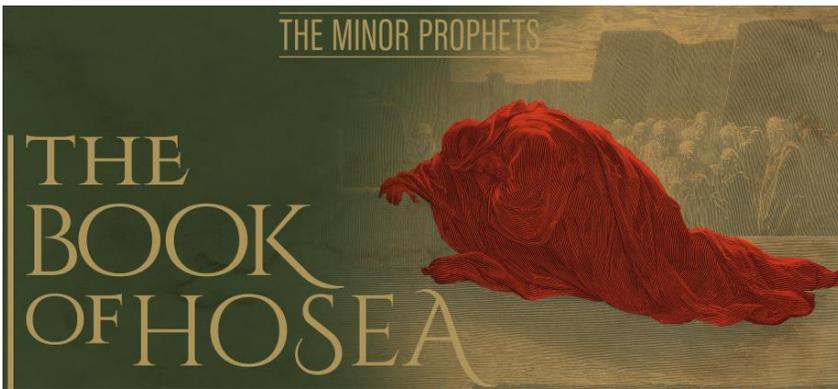


# HOSEA

## Faithful Love for the Unfaithful Lover

*A St. Paul's Lutheran Bible Study*



Gomer dressed up like a whore. She displayed her breasts in a way to communicate that she was 'for sale.' Furthermore, instead of depending on her faithful husband – Hosea – she instead lustfully gave her body up to other men. In the end, Gomer did not give credit to Hosea for providing for her needs, but instead, she showed reverence to her lovers for their provisions of bread, water, wool, flax, etc. Not only did Hosea forsake her husband sexually but also, she showed respect to her lovers for their provisions. Ouch!

Now, it is so very important to keep in mind that Gomer's prostitution was not done out of necessity – as if she needed a source of revenue/income. She had everything she needed through Hosea. Thus, her prostitution was a result of her 'pursuing' men – she literally 'hunted them down.' Gomer was not ignorant in her actions. She was not a victim. And so, this is the reason why Gomer's children were to rebuke their mother; this is why Hosea was going to discipline Gomer.

What is the parallel, though? Quite simply, the nation of Israel had gone the way of whoredom – worshipping Baal. Israel was seeking good things from pagan idols when the Lord God had already provided everything. Furthermore, the believers of Israel were to be like Gomer's children – they needed to call out Israel's unfaithfulness. Keep in mind that

### HOSEA 2:1-13

Author:

Hosea the Prophet

Date:

740-715 BC

Place:

Israel

Purpose:

Israel was like an unfaithful wife. She was attracted away from her husband (the Lord) to other lovers (idols). In the book of Hosea, the Lord calls Israel back to Himself. It is a call for Israel to forsake her unfaithfulness and be restored in the Lord's faithfulness.

Other:

Hosea is the most quoted book of the Minor Prophets in the New Testament.

Gomer's children were wrapped up with their mother. The sins of Israel (*Gomer*) leave a mark on every Israelite citizen (*children*).

What can we glean from this? *First*, it is important to keep in mind that a faithful church can become like unfaithful Gomer (*e.g., the churches in Galatia*). *Second*, Christ calls us to abide, keep, and stay put. The threat to us Christians is that we are prone to wander. We are easily seduced. *Third*, even though the Lord is faithful to His church, the sins of the church do not go unnoticed. Just as Hosea rebuked Gomer, the Lord will rebuke His church and even discipline His church. *Fourth*, sometimes we Christians (*i.e., the children of the church*) will need to call the church out on her unfaithfulness. Oh, how many Christians in America have failed in this endeavor! Keep in mind that we sin when we do something against God's Ten Commandments (*i.e., sins of commission*). However, we also sin when we fail to do something that we should do (*i.e., sins of omission*). In other words, there are several liberal denominations in America that are following in the footsteps of Gomer. However, the members of these churches are turning a blind eye to their denomination's whoring. In the interest of keeping the peace, not wanting to unsettle family bonds, and due to having weak spines, many parishioners have let their church and denomination leave the faithfulness of Christ and chase American lovers such as: hedonism, narcissism, Gnosticism, and so forth. Sometimes we children of the church will need to speak out and say, "*Your sins – dear blessed Church – are separating you from Christ! Repent!*" Indeed, calling out a sin is not evil or hateful – what is hateful, and evil is turning a blind eye to evil whoredom. Christians care about Truth. Christians want the church resting in Christ's care. To say nothing, when a church follows various seductions away from Christ, is sinful and cowardly.

The god of Baal was a local deity. In other words, Baal was connected to the land of the Canaanites. And so, if the Israelites would not give up their national devotion to Baal, the Lord God would take them where Baal could not go: He would take them back through the thorny wilderness into captivity. He would exile them. That is to say; they would lose everything – their promised land, their economic prosperity, and their political success. Sometimes after sinning, it is only the bitter taste of sin that will bring sense to a person. In other words, sometimes, the great catastrophes in people's lives are the Lord's discipline. Yes, indeed, when the Lord blesses us, it is because He loves us. And when He disciplines us – it is because He loves us. Think of this practically speaking: when an alcoholic loses family, health, and friends; when an adulterer loses a family, money, and a good reputation; when a fraud loses money, a business, and all property; when a gossip loses the trust of friends and family, well, in times of loss they may think back to a time when they enjoyed the love of God and the respect of their neighbors. Like the prodigal son, they will come to their senses and return home to the Lord, for what they had with the Lord was better than what they have currently.

