

# *Hosea – Part Two*

## *Introduction To Hosea Part Two*

Let us continue in our searching of the scriptures in Hosea to see Christ. In our last article we mentioned that the people of Israel in Hosea's time were already the "redeemed of the Lord". They were known as the "people of God" but their lives were filled with idol worship and devoid of God's glory. God's people needed to go deeper into God, into His death and into His Life. The prophet Hosea's union with Gomer (a woman from Israel who lived in harlotry) did not represent salvation at new birth, but salvation from self. Hosea's name means "salvation". He is picture of Christ our Husband who saves us from ourselves by bringing us into the deeper work of the Cross, a true application of our death with Christ. It is God's love and passion for His Church that causes Him to fight for her by dealing with her to know in reality that she is crucified in Him, and what Spirit she is truly of.

In our last article we discussed the first verses in Hosea that reveal God's heart of love for His church. Rather than condemning His people in their adulterous state, He joined Himself to them in such a manner as to sow them into His death. The first fruit of Hosea's union with Gomer was a son named "Jezreel" which means "God will sow". Here we see that the planting of the Lord did not begin with the sowing of His life into us, but with sowing us into His death (Romans 6:3-11). In future articles we will more further explore the grand scope of the meaning of Jezreel for the people of God.

### *Jehu and the Blood of 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; 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."***  
***(Hosea 1:3-5).***

**Read 11 Kings 10:1-29**

***"So Jehu slew all that remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, and his kinsfolks, and his priests, until he left him none remaining (II Kings 10:11).***

Hosea prophesized during the tragic and devastating final years of the Northern Kingdom. It was at time of idolatry and harlotry from the living God. The people's hearts had turned away from God unto Baal worship. They had forgotten their God.

Many years before Hosea a man named Jehu had reigned as king over Israel. Jezreel is the bloody battle-field where king Jehu utterly ended the seed of evil king Ahab and all the priests of Baal. It is a wonderful picture in type and shadow of the Cross annihilating the old adamic nature. Yet, as with every shadow, it does not give a perfectly clear image of the Cross, as can be seen in the motivations of King Jehu. Although he raged against all that was evil in Israel during his famous rampage at Jezreel, at the end of his life Jehu was found worshipping false

gods, with no heart to walk in the way of the Lord; *“But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin”* (II Kings 10:30). The great commitment and zeal for the Cross that was found in this man made no difference in his own life. Although he tried to cut sin out of Israel, he could not cut it out of himself. The very things he warred against were found as the guiding forces of his life in old age.

King Jehu’s zeal was legendary as he rode into Jezreel to slaughter all that remained of the house of Ahab and the priests of Baal (II Kings 10:16). This man Jehu single-handedly tried to cut off and cut out from Israel all that was of the evil seed corrupting them. His heroic attempt was even commended by God (II King 10:30). Yet, after all that bloodshed and battle, King Jehu was unchanged. King Jehu was committed to apply the cross to everyone else but himself! He was keenly aware of the outward lack around him, but unconcerned with his own inward state. Another angle to this motivation could be found in someone trying to destroy all that is not yet Christ formed within them. How many of us have attempted to “crucify ourselves” and get rid of all the corruption of the flesh and idol worship within? Although our personal zeal to die to self may be legendary, self cannot crucify self. Only Christ could and did crucify in Himself all of the old seed of Adam (Romans 5:10, I Corinthians 15:22). It is only through union into His death that we will truly be made free from self and alive unto God through Christ.

## *Avenging The Blood of Jehu*

***“And the LORD said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; 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”* (Hosea 1:4).**

There is only one death that God accepts, and that is the death of His Son. Before God “caused to cease the house of Israel” through His sowing them into captivity, He first dealt with Jehu’s sowing that was after another spirit. God required an “avenging of the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu” - Hosea 1:4. The Word of God declares Christ Crucified, and all that is not out from Him must be avenged, removed, and brought into the Son.

There was a need to avenge the blood shed at Jezreel upon the house of Jehu because of the spirit in which Jehu shed the blood. Because Jehu was not Jesus, he did it out of a wrong motive, even though he was fulfilling the Word of the Lord prophesied through Elijah (II Kings 10:10). Not only Jehu but all of us will be motivated by something other than the spotless Lamb when we seek to deal with flesh apart from Christ’s death, whether it be flesh in ourselves or in others. No other death than Christ’s death removed the vile seed of Adam. No other sword than the one that slaughtered the Son of God can remove Baal worship from Israel. No other blood than the blood of the Lamb can be shed to crucify an old creation and remove it forever.

Jehu, therefore, can be a picture of man trying to “crucify others and himself” in his desire to rid the land of bad seed (Ahab/Adam). The kind of destruction that comes from our own swords needs avenging for we are the very corruption that we are trying to remove through death. Yes, the house of Ahab (Adam) needed utter removal before Israel could have functioned as God’s home again... but JEHU is not the man to do it. Only the man Jesus Christ could accomplish the task through His death after He joined to us on His Cross. In THAT DAY, the day of His Cross, the true end would come and now has come.

Yes, the destruction of the old man was a valley of death and slaughter, and the field truly was soaked with blood, but was the blood of the Lamb that was shed for us. The battle belongs to the Lord. Only through identification into His death can we defeat the old man, the seed of the old creation. Our weapons must be spiritual and not carnal, therefore our victory will only be found as we appropriate and embrace His death for us through the power of the Holy Spirit. But it is not just a “for us” that Christ’s death accomplished, but an “as us” because He was joined to us, and we most certainly died in Him that day, the day of His cross.

## *Jezreel*

*I see a field drenched with blood  
Not my own but the precious Son’s.  
All battalions and cannons lay  
Besides the soldiers that died that day.*

*None could conquer such a foe.  
Though we with valiance try to do so...  
Strong with vengeance we seek to slay  
The evils of mankind each day.*

*But our bloody fields make earth’s pang’s grow  
As from the soil she cries and groans.  
Such death to her will never bring  
What can only come from the Son’s sowing.*

*So great Jezreel appears to bear  
Vengeance upon King Jehu’s snare  
Who sought to purge the land from sin  
with sword in hand, swung upon both priest and kin.*

*The carnage lay, the slaughter complete,  
The sword full of blood and meat.  
An end had come, like Elijah shared,  
But somehow Jehu himself was spared.*

*Ahab’s seed lay there dead,  
his seventy sons had lost their heads.  
Priest and friend found no escape,  
The sword upon Baal’s prophets would devastate.*

*But do not be deceived my friend  
To our flesh there is no end  
Until the Cross of Christ is seen  
All our struggles are in vanity.*

***Only He can purge this land  
Through the death of a Lamb  
Sowing Himself on a Tree  
After He joined to you and me.***

***His Blood was shed and wet the soil,  
Eradicating evil's toil  
A generation crucified,  
The Seed of Adam in Him died.***

***We died with Him that bloody day,  
He fought our battle all the way.  
God will sow His Son for us,  
And we are sown in His true Cross.***

***Jezreel...***

## ***The Wounded Land***

***The fire burns  
The sword a silver streak  
As Cross is applied even unto king and priest***

***The bow is broken  
Its mark is met  
As Ahab's seed is devoured and rent***

***Their ashes speak  
Rendered flesh bellows,  
"Shall we be found slain  
to return to Assyria's fellows?"***

***God forbid the course of such battle  
Should lead us back to adamic babble***

***The dead shall live  
Yes live in His sight  
As Christ revives by Spirit's delight***

***The Son shall rise and we shall be healed  
As His Life fills this wounded lands fields***

*(Hosea Part Three continued in next month's newsletter)*

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