

Gomer

Hosea 1:1 – 3:5

by Don Falkos

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The Lord said to the prophet Hosea, "Go, marry a prostitute and accept as your own any children she bares by other men."

Hosea married Gomer who bore him a son. Hosea named the boy Jezreel because of the punishment God was about to mete out on Israel in the Jezreel Valley.

Gomer then gave birth to an illegitimate daughter. Hosea gave her a name that means, "Not Loved" since the Lord said, "I will no longer show my love to Israel, but rather to Judah."

Gomer's next child, by another man, was a son. Hosea named him "Not My People" since the Lord said, "For now, Israel is not my people. Yet one glorious day, Judah and Israel will be reunited."

Gomer chased after other men and sold herself to them. She worshiped Baal and was quite prosperous for a while. Then the Lord took away all she had; she was left naked and enslaved to one of her "lovers." She longed to go back to her husband.

The Lord said to Hosea, "I still love Israel even though her people have worshiped other gods. Now go, get your wife, bring her home, and love her."

Hosea paid a substantial price to buy back his wife. He said to her, "You must give up prostitution. You must not have sex with anyone; and for a while not even with me, your husband."

The Lord said, "In the same way, Israel will one day return to me and to her king and will once again receive my blessings."