

The Book of Hosea Notes
By Pastor Rob Salvato

Hosea 4-7
The Heart and Holiness of God, Part 2
(The Minor Prophets)

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A Door of Hope
(The Major Point of the Minor Prophets)

Hosea 4-7

The Heart and Holiness of God, Part 2

The First three chapters give us the introduction to the book – **And present a picture that God is painting of His relationship with Israel**

A)The nation is divided – Judah in the south – 2 tribes – Judah and Benjamin

Aa)Judah has some great kings that seek God – Uzziah – Josiah – Hezekiah

B)Not perfect by any means – had their seasons of rebellion – but a new king would come on the scene and Bring reform

1)Judah is sort of up and down spiritually and maybe a little more up than down

C)Israel also called Ephraim is comprised of 10 tribes in the north – are all down -

D)Starts with Jeroboam later Ahab and the Kings after them have led the nation in to idolatry and all kinds of wickedness.

1)Every year they are moving further and further away from God

At the time that Hosea is ministering as a prophet to the northern tribes – Jeroboam II is the king

A)The nation is experiencing a time of great economic prosperity – but spiritually the nation is ROTTEN TO THE CORE.

B)That is when God calls Hosea to do something unusual – Go and marry a woman named Gomer who is a prostitute.

C)Now whether he was marrying a woman who God knew would turn to Harlotry because He saw that in her heart

1)Or she was already a prostitute – scholars are divided – but it really doesn't matter –

D)The purpose of THIS relationship is to be a LIVING SERMON of Israel's relationship with God!

Hosea represents God – and Gomer represents Israel.

A)Gomer gives birth to 3 children that Hosea is instructed to give the following names

B)The first born is a son he Names Jezreel = scattered – a picture of what is coming Israel is going to be scattered – taken into captivity

1)First Assyrians – later the Babylonians

C)The 2nd child is a girl He names Lo = No – Lo-Ruhamah = No mercy

1)Because of their rebellion – God's hand of mercy is going to be lifted

D)The 3rd child – is named Lo-AMMI = Not my people.

E)Scholars also suggest that the last two kids are not even Hosea's but are the by-product of Gomer's prostitution.

But The family dynamics are a LIVING sermon – every time Hosea calls the kids to come in for dinner – PREACHING –

A)SCATTERED – NO MERCY – NOT MY PEOPLE – TIME FOR DINNER

Sending a message to Israel

B)Finally – Gomer's sin gets to the point that Hosea says enough – and she is cast out - pursue her hearts desire – Follow after other lovers

C)She ends up destitute and in the Valley of troubling – a Slave – longing to be back with her husband – Hosea

D)That is when God tells Hosea – go buy her back – go buy your wife who is a prostitute back – restore her

1)Gomer is so destitute – no longer desirable - her beauty is gone – Hosea is able to buy her at ½ price because no one else wants her.

E)He takes her home – the Kids names are changed – Jezreel = gathered –

Lo-Ruhamah – is just Ruhamah – mercy

1)Lo-Ammi – is just Ammi – my people

That is the picture: This is what God is going to do with Israel - they will be chastened – but the chastening has a purpose, it is to win their hearts

A)Bring them back into a relationship with HIMSELF.

B)After Hosea buys back Gomer – people would wonder – how can you love Gomer after everything that she has done – how she has hurt you? **Betrayed / forsaken**

C)How can you love those kids – two of them might not even be yours ?

D)To which Hosea could turn and say: Let me ask you a question: How can God love you – love this nation – when we have done the same things

As a nation we have gone whoring after other gods – other lovers – we have hurt Him and forsaken Him time and time again.

A)What kind of love FORGIVES AND SHOWS GRACE when it has been ravaged and broken and betrayed – OVER AND OVER again?

B)Answer that and I will answer you!

C)That is the picture that is being painted here – Hosea’s pain – and broken heart a picture of God’s heart for His people.

D)Many Nights Hosea cried himself to sleep – the many times he has to console his kids because Mom was gone – didn’t know when coming home

1)How long this time would it be days or weeks or months

As we come to chapter 4 Hosea is going to begin to proclaim and bring indictment against Israel –

A)Their sins are proclaimed – and he does it with tears running down his face because he knows exactly how this feels

B)He speaks on behalf of a God who’s heart is broken over His wayward people!

1)Not just a LIVING SERMON

C)Fellowship of his suffering! – HOSEA is gaining the heart of God.

Sometimes we want the depth that we see in certain saints that we see – but they have suffered

A)They have gone through – some deep things

B)We want the depth but without the suffering – like the picture of the people with the perfect body – Hydroxycut – diet program

1)Not just diet it is hours in the Gym – we don’t want that.

C)Hosea goes through this as a picture of God’s heart and relationship with Israel

1)But He also goes through this as the means to make Hosea more like HIS God – it is the transformation process to give him a heart like God’s heart

D)So as we begin to read the indictment he brings before Israel – I want you to picture the tears – hear the brokenness and heartache in his voice

1)He deals out the truths of God in brokenness and not in Anger!

Chapter 4 Hear the word of the Lord, You children of Israel, For the Lord **brings a charge** against the inhabitants of the land: “There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land.

Hear The charge: There is no mercy or truth – there is no compassion and there are no morals in the land – no knowledge of God –

A)Israel has forsaken God and His ways – His law – and they are just doing what is right in their own eyes -

B)When People turn from God to pursue their own way – here is the result

Note how many commandments are listed here as being broken.

By **swearing and lying, Killing and stealing** and committing **adultery**. They break all restraint, With bloodshed upon bloodshed.

B)The first 4 commandments – No other gods, no idols, don’t take the Lord’s name in vain and remember the Sabbath

1) Man’s relationship with God

C)The rest – deal with man’s relationship with man

D)Jesus summed it up this way: **Love the Lord your God with all your heart..... Strength – and love your neighbor as yourself**

1)In these hang all the law and the prophets

E) Everything is connected to the first command

When the first PART gets messed up – or when Man’s relationship with God is messed up – It affects his relationship with other people.

A) Relationship with God gets out of whack and it will affect your relationship with everyone else.

B) Counseling – Marriage – How is your time with God? So often it is non-existent – NO WONDER – HAVING PROBLEMS

C) So Hosea is revealing what is at the heart of Israel’s sin – **It is all about their relationship with God –**

1) everything else is a by-product of that not being right!

SO TOO IN THIS COUNTRY: America has never been a Christian nation

A) Declaration of independence – FREEDOM OF RELIGION

B) Never a Christian nation – however our nation was founded on a Judeo-Christian ethic – not a Judeo-Christian doctrine

C) Our founding fathers based our nation’s code of morality on the Bible

1) Our founding fathers believed in a God who was upon all things who had given us his word as a guidebook to follow

But we have so turned from that – forsaken the truth of God’s word

A) Now we don’t even know what marriage is – Known for 1,000’s of years - Now we don’t know?

B) Now we don’t even know what gender is

C) We are the most technologically advanced generation in the history of mankind

1) And the most morally and spiritually STUPID of all time!

Listening to Obama {not about Republican and Democrat – this is our president’s boasting of his two crowning achievements in 8 years

A) Made the economy stronger and he legalized gay marriage

B) See how far we have sunk – God’s heart is broken – Angry

C) Throughout these 4 chapters Hosea presents the problem and then follows it up with the affect – THEREFORE

1) Problem: No knowledge of God – forsaken God

V.3 Therefore {Because Israel has forsaken the Lord} the land will mourn; and everyone who dwells there will waste away With the beasts of the field And the birds of the air; Even the fish of the sea will be taken away.

Sin and rebellion affects everything – even the ECOLOGY is affected IN a nation that turns away from the Lord – the natural resources

A) This was a great reminder that healthy crops were a blessing from the Lord.

B) PEOPLE in our nation get so upset over the breakdown of the ecology – endangered species – climate control

1) Listen – I believe that the environment is important – hate to see trash in the ocean – forest burned down

C) Tree lover not a tree hugger – but this is what I don’t understand – People campaign to save the spotted owl and the baby whale –

1) Same people don’t blink an eye about 56 million abortions in this country

D) God decaled in Genesis 1 that mankind – has been made in His image

1) Not the spotted owl – not the baby whale – we elevate the animals and constantly degrade human beings

E) Reason: No truth – no knowledge of God

Another indictment

V.4 “Now let no man contend, or rebuke another; For your people are like those who contend with the priest.

THE CHARGE: CONTENTIOUS - You contend with the priest

A) When there is a neglect of God’s word and – no respect for God’s law or office – you have a people who are set to argue right and wrong

B) It describes a society with no moral absolutes – we are just going to do what is right in our own eyes.

C)Result: V5 Therefore you shall stumble in the day; The prophet also shall stumble with you in the night; And I will destroy your mother. {Gomer is a picture of Israel

When there is no firm foundation to stand on – no sure footing – the ground is always shifting

A)A friend of mine – pea gravel in his back yard – didn't realize he needed to put down some bigger rock first

B)Pea gravel is like shifting sand! –

C)Jesus said: **Wise builder builds on the Rock – described the Rock as His word – we are wise when we hear it and do it**

D)But when people are always prone to contend with the word and question the word –

1)Make up their own rules – **THEY STUMBLE** in the day and in the night

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge,

A)Note this – the lack of knowledge was not because the knowledge wasn't available to them. – It was available

B)But they rejected it – they ignored God's law.

C)See that happening so much today – people who know the truth but ignore the truth – reject it – I am going to do what I think is right

1)They are destroyed – Sin and compromise – back fires

I also will reject you from being priest for Me; {Israel was meant to be priest to other nations Because you **have forgotten the law** of your God, {word - forget in Hosea has the idea of setting aside

D)Having other things that are more important to them than their relationship with God – which is at the heart of idolatry. you **have forgotten the law** of your God, I also will forget your children.

7“**The more they increased, The more they sinned** against Me; I will change their glory into shame.

8 They eat up the sin of My people; They set their heart on their iniquity.

9 **And it shall be: like people, like priest.**

{Priesthood was corrupt **ALSO**

So I will punish them for their ways, And reward them for their deeds. 10 For they shall eat, but not have enough; They shall commit harlotry, but not increase; Because they have ceased obeying the Lord. **The Idolatry of Israel**

Interesting - Prosperity brought rebellion!

A)That seems to happen a lot. – When things are going well – God's people tend to get comfortable and complacent

B)When things are tough – they are on their faces seeking God

C)Dana Key yrs ago – Don't pray for **REVIVAL** – pray for **PERSECUTION**

1)Might be something to that.

CHARGE: IDOLATRY

11“**Harlotry, wine, and new wine enslave the heart.** {Normal part of their lives - Drinking? Leads to other things

12 My people ask counsel from their wooden idols, And their staff informs them. {They would take their staff hold it up before the idol – depending on which way it fell – be their answer falls to the right – Yes – Left – No

It was a part of their idolatry

When I was in Jr. high – used to do something similar – seeking direction from God -

Basketball – ½ court make it = yes – miss – no Reverse it – lay up 2 ft away -

THIS IS STUPID – I need God to speak to me – **Well they were seeking direction in this way from their idols – which ever way the pole falls –** For the spirit of harlotry has caused them to stray, And they have played the harlot against their God. **GOMERS FACE**

13 They offer sacrifices on the mountaintops, And burn incense on the hills, Under oaks, poplars, and terebinths, Because their shade is good.

Therefore your daughters commit harlotry, And your brides commit adultery.

Note: Therefore v.13 When a culture starts to value and exalt sexual immorality and sensuality - Don't be surprised when it affects the women.

A) Sex sells – in everything – Cars to Hamburger – to the weather - sends a message – this is how you get noticed –

B) This is how you get what you want – this is how you get attention. - That is what women pursue

1) You wear sexy clothing – you wear provocative apparel

C) You wear – clothing that shows off your figure or shows skin – **it will get you the job** -

D) Our cultures obsession with sexuality and appearance is sending a message to women – that is most important – that is what gets you things

E) Peter: **Don't be overly concerned with your outward appearance – focus on the inside – BEAUTY OF THE HEART**

F) My girls – doesn't matter how beautiful on the outside – **THE INSIDE – THAT IS MOST IMPORTANT**

BEAUTY ON THE OUTSIDE – FADES – BEAUTY ON THE INSIDE CAN GROW – affects the appearance on the outside.

A) A woman – glowing with Jesus is so attractive and it doesn't matter so much what they look like on the outside.

B) In Israel the daughters and brides were turning to Harlotry – because that is what was being deemed as important

C) Note V.14 **PROBLEM: Men were not leading**

14 “I will not punish your daughters when they commit harlotry, Nor your brides when they commit adultery; For the men themselves go apart with harlots, And offer sacrifices with a ritual harlot. Therefore people who do not understand will be trampled.

God says: I am not going to punish the daughter and the wives – because the problem starts with the men.

A) Women are to just follow the lead of the men. – Supply and demand

B) Men demand it – men pursue it – women supply It

C) This is a great reminder – of the reality that **Dads – Fathers are called to take the lead!**

1) Dads – Your family will follow your lead

D) Dad with Alcohol and his daughter – intoxicated

Dads you are called to be the leader in your family – teach your family and sacrifice for your family

A) Adam's sin was being PASSIVE – way too many men are passive

B) Wife wants to be the spiritual leader – the husband will sit back and let her.

C) God has an order – Men are called to be leaders in the home and leaders in the church –

1) Don't mess with that – **STEP UP TO THE PLATE MEN!**

15 “Though you, Israel, play the harlot, Let not Judah offend.

{God is warning Judah – because it would be over 100 yrs after this that Judah would fall.

Israel would fall to the Assyrians and Judah over 100 yrs later would fall to the Babylonians and Nebuchadnezzar.

15 “Though you, Israel, play the harlot, Let not Judah offend.

Do not come up to Gilgal, Nor go up to Beth Aven, Nor swear an oath, saying, ‘As the Lord lives’—

Once again the problem is presented { worship was to take place in Jerusalem –

A) but the Kings of the northern tribes were afraid that if the people went to Judah to worship – they would stay there

B) so they set up a golden calf at Bethel and Dan – they made alternate places for worship – in Gilgal

C) Hosea is saying don't go to Gilgal to worship or to Beth Aven –

1) this is play on words because Beth Aven means house of evil – and it was at Bethel that wickedness and idolatry was taking place

NOTE: When - We go to Israel we will see these places – Bethel and Dan –

A) They have uncovered the altar where the golden calf has stood.

16 “For Israel is stubborn Like a **stubborn calf**; Now the Lord will let them forage Like a lamb in open country. “Ephraim is joined to idols, Let him alone.

Ephraim (Israel) is joined to idols – leave him alone

A) Don't try to Rescue them – don't try to help – bail them out

B) Sometimes in our efforts to help we enable people to stay in their sin

C) Hardest thing to do especially when it is one of your kids – but sometimes you have to let them go –

1) You have to let them suffer the consequences of their actions –

D) They need to come to the end of themselves – so they can get to God

18 **Their drink is rebellion**, {their beverage of choice is REBELLION - not coke or Pepsi – **They will take rebellion**

They commit harlotry continually. Her rulers dearly love dishonor.

19 The wind has wrapped her up in its wings, And they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.

Impending Judgment on Israel and Judah

E) There is no stability in their lives – like the chaff – blowing in the wind

1) That is what happens to a person – a nation – a family – when they forsake God!

Chapter 5

“Hear this, O priests! Take heed, O house of Israel! Give ear, O house of the king! {speaking not just to the people but now the priest and the political leaders For yours is the judgment,

?Because you have been a snare to **Mizpah** Mizpah was on the East side of the country **And a net spread on Tabor**. Tabor was on the West side

Across the breath of the land you have brought pollution

2 The revolvers are deeply involved in slaughter, Though I rebuke them all.

3 I know Ephraim, And Israel is not hidden from Me;

The Lord knows – all things are open and naked before the one to whom we must give an account

For now, O Ephraim, you commit harlotry; Israel is defiled.

4 “They do not direct their deeds Toward turning to their God, For the spirit of harlotry is in their midst, And they do not know the Lord.

5 The pride of Israel testifies to his face; Therefore Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also stumbles with them.

V.4-5 Pride produces a lack of REPENTANCE !

A) **PRIDE** also creates this false sense of security – I am ok – notice they are still going through the rituals of their **RELIGIOUSITY**

6 “With their flocks and herds **They shall go to seek the Lord, But they will not find Him**; He has withdrawn Himself from them.

7 They have dealt treacherously {that is a word that speaks of unfaithfulness in a marriage

They have dealt treacherously with the Lord, For they have begotten pagan children. {Hosea thinking about Lo-Ruhamah and Lo-Ammi – children who don't look like him they have another mans features

Now a New Moon shall devour them and their heritage. **New moon = short time**

8 “Blow the ram's horn in Gibeah, The trumpet in Ramah! Cry aloud at Beth Aven, ‘Look behind you, O Benjamin!’

9 Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke; Among the tribes of Israel **I make known what is sure**. {Why are you surprised – I warned you. – Why are we surprised - God has prophesied – these are the signs of the last days.

10 “The princes of Judah are like those who remove a landmark; { that was against the law – removing the things that were put in place to remind them of God - us with 10 commandments -

THEREFORE: I will pour out my wrath on them like water. 11 Ephraim is oppressed and broken in judgment, Because **he willingly** walked by human precept.

12 Therefore I will be to Ephraim like a moth, And to the house of Judah like rotteness. **The way a moth destroys fabric – God says I will let the fabric of the nation dissolve.**

13 “When Ephraim saw his sickness, And Judah saw his wound, Then Ephraim went to Assyria And sent to King Jareb; **{Instead of turning to God Yet he cannot cure you, Nor heal you of your wound.**

14 For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, And like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, even I, will tear them and go away; I will take them away, and no one shall rescue.

15 I will return again to My place Till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.”

The amazing heart of God that says: I will wait – not giving up on you – I will let your rebellion run it’s course – SIN DESTROYS

A)Goal – “In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.”

B)Principle of scripture is that the **MIGHT OF A NATION** depends upon it’s righteousness

1)Not it’s bank account or Military – Thankful for Military – those who serve

C)But national strength is connected to how righteous they are

1)Israel’s rebellion has weakened them to the core – despite the fact that their economy was good and military was strong

Ch. 6 begins with A Call to Repentance

6 Come, and let us return to the Lord; For He has **torn**, but He will **heal us**; He has **stricken**, but He will **bind us up**.

2 After two days He will **revive us**; On the third day He will raise us up, **That we may live in His sight.**

B)Chastening is meant to bring healing –

1) the wayward sheep – **LEGS BROKEN** - carried by the shepherd and becomes the most loyal

C)IN people Chastening has one of two reactions

1)It either brings repentance and restoration
2)Or it brings further rebellion

The mindset of the person who says – I can’t believe that God did that to me!

A)God has been yelling at you to get your attention – THE BRIDGE IS OUT – people ignore him – drive off the broken bridge –

B)Complain – if God loved me how could He let that happen?

1)**OY VEY**

C)God’s heart is to restore: Torn in order to heal – Stricken in order to bind us up

V.3 Hosea is seen pleading with the People

3 Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord.

His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.

Reminds me of Jesus mourning over Jerusalem – Oh Jerusalem.... You were not willing

That is the problem with Israel and Judah - Impenitence NO REGRET OVER SIN of Israel and Judah

Not only is there no heart of repentance – there is no regret over sin

4 “O Ephraim, what shall I do to you? O Judah, what shall I do to you? For your faithfulness is like a morning cloud, And like the early dew it goes away.

YOUR FAITHFULNESS IS FLEETING

5 **Therefore** I have hewn them by the prophets, I have slain them by the words of My mouth; And your judgments are like light that goes forth.

KEY VERSE – 6 For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

This is what God is saying: I don’t desire RELIGION – I am seeking RELATIONSHIP with you – NOT DUTY but DEVOTION

A)Always God’s heart – I want you to know Me – I want our interaction to be about Love – not law

B)When we go through the motions of religion – for them offering sacrifices and keeping special days –

1)For us – it might be worship – serving or tithing – we do those things

C)But our hearts are not in love with Jesus – DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD

V.7-10 Israel's rebellion is further described!

7 “But like men they transgressed the covenant; There they dealt treacherously with Me. 8 Gilead is a city of evildoers And defiled with blood. 9 As bands of robbers lie in wait for a man, So the company of priests murder on the way to Shechem; Surely they commit lewdness.

10 I have seen a horrible thing in the house of Israel:

There is the harlotry of Ephraim; Israel is defiled.

11 Also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed for you, When I return the captives of My people.

When the people of God came back into the land after their Babylonian exile, they mainly settled in the area of Judah.

A)The **harvest** of returned exiles was mainly for Judah, not for Israel.

CHAPTER 7 When God is ready to heal THEM - further wickedness is uncovered

“When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was uncovered,

And the wickedness of Samaria. For they have committed fraud;

A thief comes in; A band of robbers takes spoil outside.

I can't tell you how many times I have been in crisis counseling with a couple – one of them has strayed – found out – confession.

A)Ask – Is there anything else – anything else we need to know – anything you are not telling us – put it on the table right now.

B)No Pastor – nothing else – that is it – that is bad enough

C)Ok – we start to move forward – only to find a week or so later – something else is revealed!

D)Listen the Bible says clearly – Numbers 32:23 Your sin will find you out!

E)God loves you enough to expose you – to bring that out –

1)because He knows you will never successfully move forward until that happens

Foolish to think we can hide things from God !

2 They **do not consider** in their hearts -That I remember all their wickedness;

Now their own deeds have surrounded them; They are before My face.

Their own deeds condemn them!

HOSEA LIKES TO PAINT A PICTURE – HE is good at it - Bakery analogy.

A)Jesus **taught that a little leaven (sin) leavens the whole lump – but you don't see it until the bread goes into the oven**

B)The heat of the oven causes the yeast to rise – in other words their sin which might have seemed hidden is getting more and more noticeable

C)The sin is getting more pronounced and noticeable

3 They make a king glad with their wickedness, And princes with their lies.

4 “They are all adulterers. **Like an oven heated by a baker—**He ceases stirring the fire after kneading the dough, Until it is leavened.

5 In the day of our king Princes have made him sick, inflamed with wine; He stretched out his hand with scoffers.

6 They prepare their heart like an oven, While they lie in wait; Their baker sleeps all night; In the morning it burns like a flaming fire.

7 They are all hot, like an oven, And have devoured their judges; All their kings have fallen. None among them calls upon Me.

Like the bakers oven – it is always on – there is always some sin cooking

8 “Ephraim has **mixed himself among** the peoples; Ephraim is a cake unturned. $\frac{1}{2}$ baked

9 Aliens have devoured his strength, **But he does not know it;** - **SAMSON-**

Yes, gray hairs are here and there on him, Yet he does not know it.

When we hang out with unbelievers – doing the things that they are doing – it begins to have an effect on us.

A) Often times we don't realize it – we don't see it

B) Listen we are to be witnesses to unbelievers and build relationships with unbelievers – share Jesus –

1) But that doesn't MEAN we do the things that they are doing – that is the mistake

C) Take a Domestic German shepherd and put him in a pack of wolves

1) Is the pack of wolves going to become more Domestic or is the Shepherd going to become more wild?

D) The Shepherd is going to become more wild

Mistake we make in thinking – that the way we reach the world is to become more like the world. – NOT TRUE

A) Most people in the world have come to a place where they realize the emptiness in the life they have been pursuing.

B) Looking for something different – that is what attracts them – they see that in us.

C) Guy I worked with – Beer – Laker game

1) He got saved

10 **And the pride of Israel testifies to his face,**
But they do not return to the Lord their God,
Nor seek Him for all this.

It is his pride that keeps him from repenting – Doesn't want to admit he is wrong

A) **God resists the proud but gives grace to the Humble**

B) **Exalt yourself..... be humbled – humble yourself and you will be exalted**

C) Here is the result – instead of returning to the Lord – they turn to other nations for Help -

11 “Ephraim also is like a silly dove, without sense—

Like a bird with no sense – stupid –

See we have almighty God on our side – but let's see if Egypt can help us **They call to Egypt, Anyone screaming – remember what God did to Egypt – Plagues – Red Sea**

God says:

12 Wherever they go, I will spread My net on them; I will bring them down like birds of the air; I will chastise them According to what their congregation has heard.

13 “Woe to them, for they have fled from Me! Destruction to them, Because they have transgressed against Me!

Though I redeemed them, Yet they have spoken lies against Me.

14 They did not cry out to Me with their heart When they wailed upon their beds.

“They assemble together for grain and new wine, They rebel against Me;

15 **Though I disciplined and strengthened their arms,**

Yet they devise evil against Me;

16 They return, but not to the Most High;

They are like a treacherous bow.

Their princes shall fall by the sword

For the cursings of their tongue.

This shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.

The last sin proclaimed is – they run to everyone but God –

A) God has continually been strong – showed himself strong on their behalf

B) They continue to turn from Him –

C) Why are we so fickle?

D) Who are you running towards

Broken? – Torn you to heal you –

Stricken to bind you – make you stronger

Hosea 2:2-17 A Door of Hope

(The Major Point of the Minor Prophets)

Dr. Thomas Holmes was a researcher at the University of Washington

A) He did research on the subject of Human Stress.

B) He came up with an interesting way of measuring stress

C) He gave "Life Change Units" to the different life experiences that people dealt with.

D) If you reached 300 Life Change Units in a given year you were a good candidate to have some major health problems.

Examples of the Stress levels – major events in a life:

- ❖ The death of one's spouse would incur 100 Life Change Units (LCU) – really high
- ❖ Going through a divorce – 73 LCU
- ❖ Personal injury or illness - 53 LCU
- ❖ Job Loss – 47 LCU
- ❖ RETIREMENT 45 LCU – interesting one would not expect
- ❖ Pregnancy – 40 LCU

A man did this study – obviously clueless about pregnancy = Body stretching - person growing inside – own schedule

Life is not your own – throwing up - Stressful
He put pregnancy at 40 – you much higher – 120

- ❖ Son or daughter leaving home – 29 LCU – some higher – some lower
- ❖ Remodeling a home – 25 LCU – Obviously never done that.

Researchers rank remodeling - stress level – somewhere between infidelity and a meddling mother-in-law

A) When Your wife – brings up remodeling – I don't think our marriage is strong enough to handle it –

B) Go to Thrive - \$20 dinner – or \$1000's in remodeling - (Couples retreat in 2017)

Based on Dr. Holmes research Hosea would have been a major stress case

A) First of all He had a really tough Job – He was God's prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel

B) After the death of Solomon – the Nation of Israel was divided – Judah in the south – tended to be more godly – Had Great kings

C) Israel in the north – IS 90% of time Horrible – that is where Hosea is assigned

D) On top of that – Hosea is given a VERY unusual assignment

God asked Hosea to marry and have children with a woman who was a Prostitute – Gomer.

A) Why would God do that?

Aa) That seems like a contradiction in the character of God to ask one of his servants to do something like that?

B) The ministry of the Prophet was like Spiritual radios – they were receivers and they were transmitters –

1) They would RECEIVE a message from God – and they would TRANSMIT a message for God!

C) Sometimes their message was a strong PROCLAMATION – an exhortation to the people to get right with God.

D) Other times their message was a PREDICTION of future events – of coming judgment or blessing.

E) Sometimes their message was a DEMONSTRATION – an illustration they acted out with their life.

For example: God had the prophet Isaiah go around for 3 yrs barefoot and naked – as an illustration of the spiritual poverty and nakedness of Israel

A) Sure glad I did not get that assignment ! – SIT UPS AND WORKED HIS CORE

B) The life and message of Hosea WAS an illustration of the heart of God – how God feels when His people commit spiritual idolatry -

1)Running after and worshipping other gods

C)That is the main reason – why God asked him to marry a prostitute – **for an illustration**

1)On Wed night we will consider in some further detail – How and why God asked Hosea to do that

D)God knows that we need illustrations and pictures – to help us understand His heart – His Ways

E)The Life of Hosea was a living illustration of the HEART OF GOD

Begin reading in V. 2 Bring charges against your mother, bring charges; For she *is* not My wife, nor *am* I her Husband! Let her put away her harlotries from her sight, And her adulteries from between her breasts;³ Lest I strip her naked And expose her, as in the day she was born, And make her like a wilderness, And set her like a dry land, And slay her with thirst.

Hosea marries Gomer – they have some kids – but it is not long before she returns to a lifestyle of being a Harlot.

A)Imagine the hurt and pain Hosea must have felt – this woman he loved giving herself away to other men.

B)Imagine the whispers – Men laughing at Hosea behind his back –

1)One man – I had her last night – his friend laughing – I had her the night before.

C)Imagine the pain in the heart of Hosea trying to explain **to his kids why mommy was not at home** – yet again for another night

D)The situation comes to a head and Hosea is left with no recourse but to cast her out!

E)It is the same recourse that God is forced to take when His people rebel and go whoring after other lovers – other gods

But severity of this word of DISCIPLINE is interrupted by a word of hope and comfort –

A)We are reminded of the PURPOSE of the discipline.

V.14 “Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Will bring her into the wilderness,

And speak comfort to her.

15 I will give her her vineyards from there, And the Valley of Achor as a door of hope; She shall sing there, As in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.

16 “And it shall be, in that day,” Says the LORD, “That you will call Me ‘My Husband,’ And no longer call Me ‘My Master,’

17 For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals, And they shall be remembered by their name no more.

Hebrews 12:6 “The Lord disciplines the ones He loves.” But the purpose of the Discipline is to restore –

A)Get our attention – get us to see the foolishness of our ways – turn back to following Him – again.

B)Note V.15 The Valley of Achor as a door of Hope!

1)This is the major point of Hosea – see Achor means troubling – **The valley of troubling is a door of Hope!**

C)The Valley of Achor was the last place that Israel would have expected to ACCESS hope.

1)The name Achor was synonymous with moral failure.

D)Joshua 7 records a humiliating event that took place in the nation of Israel

1)Coming into the land of Canaan – first battle – Jericho

E)God gave very clear distinct instructions – TAKE NO SPOILS

But a man named Achan, one individual out of the entire nation, chose to be disobedient.

A)He took some silver, a bar of gold, and a robe for his own use, and buried them under the floor of his tent.

B)The next battle is against a very small city Ai – “we don’t need the whole army” – they are soundly defeated – CASUALTIES

C)Joshua is bummed and confused – God reveals –

Sin in the camp – it is discovered that Achan disobeyed –

1) Family helped hide - So they are all put to death in a Valley – that Joshua names after Achan - the Valley of Achor or troubling!

D) That story of humiliation, failure, and shame was burned into Israel's national memory.

1) Like Crosses next to the HWY – auto accident – result of a drunk driver!

But here we are told the Valley of Achor is a door of Hope. Two main ideas to consider today.

#1 How is the Valley of troubling a door or Hope?

#2 How could Hosea LOVE Gomer again after she played the Harlot?

#1 How is the Valley of troubling a door or Hope.

A) Troubling and Hope are two ideas placed in close connection, and declared to be inter-related, which we would hardly have thought of putting together.

B) You are in trouble young man - never thought – Awesome something good is going to come out of this!

C) We never put **trouble and hope** together - except that sometimes we say that, in spite of the trouble, we are hoping for the best.

C) That phrase **“in spite of the trouble”** recognizes a conflict between trouble and hope.

1) The only Hope is the expectation that we shall somehow escape from trouble.

D) But The declaration here relates them to each other.

The troubling is the reason of hope, “The valley of troubling for a door of hope.”

A) How could this be? - This gives us insight into the heart of God for those that He loves

Aa) Troubling is the inherent RESULT of sin. Sin brings trouble! Sin brings destruction.

B) Consider these verses describing the destruction that sin brings

- ❖ **The wages of sin is death** – Romans 6:23
- ❖ **Sin brings forth death** – James 1:15

❖ **Wide is the road that leads to destruction** – Matthew 7:13

❖ **To be carnally minded is death** – Romans 6:8

C) Sin destroys intimacy – Genesis 3 NAKED AND ASHAMED!

Sometimes in the midst of our rebellion – God’s discipline takes the form of His hand of blessing and protection being lifted.

A) He leaves us to the consequences of our sin.

B) The result of Gomer's sin of Harlotry was trouble – She ends up living as a slave – sexual slave to her pimp

1) **Older and less desirable** - She is cast out into the Valley of Achor the valley of troubling.

C) So How can the Valley of troubling become a door of hope?

D) Sometimes in the midst of living in the consequences of our sin – **our eyes are opened** – we **come to our senses** – SEE OUR FOOLISHNESS.

Prodigal son – Dad, I want my inheritance – I wish you were dead

A) Blew it on wild living – Parties – prostitutes – craziness

B) Hedonistic living – pursuing pleasure – at all COST!

C) **LOST EVERYTHING** – **famine** – **PIG PEN** – his valley of Achor

1) That young man came to his senses – I have sinned – God – my father

Another way he came to his senses is he realized what he forfeited – My father’s servants have it better than this.

A) **I will go back and see if he would take me on as a servant – no longer worthy to be his son.**

B) **Heart of repentance – I don’t deserve anything – I don’t deserve to be forgiven.**

1) **CHEAP GRACE** – I will sin – God will forgive –

C) **Need to Own our sin – I don’t deserve forgiveness!**

The valley of troubling that is often the result of sin – CAN LEAD to the door of hope – **The prodigal says – I will go home**

A)Gomer says **I will return to my husband** – the sinner says – I will turn from my sin – and turn back to God

B) **The story of Hosea teaches us 4 things about God.**

1st God suffers when His people are unfaithful – **He Hurts for us - not like us**

2nd God cannot tolerate/condone sinful behavior **He lets us suffer the consequences of our sin – part of His discipline**

3rd God still loves the sinner in spite of their sin – **He never stops loving**

4th God seeks out the broken sinner to Restore him.

C)Gomer comes to her senses – She wants to go home – problem is she is a slave – she can't just leave.

God will come to Hosea with a 2nd message – buy her back – Go pay money to get your wife who is a Whore – to get her back

A)And love her again. Don't believe me – Ch.3 V1

Then the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman *who is* loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans.”

B)Leads us to consider big idea #2 How could Hosea LOVE Gomer again after she played the Harlot?

C)**There is a wonderful – principle that we see in scripture that is illustrated in many places –**
1)Hosea's life is one of them.

D)The Principle is basically this: God's commandments are God's enablements –

1)God does not ask us to do anything that he doesn't give us the power to do

But here is the hitch – We usually don't sense the power until we follow through on the command

A)Crossing the Jordan – Flood season – God says – priest bearing Ark – get your feet wet – { Waters will part

B)Part the waters and I will get my feet wet! – God says you step out in faith and obedience and watch what I do!

C)**If most of us were Hosea – we would say: Lord change my heart – put a fresh love in my heart for Gomer and then I will go buy her back.**

D)God says – Go buy her back – and treat her with Love

1)God knows – As Hosea goes through the steps and acts in obedience to love his wayward wife – His heart is going to change

E)He is going to fall in love with her again – Exactly what happens

A young 21 year old girl was talking to her Pastor about answering God's call to go and be a missionary in China

A)He said to her - I am so glad you **love the Chinese people** well enough to give your life to them.”

B)To which she quickly replied, **too be honest I don't love the Chinese.** I have absolutely no love for them. I rather dislike them.

C)To which the Pastor replied “ **Why then are you going to china to be a missionary?” “**

D)This was her reply - Because I love my Lord, and He has told me to go.”

She was gone for several years after which she returned to the states for her first Furlough –

She went to visit her Pastor – She said, “Do you remember what I said to you in this room when I was going out to China? ”

Yes,” he said, “I very well remember.”

She said, “I told you I did not love the Chinese one bit and I was telling you the truth, but I love them now.

I went because I loved my Lord, but now I love them, and I did not even want to come home on furlough.”

That is what God does – when we step out in obedience to do what we don't feel like doing – or think is impossible for us to do

A) God meets us – God works in us – He changes our hearts

B) God can change our hearts – but He will not change our minds – He is not going to violate our free will – Doesn't force us

C) God can change our hearts but He will not change our minds – **However if we change our minds – Repentance – Change of mind – attitude – action**

D) If we change our minds – walk in God's way - Forgive when he says forgive – love when he says to love

Love and forgiveness are simply emotions – they are actions words

A) We act in a way that demonstrates love – or demonstrates forgiveness we change our minds about – how we will treat

B) When we change our minds it opens the door for God to change our hearts

C) Philippians 2:12,13 **“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”**

D) Works in V.13 is the word energize –

We do our part – We walk in obedience – God meets us to energize us

A) We discover that God's commandments are really God's enablements

B) Is God asking you to do something – seems difficult – impossible?

C) You step out in faith and obedience –

1) He is going to energize you to do the very thing he is calling you to do.

D) If you wait around for him to change your heart – wait for him to energize – probably not going to happen

1) You step out – He is going to meet you **ON THE WAY!** - in the midst

As we close today – communion – I want us to consider – how Jesus in His hour of trouble became our door of Hope.

²⁷ “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour?’ But for this purpose I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify Your name.” – John 12:27,28

A) Jesus was referring to the Cross – a Valley of Achor – a valley of troubling that was not the result of HIS SIN

B) But His willingness to go there because of our sin.

1) Concern for God's glory –

C) Hosea – God's glory

1) Missionary Girl – God's glory

Jesus stepped into that Valley – went to the Cross – endured the Wrath

A) Like Hosea went to purchase his wife out of Slavery – Redeemed her **Redeem = to buy back**

B) Jesus left heaven and came to earth to purchase or redeem us – To buy us back out of the slave market of sin

C) So that sinners like you and me – Have the hope of Salvation

We come to Him – Turn from our sin!

You in a Valley of Achor today –

A) Your sin has caused trouble – you are reaping the consequences of your rebellion

B) Jesus already paid the price – He says – Free – step out – follow him – be restored today

C) Never responded – first time

Today is the Day!