

The Big DD (Divine Discipline)
God Chastens Whom He Loves
Hosea 2:1-13, Jan. 30/Feb. 1, 2024 - Cindy Lindstedt

INTRO: Hosea is a foundational theological book.

Although J_____ is a main subject, the book is primarily remembered for its vivid pictures of God's redeeming L_____ and amazing G_____ – specifically for the nation of Israel.

THEME => God's loyal LOVE for His C_____ P_____, Israel, in spite of their I_____.

This book reveals to us the magnitude of God's love and grace like no other. We see the tender, compassionate love that God offers as a means of R_____ to a hardhearted, adulterous Israel. She is the unfaithful wife who has deserted her husband and gone after other lovers. Despite this fact, God through the prophet Hosea, invites her back, "Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God" (Hos. 14:1).

HOSEA Ch. 2 is a riveting chapter that highlights God's tumultuous relationship with Israel, represented graphically by the prophet Hosea's adulterous wife, Gomer. It lays bare the nation's unfaithfulness, portrays the harsh consequences of S_____ (the Big DD – Divine Discipline) yet provides a beacon of H_____ with God's promise of restoration and renewal because this discipline is rooted in the heart of God's love.

In the passage under consideration, we see a holy God's stunning condemnation and judgement of sin -- but always with the intent of... what? R_____!

Q: How does the Lord bring about restoration? A: Through C_____ (Hos. 5:14b-15)

- For whom the LORD loves He C_____. Heb. 12:6
- For whom the LORD loves He R_____. Prov. 3:12

Outline of Hosea 2

- I. The Lord's Punishment of Israel (2:2-13)
 - A. Punishment threatened (2:2-4)
 - B. Punishment initiated (2:5-13)
 1. Israel deprived of her lovers
 2. Israel deprived of the Lord's blessings (2:8-13)
- II. The Lord's Restoration of Israel (2:14-23)- next lesson

*Our Objective in this lesson: To better understand God's faithful, covenantal love for His people which includes His using chastening as an instrument of restoration.

Verses 1-5: Unfaithfulness and Betrayal - These verses depict the unfaithfulness of Israel (Gomer) towards God. She relentlessly pursues her lovers (symbolizing false gods), forgetting her rightful husband (God). As a result, Hosea warns that *God intends to expose her infidelity and withdraw His protection and blessings.*

Verses 6-13: Judgement and Consequences - God promises to thwart Israel's pursuits of false gods and strip her of the blessings she misattributes to them. He plans to make her like a desert, expose her nakedness, and bring her celebrations to an end as **punishment for her unfaithfulness.**

Verses 14-23: Restoration and Renewal [next lesson] - Despite the harsh punishments, *God's enduring love for Israel shines through.* He promises to allure her, lead her into the wilderness, and speak kindly to her. In this time of isolation, *Israel will have the chance to repent and renew her vows with God, setting the stage for a brighter future filled with prosperity, peace, and God's compassion.*

OUR PASSAGE: Hosea 2:1-13

-Hosea 2:1 – The LORD addresses a portion of restored Israel as My people (“*Ammi*”) and My loved one (*Ruhamah*). But... *all is not well!* They are to bring C_____ against their mother, Israel, as a nation. The *physical* I_____ of Gomer graphically depicts the *spiritual* I_____ of Israel.

-Hosea 2: 2-5 Israel’s unfaithfulness condemned; God’s punishment threatened
Heb. 10:31; 12:29; Ps. 50:22; Ps. 76:6; “cup of His anger” Rev. 14:10 MacNote
Motivation for sin: S_____ G_____!

-Hosea 2:6-13 Israel’s impenitence judged; punishment initiated
“Crosses and obstacles in an evil course are great blessings” – Matthew Henry
“Sin and mirth can never hold long together; but if men will not take away sin from their mirth, God will take away mirth from their sin.” – MH

-Hosea 2:19-23 – Glorious restoration [next week]

<Key> And I will betroth you to me F_____. Yes, I will betroth you to me in R_____ and in J_____, in L_____ [“*hesed*”] and C_____ ... in F_____. Hos. 1:19-20

Lovingkindness. The Hebrew word is *hesed*, used about 250 times in the O.T. It means loyal, steadfast, or faithful love and stresses the idea of a **belonging together** of those involved in the love relationship. Here it connotes **God’s faithful love for His unfaithful people**. See also 4:1; 6:4, 6; 10:12; 12:6; Joel 2:13; Jonah 2:8; 4:2; Mic. 6:8; 7:18, 20; Zech. 7:9. In the OT, communion, deliverance, enabling, enlightenment, guidance, forgiveness, hope, praise, preservation are all based of God’s *hesed*. (Ryrie Study Bible note)

***APPLICATION: Do we KNOW before Whom we stand?** Living before God (Hosea 6:1-3)

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most I_____ thing about us.”

“*My people are destroyed* for lack of _____.” Hosea 4:6

- “I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of _____ Christ Jesus my Lord... that I may _____ Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings.” Phil. 3:8,10
- I desire _____ of God more than burnt offerings.” Hosea 6:6
- “There is no faithfulness, or kindness, or _____ of God in the land.” Hosea 4:1
- This is life eternal, that they might _____ thee, and only true God, and Jesus Christ... John 17:3.
- “Thus says the Lord, ‘Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; ²⁴but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and _____ Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness [*hesed*], justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,’ declares the Lord.” Jer. 9:23-24

Happily, we are in the hands of a F_____ T_____ G_____!

CONCLUSION: Despite Israel’s (and our) transgressions and unfaithfulness, God’s punishment of His people is never to destroy but to correct and restore. His love remains steadfast.

Questions: What can we learn about God’s character from His response to Israel’s infidelity? How does Hosea 2 help you understand the severity of spiritual adultery? How does God’s commitment to and methods for restoring Israel in Hosea 2 reflect on His relationship with and commitment to you personally?

⇒ Book recommendations: **Knowing God** (J.I. Packer); **The Attributes of God** (Arthur W. Pink); **The Knowledge of the Holy** (A.W. Tozer)

“An unknown God can neither be trusted, served, nor worshipped... **God is only truly known in the soul as we yield ourselves to Him, submit to His authority, and regulate all the details of our lives by His holy precepts and commandments.**” - A.W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*