Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 408 – Love An Adulteress Through The Latter Days (Hosea 3:1-5)

1. What was the finding of an adulteress woman as a wife likened to in this chapter?
   The Lord's relationship with Israel: *"Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine"* (**Hosea 3:1**).

   - This takes us backwards (**Hosea 1:2-3**).
   - This instruction though includes a greater detail. Hosea is told to "love" this adulteress. The word "love" is the same Hebrew word as "beloved" in this verse (Strong's # 0157). Therefore, this is a woman sexually involved with another already. This is the type of woman that was to be avoided by God's children (**Proverbs 5:1-10**, **Proverbs 6:20-35**, **Proverbs 7:4-27**, **Proverbs 23:27**, and **Proverbs 30:20**).
   - Had Israel been following the Law of Moses properly, such a woman would not have existed (**Leviticus 20:10** and **Deuteronomy 23:17**).
   - The point is, the children of Israel are putting God in the same place Hosea is being put in as Israel is acting as an adulterous woman (**II Chronicles 21:9-13**, **Isaiah 1:21**, **Jeremiah 2:20-3:25**, **Ezekiel 16:1-63**, **Ezekiel 23:1-49**, and **Hosea 4:12**).
   - They are sinfully looking to other gods (**Exodus 20:1-5**; **Exodus 23:13**, **Deuteronomy 7:1-11**, **Deuteronomy 11:16**, **I Kings 14:7-9**, **II Chronicles 34:22-28**, **Jeremiah 1:16**, and **Jeremiah 22:1-9**).
   - What sense did it make to create something with your own hands and then call it god (**Psalms 115:1-8**)?
   - They loved flagons of wine. Flagons means "something closely pressed together, i.e. a cake of raisins or other comfit" and the word translated wine here is translated "grapes" (Strong's # 809) every other time it is used in the Old Testament (Strong's # 6025). When we read of "flagons" it does not normally mean alcohol (i.e. **I Chronicles 16:1-3**). Now, we will latter read they had been taken away by alcohol (**Hosea 4:11**), but this phrase just doesn't mean that. What this could mean, and likely does, is that they were giving their gods raisin cakes (**Jeremiah 7:18**; **44:19**).

2. What did Hosea's wife cost him?
   "So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley" (**Hosea 3:2**).

   - A dowry [purchase price for wife, wedding money] was paid (cf. **Exodus 22:16-17** and **I Samuel 18:22-25**).

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3. What did Hosea require of his wife?

" And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee" (**Hosea 3:3**).

- Simply put, he wanted her to be faithful to him as he would to her (**Deuteronomy 5:18** and **I Corinthians 6:18-7:5**).

4. What was going to be lacking for many days in Israel?

"For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim" (**Hosea 3:4**).

- Sin caused a breach in relationship between them and God (**Isaiah 1:1-18** and **Isaiah 59:1-3**).
- No kings, no sacrifices, etc. (**Lamentations 2:9**, **Hosea 10:1-3**, **Amos 8:10-14**, etc.). Ephod's were in the priest's garments (**Exodus 28:4-15**). A Teraphim was an image [idol].
- Israel was going to be carried away (**II Kings 17:7-23**).
- Judah led into captivity (**II Chronicles 36:1-21**).
- That is not all though. This is pointing further than all of that as the next verse will clarify.
- Idolatry would eventually come to pass and that will point to a certain time period (**Zechariah 13:1-9**).

5. What was Israel's future in the "latter days"?

They were going to return to the Lord: *"Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days"* (**Hosea 3:5**).

- The "latter days" here prophetically refers to Christ and the kingdom (**Daniel 2:28-45**).
- David is long gone. So, who is this referring to (**Jeremiah 33:14-16**, **Luke 1:31-32**, and **Acts 2:14-41**)?
- At what time, in which it connects to the other contextual clues, did fear come (**Acts 2:42**; **5:1-11**)?

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