

Hosea — Part Three

In our last article we looked over scriptures in chapter one of Hosea that show us that only the death of JESUS and not JEHU will truly purge our land from self. This article will build upon that point from Gomer's view (as will be explained further into this article). It is important to see God's progression verse for verse in this first chapter of Hosea, for each spiritual action is a building block to the next step in bringing Israel out from an idolatrous/adulterous relationship with God and into a husband-wife union. That theme is established in chapter 2 verse 16 *"And it shall be at that day, saith the Lord, that thou shalt call me Ishi (my husband) and not Baali (an idol).* It is also important to note that the entire first chapter of Hosea is an overview of the complete scope of God's work throughout the entire book. Therefore, to understand the first chapter is to have a template through which to view and understand the flow of the entire prophesy. It is for that reason that we are taking so much time examining every verse in the first chapter. God begins this book by sharing what is in His heart for Israel from beginning to end so that the reader might see that His goal is to Husband her into His image, multiply His seed through her, and unite her as One in Him (a crucified Christ). Although He will bring her into and through His Cross to do this, she needs to be in tune with His heart and His goal so she can be with Him in the process.

"Husbanding Her Into His image"

When God, in His eternal view, told Hosea to "Go and take a wife and children of harlotry", His goal was not simply to deal with her sins... but to bring her into the Spirit of the One true God to whom she was married. God wrote this love-letter through Hosea to rebellious Israel. As we will later discuss, the letter Hosea wrote speaks of incredible plans to bring the people of God into the deepest possible measure of oneness with Christ Crucified. I have wept and continue to weep before the Lord as I see His amazing heart for us in this book. We will never truly see the deepest purpose of this prophesy until, through the unveiling of the Holy Spirit, we look into Christ Crucified, and His heart for His wife.

Conception

In order for God to Husband Israel, she must conceive of Who He is. In Hosea chapter one, we find Gomer as a parable of Israel being “husbanded” by God through the person of Hosea. There is one action that the Word of God mentions concerning Gomer more than any other. It is the one thing that is spoken of most concerning her, spoken of even more than her harlotry. That thing is “CONCEPTION”. Gomer conceived and brought forth three times in the first chapter. Each conception represents Gomer receiving into her heart the Seed of Christ Crucified in a specific view. Each child brought forth from that conception represents the specific knowing of Christ Crucified she received. Remember, Hosea was relating to Gomer as husband and not as a judge. A husband shares his heart and spirit with his wife so that she can partake of him in oneness whereas a judge metes out judgments and decrees from afar. God wanted to relate to Israel as His bride (Jeremiah 3:1). He did not just want to tell her things, but breath into her His very Spirit and Life through oneness. Yet, no matter how much God spoke to His beloved people through the prophets, very little was received and even less was conceived unto fruit-bearing. The Lord needs those who will respond to Him and receive His word with a heart to conceive. Consider the people of God hundreds of years after Hosea’s time in the small village called Nazareth. The Spirit of God found one young girl willing to receive His Word and conceive of it in the power of the Holy Spirit thereby bringing forth Christ (Luke 1:31-38). Maybe this can help us see how important it is to God that His people not just listen to what He is saying, but receive it so deeply within as to conceive and bring forth Christ. We may look at the young virgin girl in Nazareth and believe that her conception of the Son was partly due to her virginity and uprightness, but let us consider Gomer, a harlot. She had no righteousness in herself... but she had Hosea who took her as his wife. She received that union and brought forth from it. We will look at each time Gomer conceived and explore the beauty of knowing Christ Crucified therein.

Her First Conception – Jezreel

“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”. (Hos 1:3 - 4a)

In our last article we began discussing “Jezreel”, which is the name of the first child Gomer conceived with Hosea. We will now continue to look at how “Jezreel” represents Christ Crucified in a specific view that, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we can conceive of and bring forth in our lives. The first and most definitive action in the book of Hosea after he marries Gomer and she conceives a son, is to deal with Jehu and his way of bringing “salvation”. Remember, each step in this progression is vital to the next step. Gomer must first see that she is no longer under the headship of Jehu but Hosea. In order for the people of God to be saved from their wicked ways, they need to be joined to Another. Jehu was a king in Israel during part of Hosea’s prophecy. He represents man’s way of dealing with sin and evil in the land. It was a false Cross done in another Spirit than that of Christ Crucified. If Israel was joined to that cross under that king, then surely the blood was yet on their own hands. Whatever is in the king flows into his kingdom. Likewise, whatever is in the head is meant to flow into the body. If there was to be any hope for Israel, she must first marry her Savior (Hosea’s name can be interpreted “salvation” and also “Jesus”). Her only hope is that what is in Him will flow into her. For that to happen she must conceive of His Word, and insodoing receive of His Spirit and way. This is what Gomer represents to Israel and to us today. Gomer is someone who was hopelessly off in sin and self, as far from God as she could be. But Hosea married her, and through oneness Hosea began to sow his mind and spirit into her.

Before we can partake of the real Cross, our false crosses and fleshly ways must be cut off. The people of God in Hosea’s time may have borne the name of the one true God, but they followed Baal in their ways, and the headship of Jehu in how they dealt with sin and flesh. Is it that much different in today’s Christian culture that surrounds us? How much of what is declared as Gospel truly lifts up Christ Crucified as the way? Do we really allow the Lamb to be our Head and to give us His mind and spirit in how we proceed, or do we simply go with the flow trusting that it must be ok because everyone is doing it or because we have the correct terminology? Back in Hosea’s time and now today we need union with our Crucified Husband, union into His way, His Nature and His Cross. In order for that to happen we must cry out for conception and not just information. We must press in to know Him in a way that goes past knowledge into union and life, like Gomer represents. No matter what our condition, Jesus died so that He could sanctify us in Himself to the uttermost (Hebrews 7:25). Once these basic first

steps are taken... union and conception... there is potential for a total conversion and abundant fruit. The enemy of union with Christ is the belief that we are righteous enough to do it for God instead of through God. The enemy of conception is satisfaction with information, inspiration, illumination or anything else short of His Life revealed in us. If we do not cry out and press in to know Christ in these first steps, our journey into Hosea must end at chapter one.

Practical Conception

Jezreel means “God sows or God scatters”. God’s way can only be known through union into Christ Crucified. Christ Crucified sows Himself into death that others may receive life. In Hosea’s time, God’s people were uniting with the methods of the foreign nations around them to bring forth increase. They choose idols above the living God to find answers to their question and help for their needs. This same heart condition still exists today. Instead of being crucified with Christ many want to counsel their flesh back into a false sense of peace. Instead of laying down our lives for one another, we may choose to “talk it out” and “find a Christian compromise” to the unjust situation. Just like Israel of old, many Christians would rather embrace the ways of the heathen nations around them than go the way of the Cross. Gomer stands as a sign to us. In the midst of a rebellious people, laden with her own sin and shame, she was joined with Hosea and brought forth fruit. The answer can only be found in a PERSON and not a method. It’s not what we do, but to whom we are joined that makes all the difference.

To him that is faithful with little, more will be given. Every conception in the book of Hosea is a progression in knowing Christ Crucified as Life. Next month we will look at “Lo-ruhamah” and “Lo-ammi”, Gomers second and third children. We will discuss how these children typify the continued outworking of the Way of the Crucified in His bride. May the Lord increase your faith as you find encouragement in the heart of Jesus for His Bride. His deep desire is to bring us into His fullness, to have those who will receive His mind and spirit and be as those that bear His nature in this world.