

GOD'S WEAPONS for TRANSFORMATION

Part 1 – His Unconditional Love

Ephesians 5:1-2, Hosea 1, 2 and 3

AMAZING LOVE
THE STORY OF HOSEA

Ephesians 5:1 - MSG

Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents.

Ephesians 5:2a

Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us.

Ephesians 5:2b

His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.



AMAZING LOVE

THE STORY OF HOSEA

Hosea 1:2 - NIV

When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman (a whore) and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord.”

Hosea 1:3

So he married Gomer daughter of
Diblaim, and she conceived and
bore him a son.

Hosea 1:4

Then the Lord said to Hosea, “Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel.

Hosea 1:6

Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the Lord said to Hosea, “Call her Lo-Ruhamah (which means “not loved”), for I will no longer show love to Israel or forgive them.

Hosea 1:8

After she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, Gomer had another son.

Hosea 1:9

Then the Lord said, “Call him Lo-Ammi (which means “not my people”), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.

Hosea 1:10a

“Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted.

Hosea 1:10b

In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'children of the living God.'

Hosea 2:1

**“In that day you will call your
brothers Ammi—‘My people.’
And you will call your sisters
Ruhamah—‘The ones I love.’**

Background of the Literary Structure of Hosea

The 1st Progression of the Story of Hosea

- The sinful adultery of Gomer destroys her covenant (marriage) relationship with Hosea. This relationship reflects Israel's destruction of their covenant with God.

The 2nd Progression of the Story of Hosea

- As a result of Gomer's destructive sins, God must confront and discipline her for the purpose of her redemption. God must do the same with Israel as a result of her sin.

The 3rd Progression of the Story of Hosea

- The restoration of the covenant (marriage) relationship between Hosea and Gomer is accomplished by the unconditional love of the offended party, Hosea.

The 3rd Progression of the Story of Hosea

- The restoration of the covenant relationship between God and Israel is accomplished by the unconditional love, forgiveness, mercy, and grace of the offended party, God.

- **The representation of God's future dealing with Israel carries a dramatic and shocking message of callous betrayals by one party, an unwillingness to continue with the status quo by the other party, and the surprising, undeserved unconditional love, forgiveness, and mercy of God.**

Hosea 3:1a - NLT

Then the Lord said to me, “Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover.

Hosea 3:1b

This will illustrate that the Lord still loves Israel, even though the people have turned to other gods and love to worship them

Hosea 3:2

So I bought her back for fifteen pieces of silver and five bushels of barley and a measure of wine.

Hosea 3:3a

Then I said to her, “You must live
in my house for many days and
stop your prostitution.

Hosea 3:3b

**During this time, you will not
have sexual relations with
anyone, not even with me.**

Hosea 3:4

This shows that Israel will go a long time without a king or prince, and without sacrifices, sacred pillars, priests, or even idols!

Hosea 3:5

But afterward the people will return and devote themselves to the Lord their God and to David's descendant, their king. In the last days, they will tremble in awe of the Lord and of his goodness.

Principle #1

Our repeated sinful behaviors are best represented by the behaviors of a constantly unfaithful spouse. They rape and destroy authentic and intimate relationships (covenant).

Hosea 1:2 - NIV

When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman (a whore) and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord.”

Principle #2

God wants us to understand the seriousness of our sins, their consequences, and that they separate us from being in relationship with Him.

The Names of the Children

- Jezreel – I will punish
- Lo-Ruhamah – Not loved
- Lo-Ammi – Not my people

Principle #3

God has, is, and will continue to offer His unconditional love to those who don't deserve it and to those who have violated their covenant relationship with Him.

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Principle #4

God offers His unconditional love and undeserved forgiveness to any and all in hopes that the unfaithful will decide to repent and avoid eternal judgment.

Principle #5

Christ's sacrifice on the cross was a payment that required everything He had to pay off a debt that we owe. It is a price that none of us is worth and that none of us can ever earn, work off, or pay back.

Hosea 3:2

So I bought her back for fifteen pieces of silver and five bushels of barley and a measure of wine.

Principle #6

Being a genuine child of God's eternal family requires two things:

1) believe that God loves you in spite of your sins (which He does), and 2) actively respond to God's unconditional love with a new, genuine commitment of love for Him.

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This shows that Israel will go a long time without a king or prince, and without sacrifices, sacred pillars, priests, or even idols!

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But afterward the people will return and devote themselves to the Lord their God and to David's descendant, their king. In the last days, they will tremble in awe of the Lord and of his goodness.

Principle #7

The demonstration of Hosea's love for Gomer pales in comparison to God's love for us. God wants you to love like that!

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Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents.

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