

# Gleanings of Grace

## Hosea 2

### Lesson 34

Hosea mentioned that the word of the LORD came to him during the time when Jeroboam, the son of Joash, reigned in the northern kingdom of Israel. Hosea began his ministry at a time when things were so politically successful and economically prosperous that people didn't look to the Lord the way that they should. The seeds of idolatry, spiritual failure, and moral corruption sown in the days of Jeroboam produced a tragic harvest in the following years. Hosea has been referred to as "the man who kept on loving" as he was called by God to represent His unfailing love to a people who were unfaithful to the God who had betrothed them.

#### **OBSERVATION: Hosea 2**

1. Read Hosea 2 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns/titles that refer to *LORD* and the *brethren/people*.  
**Key Words:** *LORD, brethren/people/she/her, and mercy*
3. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, is used three times in Hosea 2. Mark the word. Choose one instance and record what it is based upon.
4. The contrasting word *but* is used in verses 7 and 13. Mark the word. Choose one instance and record what is being contrasted.

## Background:

1. Hosea began this book (Hosea 1:1) by listing four kings of Judah, the Southern Kingdom and one king of Israel, the Northern Kingdom. Hosea lived in the Northern Kingdom under the reign of King Jeroboam, the son of Joash. 2 Kings 14:23-29 records some facts about the reign of this Jeroboam. List a few.

- a. Jeroboam, the son of Joash, was used by the LORD to increase the territory of the Northern Kingdom. The nation prospered in many ways under a king that *did evil in the sight of the LORD*. What lesson can we learn from this?

2. In His effort to speak to His people, the LORD often told the prophets of the Old Testament to do some things that were out of the ordinary. The first recorded words of the LORD to Hosea are recorded in Hosea 1:2. Why are they?

3. Hosea obeyed the LORD's command and married Gomer. Hosea 1:3-11 records the birth of their three children. Each of their names had prophetic significance. What did God declare about:

Jezreel

Lo-Ruhamah

Lo-Ammi

- a. In each of these names, we see the chastisement of God followed by the grace of God. Consider this and write a few thoughts about the character of God as revealed in these verses.

## Read Hosea 2:1-5

1. The first verse of Hosea 2 may be better understood as the last verse of Hosea 1. God's promise to accomplish His promises as declared in chapter 1 is a display of His mercy. Ponder just one instance of God's mercy in your life and express your response.
2. Hosea 1 depicts God's intentions for Israel. Chapter 2 begins with the necessity of His correction. Keep in mind that Hosea's relationship with his wife, Gomer, is a picture of Israel's unfaithfulness and God's actions. What did God call Israel to *put away*?

a. Israel's unfaithfulness to the LORD through *her idolatries* is likened unto the *adulteries* of a harlot. In what ways are the two similar?

b. Record the grievous words of:

Jeremiah 3:9

Ezekiel 16:25

c. James 4:4 expands the definition of *adultery* to *friendship with the world*. What does this verse declare?

1.) Explain *friendship with the world*.

3. What did God say He would do to Israel if she did not *put away her harlotries and her adulteries*? (Hosea 2:3)

a. Describe these consequences of choosing *friendship with the world* in today's vernacular.

4. Hosea 2:5 accuses Israel of behaving *shamefully*. Define the word *shamefully*.

a. Think about her *shameful* statement in this verse: *I will go after my lovers, who give me my bread and my water, my wool and my linen, my oil and my drink*. The people justified going *after* idols in Jeremiah 44:17-18. What did they say?

1.) Contrast this with the decision of Moses as reflected in Hebrews 11:25. What do you see?

b. Israel was mistaken regarding the source of their provisions. What are some reasons God's people might look to people or sources other than to the LORD?

## Read Hosea 2:6-8

1. In response to Israel's grievous statement in verse 5, verse 6 begins with the word *therefore*. What did God say He would do?
  - a. God promised to set a hedge of thorns on the sides of her path, so that it would hurt whenever Israel went off the correct path, and so the wrong paths would be hard to find. How is this a reflection of God's love?
  
2. Reflect upon her conclusion as recorded in the last part of verse 7. What was it?
  - a. The prodigal son had gone after sources other than his father. Read Luke 15:15-21 and answer the following questions:

How low had life become for him?

What did he realize?

What did he say to his father?

    - 1.) Why do you think the LORD loves to hear the words of verse 21 from his children?
  - b. In what ways is following the LORD better than chasing after anything else?
  
3. She will re-discover that the LORD is the One who provides (Hosea 2:8). List the first five things that pop into your mind that God has provided for you.

## Read Hosea 2:9-13

1. During the time of Hosea's prophecies, Israel was living in both financial and military abundance. Hosea 2:8 declared that they gave much of what God *multiplied* to idols. According to verses 9 and 11, what did God say He would do with the material things He had provided?
  
2. What does Ezekiel 16:37-38,43 add to your understanding of Hosea 2:10,13?

3. Note the words of the people in Hosea 2:12. How is our behavior different when we give credit to other sources for our provision, rather than God?
4. Write in bold letters the words of the LORD regarding His people at the end of verse 13.
  - a. What actions follow *forgetting* the LORD? Deuteronomy 8:11
    - 1.) What are some changes you notice in your own life when you begin to *forget the LORD*?

### Read Hosea 2:14-20

1. This section of Hosea and the two prior sections begin with the term of conclusion *therefore*. In response to the lewd choices of the people, God first declared that He would *hedge up their way with thorns*. Next, He would *take away* His provisions. The *therefore* in verse 14 may be unexpected. It begins with the words, *therefore, behold, I will allure her*. What are some synonyms for the word *allure*?
  - a. What are some antonyms for the word *allure*?
2. Contemplate Jesus' statement in John 6:44. What are some ways that the Holy Spirit *allured* you or *drew* you to the Father?
3. The LORD also declared in Hosea 2:14 that He would *speak comfort to her*. What are some of your favorite words of *comfort* from the LORD?
4. Consider the state of a woman who had betrayed the LORD in so many ways and *forgotten* Him. Now, factor in the three *therefores* in this chapter; God's hedging in, His *taking away* His provision, and His *alluring* and *comforting*. What are your thoughts?
5. Scan Hosea 2:15-18 and record some of the changes that will occur.

6. Listen to the heart and intentions of the LORD in verses 19,20. The word *betrothed* is used three times. List the words that describe that *betrothal*.
  - a. Bask in the words of Isaiah 62:3-5. Describe God's intentions for His people.

### Read Hosea 2:21-23

1. As Hosea's relationship with his wife, Gomer, was to be a picture of God's love for His own, Hosea 3:1 records God's instruction to him. What was it?
  - a. In spite of Gomer's sin, God instructed Hosea to *go again and love her*. She had left him and given herself to other *lovers*. Hosea was to take her back; in fact, he *bought her* at a cost to himself (Hosea 3:2). How is this an example of the love of God?
2. *In that day*, when all things have been set aright, God will *answer*. He will *answer* with the good things He has always wanted for His people. John 15:7 reflects the change required in the people. What is it?
3. Hosea's third child, a son, was named *Lo-Ammi*, meaning "Not My People" (Hosea 1:9). That name, originally given as a marker of judgment, is now transformed into a mark of restoration as we read the words of Hosea 2:23. God will restore His relationship with them and they with Him. What are your thoughts when you reflect upon the fact that, in spite of all of your betrayals, He calls you "Mine"?

### REVIEW: Hosea 2

1. What did you glean from this study regarding the heart and intentions of God for His people?

*For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is His name;  
and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel;  
He is called the God of the whole earth.  
-Isaiah 54:5*

## Observation Worksheet

### Hosea 2

Say to your brethren, 'My people,' and to your sisters, 'Mercy is shown.' <sup>2</sup> 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; <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> "I will not have mercy on her children, for they are the children of harlotry. <sup>5</sup> For their mother has played the harlot; she who conceived them has behaved shamefully. For she said, 'I will go after my lovers, who give me my bread and my water, my wool and my linen, my oil and my drink.' <sup>6</sup> "Therefore, behold, I will hedge up your way with thorns, and wall her in, so that she cannot find her paths. <sup>7</sup> She will chase her lovers, but not overtake them; yes, she will seek them, but not find them. Then she will say, 'I will go and return to my first husband, for then it was better for me than now.' <sup>8</sup> For she did not know that I gave her grain, new wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold—which they prepared for Baal. <sup>9</sup> "Therefore I will return and take away My grain in its time and My new wine in its season, and will take back My wool and My linen, given to cover her nakedness. <sup>10</sup> Now I will uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and no one shall deliver her from My hand. <sup>11</sup> I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her New Moons, her Sabbaths—all her appointed feasts. <sup>12</sup> "And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, of which she has said, 'These are my wages that my lovers have given me.' So I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them. <sup>13</sup> I will punish her for the days of the Baals to which she burned incense. She decked herself with her earrings and jewelry, and went after her lovers; but Me she forgot," says the LORD. <sup>14</sup> "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> "And it shall be, in that day," says the LORD, "that you will call Me 'My Husband,' and no longer call Me 'My Master,' <sup>17</sup> for I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals, and they shall be remembered by their name no more. <sup>18</sup> In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, with the birds of the air, and with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, to make them lie down safely. <sup>19</sup> "I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; <sup>20</sup> I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you

shall know the LORD. <sup>21</sup> "It shall come to pass in that day that I will answer," says the LORD; "I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth. <sup>22</sup> The earth shall answer with grain, with new wine, and with oil; they shall answer Jezreel. <sup>23</sup> Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, and I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' and they shall say, 'You are my God!' "