)
  - Mercy (2:14-23)
- Hosea’s wife restored (3)
The Prophet’s First Duty (1:2)

- Marry a prostitute
- Have children by the prostitute
- Interpretation: “the land commits flagrant prostitution, forsaking the LORD.”
- Isaiah 8:18, Ezekiel 16, 23 and Proverbs
Interpretation:
- Punishment for house of Jehu for bloodshed of Jehu
- Termination of the kingdom of the house of Israel

Jezreel
- Terminated Jezebel and Baal worship (2 Kings 9-10)
- Re-established religion of Jeroboam I
- They are Jezreelites and not Israelites

Fall of Israel to Assyria in 722 BC

Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:13-16)
Lo-ruhamah (1:6-7)

- Gomer conceived and bore a daughter . . .
- No more compassion; no more forgiveness to Israel
- Compassion – love to one in need
- Isaiah 54:6-8 – due to the loving-kindness of God
- Compassion for Judah
- Deliverance by the direct power of God (2 Kings 19:35)
Lo-ammi (1:8-11)

- Gomer conceived and bore a son . . .
- You are not my people and I am not your God
- Restoration promised – the enigma of Hosea
  - Genesis 12:2; 15:5-6; 22:17; 32:12 – “sand of the sea”
  - “You are the sons of the living God”
  - Judah and Israel united in one nation under one king
  - Go up from the land – to Jerusalem?
  - The great Day of Jezreel
Condemnation of Gomer (2:1-13)

- Ammi, Ruhamah – brothers, sisters
- Contend – find fault with or denounce “your mother”
- Wrath (2:3-13)
  - “She is not my wife and I am not her husband”
  - “I will make her like a wilderness”
  - “I will have no compassion on her children”
  - “I will hedge up her way with thorns”
  - “I will go back to my first husband”
  - “I will take back My grain . . .” (2:9-13)
  - “. . . she forgot Me”
Restoration of Gomer (2:14-23)

- A surprise turn of events: “allure . . . speak kindly . . .”
- Valley of Achor will become door of hope
- Restoration of relationship – Ishi, not Baali
- The “New Covenant”
- The character of God:
  - righteousness, justice
  - loving-kindness, compassion, faithfulness (truth)
- In that day . . . Jezreel (God sows)
- “You are My people.” “You are my God.”
The sovereign command of God
Hosea purchased Gomer – end of prostitution

Interpretation:
• Sons of Israel – many days without king or prince . . .
• Sons of Israel – will return
• Sons of Israel – will seek the LORD their God
• Sons of Israel – will seek David their king
• Sons of Israel – will tremble before God and His goodness

In the last days
Mercy is Shown

- Story of Hosea and Gomer – an unfinished story
- Hope is in the character of God
  - Righteousness, justice
  - Loving-kindness, compassion
  - Truth
- The glory of God – Isaiah 48:8-11