
Church in Campbell Weekly News

September 16, 2012 Issue 12 – 38

The Confirmation of God's Faithful Restoration of Israel

Hosea 3:1-5 speaks of the confirmation of God's faithful restoration of Israel.

1. Jehovah Telling Hosea to Love Gomer, a Woman of Adulteries, Again

"Then Jehovah said to me, Go again, love a woman who is loved by her companion yet who is an adulteress, even as Jehovah has loved the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes" (v. 1). Here Jehovah told Hosea to love Gomer, a woman of adulteries, again. This symbolizes that Jehovah will love the children of Israel again, though they have turned to other lovers (other gods) and loved raisin cakes (pleasures for self). Apparently, God stopped loving Israel when Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem and again when Titus the prince of Rome destroyed Jerusalem. To this day Israel has been left alone, apparently without God's love, yet God still cares for Israel in His own way.

2. Hosea Loving Gomer and Telling Her to Abide with Him Many Days

Hosea was very obedient to God. He had married Gomer already, and she had borne him three

children. Then she probably left him and committed adultery with her lovers. Later, as a symbol of His intention to love the children of Israel again, Jehovah told Hosea to love Gomer again, and Hosea did so.

Hosea told Gomer, the woman of harlotries, to abide with him many days without going about as a harlot nor being another man's, and he would be the same toward her (vv. 2-3). According to verse 4, this symbolizes that the children of Israel would abide for many days without king, without prince, without sacrifice, without pillar (for worship), and without ephod and teraphim (idols in homes). These "many days" began when the Babylonians burned the temple. For seventy years the Jews did not offer sacrifices. The temple was rebuilt, but it was utterly destroyed by Titus in A.D. 70. From that time, Israel has been without king, without prince, and without their worship by offering sacrifices to God. Furthermore, from that time until the present, a period of nearly two thousand years, the Jews have not worshipped idols.

3. The Children of Israel Returning and Seeking Jehovah and David Their King (Christ in the Millennium)

Later, as verse 5 reveals, the children of Israel will return and seek Jehovah and David their king (Christ in the millennium—Rev. 20:4, 6), and they

will come with fear to Jehovah and to His goodness in the latter days (in the restoration age—Matt. 19:28).

What Hosea did in obedience to God's command regarding Gomer was a confirmation of what God promised to do regarding Israel. God told Hosea to love Gomer again as a symbol of His intention to love Israel again. Today Israel is a Gomer, but the day is coming when God will restore her to Himself.

This restoration will be the result of the manifestation of Christ. Once again I would emphasize the fact that in the prophetic books four things are covered repeatedly: God's chastisement on the Jews, God's punishment upon the nations, the manifestation of Christ, and the restoration. God's chastisement and punishment will issue in the manifestation of Christ, and the manifestation of Christ will bring in the age of restoration, the millennial kingdom, which ushers the old and ruined universe into the new heaven and new earth with the New Jerusalem. If we see these four things, we will see what a hope we have in Christ.

In Chapter 14 verses 4 through 8 we have a picture of Israel in the restoration (Matt. 19:28), as revealed in Hosea 2:15-23; 3:5; 6:1-3; 10:12. Jehovah will heal their apostasy; He will love them freely, for His anger will have turned away from them. He will be like the dew to Israel. Israel will bud like the lily (signifying a pure life trusting in God) and will send forth his roots like the trees of Lebanon (signifying standing steadily in the uplifted humanity). His shoots will go forth (signifying flourishing and spreading); his splendor will be like that of the olive tree (signifying glory in faithfulness); and his fragrance will be like that of the

trees of Lebanon (signifying the sweet odor of a life in the uplifted humanity). Those who sit under his shade (signifying being overshadowed by the sufficient grace enjoyed by them—2 Cor. 12:9) will return. They will revive like grain (signifying being full of life for producing the satisfying food) and will bud like the vine (signifying blossoming for producing the cheering drink). Israel's renown will be like the wine of Lebanon (signifying a good name spreading like tasteful wine).

I hope that this will be the situation with all the local churches in the Lord's recovery. Then instead of being an unturned cake or a silly dove or a deceitful bow, we will be like lilies, trees of Lebanon, olive trees, and budding vines.

Israel's transformation as described in Hosea 14:4-7 is based on the factor of love in life. Love in affection does not transform, but love in life transforms people. A husband who loves his wife in affection may spoil her, but a father who loves his son in life never spoils his son. As a son grows, he is transformed. Our relationship with God is of the divine, eternal life of God. This life enlivens us, regenerates us, sanctifies us positionally and dispositionally, renews us, transforms us, conforms us, matures us, and glorifies us, making us the same as God in life, nature, appearance, and glory.

At the beginning of Hosea, Israel was a harlot, but at the end of this book, Israel has become a son. Eventually, Ephraim declares that he has no more idols. "Ephraim says, What have I yet to do with idols?" (v. 8a). God answers by saying, "(I respond and look on him.) / I am like a green fir tree; / From Me your fruit is found" (v. 8b). Jehovah's being like a green fir tree (symbolizing God's being living and evergreen) and Ephraim's bearing fruit from Him indicates Ephraim's oneness with Jehovah. It also indicates that a wonderful transformation has taken place, based on the factor of love in life. Today God is the evergreen tree, and we, the believers in Christ, are the branches of the tree, bearing fruit out of Him. This is more than an organic union; it is the oneness of two in one life, in one nature, and in one living. The outcome of this book is transformation in life by God's love. This is the revelation in chapter fourteen of Hosea, and we all need to see it.

=====

Burdens for Church Prayers

- Pray Labor Day Conference and the blending and one accord among the churches.
- Pray for the English-speaking testimony and gospel preaching on West Valley College campus.
- Pray for the burden of raising up next generation for building up of the body of Christ.
- Pray for YP that they will be companions with one another to pursue the Lord together.
- For GOW training: Vital groups be raised up, attending prayer meeting, prophesying on Lord's day by daily enjoying His word and pursue the truth.

Announcement

- Morning Revival: 2012 Summer Training Msg #2.
- Bible Reading Schedule , Book of Hosea: S.6:1-11. M.7:1-7, T.7:8-16, W.8:1-7, Th.8:8-14, F. 9:1-9, S.9:10-17.
- Tuesday (9/18) prayer meeting at Campbell meeting hall.
- 9/22 GOW training at Santa Clara meeting hall.
- 2012 Summer Video Training, registration fee \$75. Saturday 8:30am-12:15pm
The training schedule is as follows:

Message	Date	Notes
Message #3 and #4	9/29/2012	Combine
Message #5 and #6	10/6/2012	Brothers
Message #5 and #6	10/13/2012	sisters
Message #7 and #8	10/27/2012	Combine
Message #9 and #10	11/3/2012	Brothers
Message #9 and #10	11/10/2012	sisters
Message #11 and #12	11/24/2012	Combine