

- The Prophet Hosea

#1. Hosea and Gomer (Hos 1:1-11)

- Lo-Ruhamah (No Mercy), and Lo-Ammi (Not My People) (Hos 1:6,9)

#2. Exagorazo (Gal 3:13, Hos 1:10-11)

- For Great Shall Be the Day of Jezreel (Hos 1:11, Rev 7:9, Isa 43:6)
- Ruhamah (Mercy), and Ammi (My People) (Hos 2:23)

#3. Where Is That Place? (Rom 9:24-26, Hos 1:10, 2:23, 1Pet 2:9-10)

- One Book, and Complete (Rev 22:18-19, Num 23:19)

#4. What Has the Lord Done for Me? (1Cor 2:2)

- What Has the Lord Done for Himself? (2Pet 1:19-21)

Please open your Bibles to the Prophecy of Hosea, (Hosea comes right after Daniel), and I will read the entire first Chapter so that we will be acquainted with the context. Today we are going to focus on Hos 1:10, but we are going to compare this with two other verses in the New Testament. Hosea is the First Prophecy in the series that is called “The Minor Prophets.” These prophets were not minor in importance, but their prophecies were shorter than those of the Major Prophets, which are Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

- **The Prophet Hosea**

The prophet Hosea preached in the northern kingdom of Israel at the same time that the prophet Isaiah preached in the southern kingdom of Judah. Of all the prophetic material contained in the Old Testament, the writings of Hosea were the only prophetic writings which came out of the northern kingdom of Israel. We now know that it was God who dictated to holy men of old what He wanted to be written to be placed in the Bible. And so, since the northern kingdom of Israel was ruled over by idolatrous wicked kings all the time, with no exceptions, we understand that the spiritual life in the kingdom of Israel was very sparse. However two of the most well-known prophets, Elijah and Elisha, originated in the northern kingdom of Israel, which tells us that God cared greatly for the few saints who lived in the northern kingdom of Israel.

The title of this Sermon is: “**One Book Written by God.**” Most churches teach that the Bible is a collection of 66 books. What is the big deal about the Bible being One Book? How does that impact my understanding of the Gospel? That is what this sermon is about. These are questions we have to face more and more in the future. I have a brother who is a Mormon and Mormons have many books that they add on to the Bible. When I questioned him about the warning from God not to add to the Bible he answered, “O but this command only applies to the Book of Revelation. We are not changing anything in the Book of Revelation.” Can you see how the mind-set of the Bible being a collection of 66 books can lead to the generation of many heresies, including Mormonism? That is why it is very important to look at the Bible in a different way.

#1. Hosea and Gomer (Hos 1:1-11)

Now, let us turn to Hosea Chapter 1. When we read a passage from the Bible, it is always useful to ask ourselves these questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? Verse 1 then tells us at what period in time Hosea prophesied:

Ho 1:1 The word of the LORD that came unto Hosea, the son of Beer, 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.

Jeroboam and Joash were kings of Israel. All the others were kings of Judah. This specifies the time period of Hosea. Next, you could ask, Where did Hosea prophesy? Hosea prophesied in the northern kingdom of Israel, probably in the capital Samaria. What was God’s message to Hosea?

#1. God is making the family of Hosea an acted out picture of God's dealings with His people Israel. Why is God doing that? Why does God put so much suffering on Hosea? Why? The answer is: God is doing that to give US a clear picture of our sinfulness by pointing to Israel's sinfulness as our example, and to give US a clear picture that salvation is entirely by the Grace of God. God is doing that for our benefit and He is also doing that for His Glory! Remember, the Bible was not written for them. The Bible was not written for those people who lived a long long time ago in a land far far away. The Bible was written for US! Now we will discover the **Who** in this story. We read in Hos 1:2-11,

Ho 1:2-11 The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, *departing* from the LORD. **So** he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son. **And** the LORD said unto him, Call his name Jezreel (which means "God Sows"); for yet a little *while*, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel. **And** it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel. **And** she conceived again, and bare a daughter. **And** God said unto him, Call her name Lo-Ruhamah (which means "No Mercy"): for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away. **But** I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen. **Now** when she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son. **Then** said God, Call his name Lo-Ammi (which means "Not My People"): for ye *are* not my people, and I will not be your God. **Yet** the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, *that* in the place where it was said unto them, Ye *are* not my people, *there* it shall be said unto them, Ye *are* the sons of the living God. **Then** shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land (Literally: "out of the earth"): for great *shall be* the day of Jezreel.

There is a lot of meat here. I will not go in detail on every verse. Since I have only 50 minutes I will proceed as fast as I can to Verse 10. At first sight, this seems to be a very confusing story. The Bible was not written for speed-readers. But in Verse 2 God sets the stage: Paraphrased God says: "Hosea, the land of Israel has committed great spiritual harlotry by departing from Jehovah, therefore you are going to play a role that is a picture of what is taking place now, and you are going to act out what will come to pass later, because that is what I have decreed as the complete plan of God for the nation Israel and as well for the Israel of God." Therefore, God commands Hosea to play the role of God Himself, and to take to wife a woman who is a harlot, a picture of the nation of Israel. And Gomer is also a picture of us, for we also are at times playing the harlot in departing from the Lord.

Gomer means “Complete” (Hos 1:3) because God is showing in this wife of Hosea the complete plan of God for national Israel. The life story of Gomer took place literally, and it was the story of the nation of Israel literally as well as spiritually, all the way into the New Testament age. Gomer had three children. The first child was Jezreel:

Jezreel means “God Sows” (Hos 1:4) and Jezreel is here a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, because He is the Seed that was promised to Abraham. Jezreel is also the name of a city and the name of a valley in Israel, and what God prophesied in Verses 4 and 5 came to pass literally as well as spiritually. In the spiritual dimension, the blood of Jezreel was shed when Christ hung on the Cross. The second child was Lo-Ruhamah:

Lo-Ruhamah means “No Mercy” (Hos 1:6). Both Lo-Ruhamah and the third child Lo-Ammi are children of Gomer, children of Israel, and they are a picture of the Israel of God, consisting of both Israelites and non-Israelites. What God prophesied in Verses 6 and 7 came to pass literally as well as spiritually. The nation of Israel was totally eliminated by the Assyrians. Everyone, including those who remained faithful to Jehovah, were killed or scattered throughout the kingdom of Assyria.

How can it be that we have a God who shows no mercy? Does not God delight in mercy? In fact: God’s righteousness, God’s justness, demands that God may not gloss over any sin! If God is a righteous judge then it should be that nobody gets away with anything! Indeed, God delights in mercy, but simultaneously God cannot show partiality. God must punish every sin for His righteousness cannot be compromised. In that sense God has “No mercy”. Every sin must be paid! This does not only apply to the children of Israel but also to non-Israelites.

Think of our own case: In time past, before we were saved, we were dead in trespasses and sins and under the wrath of God. “We were by nature the children of wrath, even as others”. We were on the way to hell! This is what we deserve!

The third child of Gomer was Lo-Ammi. Lo-Ammi means Not My People (Hos 1:9). Lo-Ammi is also a picture of the Israel of God, consisting of both Israelites and non-Israelites. This also came to pass literally as well as spiritually. God abandoned the nation of Israel that He cared for so long. They were wiped off the map because of their gross idolatry.

But think of our own case now: In time past, before we were saved, we were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world. We were not His people, because we were under the wrath of God, and we were on the way to hell. This is what we deserve!

Then we come to Verse 10. And what do we see? It is a total turnaround. Mercy means: God is withholding what we deserve! God says in Verse 10: There will come a time when I will have mercy upon you sinners. I will forgive your sins and you will become the Sons of the living God. Hos 1:10

Ho 1:10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, *that* in the place where it was said unto them, *Ye are not my people*, *there* it shall be said unto them, *Ye are the sons of the living God*.

Does God mean that His righteousness will be set aside? No. Not at all! How then can their sins be forgiven? There is only one day in history when sins were forgiven. When was that? That was when the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross. That was the only time in history that sins were forgiven and that sins were paid for, in full. In fact: That is the only way any sin could be forgiven. Any sin, referring to great sins and small sins. The New Testament Greek has a word for it. "Exagorazo."

#2. Exagorazo (Gal 3:13, Hos 1:10-11)

Please turn in your Bibles to the Epistle to the Galatians, Gal 3:13 (2X). What does this mean: Exagorazo? The Agora refers to "the market place". Agorazo means, "to buy" especially "to buy from the market". Exagorazo means, "to buy out of the slave market" with the purpose of setting the slave free. That is what the Lord Jesus Christ did for us: He Redeemed us: Exagorazo. He bought us out of the slave camp of Satan to set us free. For example we read in Gal 3:13

Gal 3:13 Christ hath redeemed <1805> us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree.

What did the Lord Jesus Christ do for us? What did the Lord Jesus do for everyone whom He redeemed out of the camp of Satan? Why were we there in the camp of Satan? We were there because we were under the Law. We were born under the Law, and commanded to obey the Law in all its details in all sincerity. But as human beings we are not able to obey the Law perfectly all our lives; thus we were born under the curse of the Law. Christ redeemed US from the curse of the Law.

1. We were enslaved to sin, and therefore we were willing slaves of Satan.
2. The Law of God demanded that we be sent to hell for our sins.
3. That was the price that the Law of God demanded as full payment for our sins.
4. That was the price that the Lord Jesus paid to buy US out of the slave camp of Satan.
5. When He was crucified God showed us that the Lord Jesus had become accursed by God.
6. Not for His own sins; He never sinned. That is why He could be our Redeemer.
7. But He suffered for each one of US, on behalf of us, the equivalent of an eternity in hell.
8. On the cross, when He said: "It is finished", the full price had been paid.
9. When He rose from the grave it was the proof that the full price had been paid.
10. All those for whom the full price had been paid would never again stand before the judgment throne of God, because all our sins have been fully paid.
11. Moreover, not only were all our sins paid, but God imputed on US the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, so that God can call US: Sons of God.
12. Who are all these who have been Redeemed and are called Sons of God?

13. God says in Eph 1:4 that “He hath chosen US in Him before the foundation of the world.

God repeats again in Hos 1:10-11 the complete plan of God, insofar as what God has decreed for His elect from before the foundation of the world. Before our salvation Satan had a hold on us, because the wages of sin is death, and as long as the requirement of obedience to the Law was upon us, we were destined to go to hell as payment for our sins. But God said in Hos 1:10-11,

Ho 1:10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, *that* in the place where it was said unto them, *Ye are* not my people, *there* it shall be said unto them, *Ye are* the sons of the living God.

Ho 1:11 Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head (which is Christ), and they shall come up out of the land (better: “out of the earth”): for great *shall be* the day of Jezreel.

There is no literal historical fulfillment of this prophecy. It must be interpreted entirely spiritually.

- **For Great Shall Be the Day of Jezreel** (Hos 1:11, Rev 7:9, Isa 43:6, Hos 2:23)

This does not refer to the gathering of Jews from all over the earth. The Great Day of Jezreel is the day that Christ hung on the cross, when He paid for our sins. That was the great day of victory for the Lord Jesus Christ. That was the day when He Redeemed (Exagorazo) a great number of people from the slave market. From the perspective of the whole human race, it is only a Remnant, but it is still a very large number that no man can measure nor number. God says in Rev 7:9

Rev 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

And from the time of Pentecost until now this large number of people is being gathered from the ends of the earth. God says in Isa 43:6 “I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth.”

What a wonderful promise of God which He promised in Hos 1:10 that God would reverse the curse. That is why God could repeat in Hos 2:23 what He already promised in Hos 1:10. Hos 2:23,

Hos 2:23 And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy (Heb: I will Ruhamah upon Lo-Ruhamah); and I will say to *them which were* not my people, Thou *art* my people (Heb: and I will say to Lo-Ammi, thou Ammi); and they shall say, *Thou art* my God.

Ruhamah means (Have) Mercy (Hos 2:23) Ruhamah! What a beautiful name. What does it take for God to have mercy upon us? The answer is: Christ has to go to the cross to pay on behalf of our sins, which means He had to endure on our behalf the equivalent of an eternity in hell.

Ammi means My People (Hos 2:23) Ammi! What a beautiful name. What does it take for God to make us His people? Christ has to go to the cross to pay on behalf of our sins the equivalent of an

eternity in hell, buying us out of the camp of Satan, leading us out unhindered through the gates of hell, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against us.

You see, what God says in Hos 2:23 is almost the same as what He said in Hos 1:10 Almost! There is one more thing God said in Hos 1:10, and we need to watch this closely:

It shall come to pass: "In The Place where it was said unto them" (Hos 1:10)

Now the question is: "Where was it said unto them?" When and where was that place? Hosea prophesied this in the northern kingdom of Israel, most likely he prophesied in the capital Samaria. Hosea prophesied that the time would come that the curse of the Law would be lifted.

When would the curse be lifted? It would be in the New Testament time, for this is what Hos 1:10-11 are pointing to, and this is also what the New Testament teaches us.

The time would come that Lo-Ruhamah becomes Ruhamah, and Lo-Ammi becomes Ammi. Hosea prophesied that in the same place where He pronounced the curse on Lo-Ruhamah and on Lo-Ammi, there would this reversal of the curse be said to the people of God.

#3. Where Is That Place? (Rom 9:24-26, Hos 1:10, 2:23, 1Pet 2:9-10)

Please turn in your Bibles to the Epistle to the Romans, Rom 9:24 (2X). There are two places in the New Testament where Hosea's Prophecy was declared as fulfilled. In Rom 9 the apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, addressed the remnant of the Jews as well as the remnant of the Gentiles in this letter, explaining to them the election of God on their behalf from before the foundation of the world. Writing to the New Testament believers, the Apostle Paul quotes from Hos 1:10 as well as from Hos 2:23, teaching us whom God has called. We read in Rom 9:24-26,

Ro 9:24-25 **"Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles (the nations), As he saith also in Osee (Greek for Hosea), I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. (He uses "Beloved" in the place of "Mercy")**

Ro 9:26 **And it shall come to pass, *that in the place* where it was said unto them, Ye *are* not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God."**

This is literally quoted from Hos 1:10. First Paul clarifies that the prophecy of Hosea is not just for the descendants of Israel, it is not just for the Jews. Hosea's prophecy is for the New Testament believers, both Jews and non-Jews. Then in Verse 25 the Apostle quotes Hosea's prophecy in Hos 2:23, where he uses the word "Beloved" instead of the word "Mercy" that was used in Hosea. That is not a big change. Those whom God loves, they are the ones on whom He bestows His mercy. They are the ones for whom Christ died. Those whom God elected are they who receive His grace unto salvation, and these are they for whom Christ has suffered and died on the cross.

Then in Verse 26 the Apostle quotes the second half of Hos 1:10. The Apostle plainly says that this prophecy of Hosea is now fulfilled, and he purposely quotes "**The Place**" as being the same place

where Hosea declared his Prophecy. However, Paul was not in Samaria when he wrote the letter to the Romans. Most likely, Paul was at Corinth when he wrote this letter to the Romans.

If this was a mistake, keep in mind that it was God who let this mistake stand in the Bible. Many commentators have interpreted “The Place” in some philosophical terms. But the Greek word is “Topos”, from which we derive the word topography. The Greek word literally means “the Place”.

Now, let us look at the second place in the New Testament where Hosea is quoted. Please turn to the Epistle of First Peter, 1Pet 2:9. This is a letter from the apostle Peter to the remnants of both Jews and Gentiles. The apostle Peter quotes from Hos 2:23, and he writes in 1Pet 2:9-10

1Pe 2:9-10 **But ye are** a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: **Which** in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

- The Apostle plainly says that the Prophecy of Hosea is not just for the Jews.
- The Prophecy of Hosea has now been fulfilled in these New Testament believers.
- Most likely, Peter wrote this letter from Rome, but definitely not from Samaria.

Now, let us sum this up:

- Hosea wrote his Prophecy most likely while he was in Samaria.
- Paul wrote his letter to the Romans most likely from Corinth, but definitely not from Samaria.
- Peter wrote his letter most likely from Rome, but definitely not from Samaria.

What is God telling us in these four passages? God is telling US that the proper interpretation of “**The Place**” in Hos 1:10 is not Samaria, or any other real estate, but it is the Bible. That is the only place that the Prophecies of Hosea and of Paul and of Peter have in common. The Bible is ONE PLACE, it is ONE BOOK, it is ONE ENTITY. The Bible is not a collection of 66 books. That is an interpretation by the church throughout the centuries, but it has never been proven. And like so many other things that have been introduced by man’s interpretations, it has been a source of confusion.

- Yes, **One Book and Complete** (Rev 22:18-19, Num 23:19)

God confirmed these conclusions with an oath. Please turn to the last page of your Bible. When God almost finished His last message to the last of the living apostles, close to the end of the first century, God stated that He was now finished speaking audible messages to His people. That is why we read on the last page of your Bibles, in Rev 22:18-19, that this was the last message from God.

Rev 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

Rev 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.”

In other words, God says: “This is the End. Don’t tamper with it. The Word of God is now complete. No more messages from God are to be expected. This is the last message from God to the last of the Apostles just before he died. No more prophecies from God will be added.”

And God will abide by His own laws. God will not say one thing and then later change His mind. If that were so, then our salvation would not be secure. We read in Num 23:19,

Nu 23:19 God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

#4. What Has the Lord Done for Me? (1Cor 2:2)

The fact that the Word of God is restricted to this one Book is of great comfort to me. All uncertainties are now removed, and I can trust these conclusions that there will be no further messages from God. How could it be otherwise? It is the same Author throughout the Bible. It is the same Author who moved Hosea and Paul and Peter to write the passages that we have studied. No one else could have written it in such a way that it all fits together. What has the Lord done for me?

I was 40 years old when saw my first Bible. I had never seen one before. You know that no one can understand the Bible unless God makes you understand what you read. The Lord opened the Book for me, and He made me learn more and more. It was like a rose opening up and the more I was studying the Bible the more beautiful the Gospel became, and the more awesome the words therein. What has the Lord done for me? He has made Himself known to me, and He has given me a love for Him, and for the Father who sent Him, and for the Holy Spirit who gave me the wisdom unto salvation. Now I can say: “I know Him”, I know the Lord Jesus and He knows me.

What has the Lord done for me? I can express it with one word: Exagorazo. He showed me how He has Redeemed me and what it has cost Him to Redeem me. He showed me how everything centers on the cross of Christ, and now I can understand why the apostle Paul said in 1Cor 2:2, 1Cor 2:2, “For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”

Now I am not satisfied with everything I have learned. I Want to know Him more and more. But that is the only way a redeemed human being can live. We who are called humans are just a speck of dust in this immense universe, and we serve a God who is greater than this universe. We know nothing. We know less than 0.001% of anything.

And when this great God, the Creator of this immense universe made Himself known to me, I find that a very humbling experience for me. And even more humbling knowing that He, the great God, became man for me and gave Himself for me on the cross, almost 2000 years ago.

And I learned that out of this Book, the Bible. One Book. Not 66 books. No, just One Book.

Do not call it the Book of Acts, or the Book of Romans, or the Book of Titus, and so on. You never hear me say that. But what does the Bible itself say? The New Testament names it The Acts of the Apostles, The Letter of Paul to the Romans, The Letter of Paul to Titus, The Revelation of Jesus Christ, and so on. The New Testament does not call any of its components a Book. It is significant that all the 12 Minor Prophets in the Old Testament are not called Books. Only the Major Prophets and the historical writings are called "Books". But at the time that these prophets spoke the concept "Book" had not yet been invented. The word "Book" derived from the word "Beech", referring to leaves of beechwood which were strung together with ropes. Books as we know them now, and as we understand the concept of "Book", did not come into existence until the beginning of the New Testament age. Prior to that they were called "Scrolls". And so, it is safer to call every Old Testament document a "Prophecy", rather than a "Book".

- **What Has the Lord Done for Himself? (2Pet 1:19-21)**

Please turn in your Bibles to the Second Epistle of Peter, 2Pet 1:20 (2X). In this Second Epistle of Peter the apostle, under the guidance of God the Holy Spirit, speaks highly of the value of this Book, the Bible, for he says in 2Pet 1:19, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." Then he states the two most instructive verses in the Bible, 2Pet 1:20-21,

2Pet 1:20-21, **Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as *they were* moved by the Holy Ghost."**

No one is allowed to say, "This is what this passage means to me." It is totally unimportant what this or that passage says to you, for we must adhere to what God means by these words. For that prophecy came not by the will of man, but holy men of old spoke and wrote prophecies as God the Holy Spirit moved them. The Bible is the dictated Words from God. And so, this is the only Book in the world where a message from God can be found. What a privilege God gave to mortal man! But this is also a test from God! Do we study it and believe it? Do we pass or fail this test? It is ridiculous to dismiss this test from God as unimportant, for our eternity depends on it. And yet, the only ones who will pay attention to this test are those to whom God gave the grace to love Him and to seek Him with all their heart. They are the only ones who do not ignore the mandate God has placed us under, but this is entirely a gift of grace. God is righteous, and God is just, and the problem is not going away if we ignore God, or if we treat His words with contempt. Let us remember that it is God who wrote this Book, and it is just One Book! And God wrote it to magnify His glory.

AMEN.

Let us turn to the Lord in prayer.