

## CHAPTER 1

**T**HE word of the LORD that came unto Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

2. The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, *departing* from the LORD.

3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son.

4 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.

5 And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.

6 ¶ And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And *God* said unto

him, Call her name Loruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away.

7 But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.

8 ¶ Now when she had weaned Loruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son.

9 Then said *God*, Call his name Loammi: for ye *are* not my people, and I will not be your *God*.

10 ¶ Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, *that* in the place where it was said unto them, Ye *are* not my people, *there* it shall be said unto them, Ye *are* the sons of the living God.

11 Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they

shall come up out of the land: for great *shall be* the day of Jezreel.

## CHAPTER 2

**S**AY ye unto your brethren, Ammi; and to your sisters, Ruhamah.

2 Plead with your mother, plead: for she *is* not my wife, neither *am* I her husband: let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts;

3 Lest I strip her naked, and set her as in the day that she was born, and make her as a wilderness, and set her like a dry land, and slay her with thirst.

4 And I will not have mercy upon her children; for they *be* the children of whoredoms.

5 For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give *me* my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink.

6 ¶ Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths.

7 And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find *them*: then shall she

say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then *was it* better with me than now.

8 For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, *which* they prepared for Baal.

9 Therefore will I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax *given* to cover her nakedness.

10 And now will I discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of mine hand.

11 I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts.

12 And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, whereof she hath said, These *are* my rewards that my lovers have given me: and I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them.

13 And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgat me, saith the LORD.

14 ¶ Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.

15 And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

16 And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, *that* thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali.

17 For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name.

18 And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and *with* the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.

19 And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

20 I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.

21 And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the LORD, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth;

22 And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel.

23 And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to *them which were* not my people, Thou *art* my people; and they shall say, *Thou art* my God.

### CHAPTER 3

**T**HEN 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.

2 So I bought her to me for fifteen *pieces* of silver, and *for* an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley:

3 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.

4 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:

5 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.

#### CHAPTER 4

**H**EAR the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because *there is* no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

2 By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

3 Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.

4 Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people *are* as they that strive with the priest.

5 Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy thy mother.

6 ¶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou

hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

7 As they were increased, so they sinned against me: *therefore* will I change their glory into shame.

8 They eat up the sin of my people, and they set their heart on their iniquity.

9 And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings.

10 For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the LORD.

11 Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.

12 ¶ My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declar-eth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused *them* to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God.

13 They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof *is* good: therefore

your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery.

14 I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots: therefore the people *that* doth not understand shall fall.

15 ¶ Though thou, Israel, play the harlot, *yet* let not Judah offend; and come not ye unto Gilgal, nei-

ther go ye up to Bethaven, nor swear, The LORD liveth.

16 For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer: now the LORD will feed them as a lamb in a large place.

17 Ephraim *is* joined to idols: let him alone.

18 Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers *with* shame do love, Give ye.

19 The wind hath bound her up in her wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.

## DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

The name Hosea means “salvation.” Hosea preached in the Northern Kingdom (Israel), during a period of national decline. When Hosea began his ministry, Jeroboam II was king and it was a time of great prosperity. But the nation began to decline rapidly within, after getting involved with foreign alliances, and trusting them to lead and protect them, rather than trusting God. Hosea lived to see Israel, also called Ephraim in this book, taken captive by the Assyrians in 721 B.C. For historical background concerning the Book of Hosea, read II Kings 15—17.

Hosea’s message to the nation of Israel was one that exposed their sins and warned them of a coming judgment, but there is also a message of hope for their future. The unique thing about Hosea’s message is that he had to live it himself before he could preach it to the people. He experienced deep agony in his own life because of the sins of his wife. However, all of this was divinely sent as a lesson to him and to the people of Israel.

In chapters 1—3 we are given an illustration of the unfaithfulness of the nation of Israel. Hosea was commanded of God to marry a harlot named Gomer. After bearing him three children she left him. Of course, Hosea’s heart was broken, but God told him to go find his wayward wife and bring her back. He discovered her being sold on the slave market and

bought her. He assured her of his forgiveness and love, and we have every reason to believe that she repented of her sins and became a faithful wife.

Gomer was a picture of Israel’s unfaithfulness to the Lord. The nation had married the Lord in Exodus 34:14-16, and should have remained faithful to Him. But instead they lusted after sin, committed adultery, and worshiped false gods.

## PROVERB FOR TODAY

“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger” (Proverbs 15:1).

## TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

**ASSIGNMENT 28:** For today’s memory verses, follow instructions on page 7.

## BIRTHDAY TODAY

RITA MINOR

## ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1787

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES WAS RATIFIED.**

The Constitution of the United States was ratified by a convention of the States. Let us pray that God will help us to stand by the Constitution, and let us

pray that America will always be free. Let us pray that the American system of democracy, freedom, and capitalism shall always be as it is today.

Let us thank God for those who wrote the constitution, and for those who founded America. George Washington knelt in the snow in the middle of the battle and sought favor from Almighty God. Abraham Lincoln made the statement that liquor would never enter the White House during his administration. Benjamin Franklin, as the Constitution was being drawn up, stopped and said, "Brethren, how can we hope to draw up a constitution under God successfully without seeking divine guidance?" They stopped and sought the leadership of God. Let us thank God for our heritage and pray for our future.

### **GOD MADE THE SUN, THE MOON, AND THE STARS.**

Tradition says it was on this date that God made the sun and the moon—the greater light to rule the day, the lesser light to rule the night, and He made the stars also. Let us thank God for the beauties made by our Heavenly Father.

The Bible has much to say about the stars. In Daniel 12:3 we read, *"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."*

Revelation 1:16 says that He holds the seven stars in His right hand. The seven stars are the angels or ministers of the seven churches according to Revelation 1:20. Thank God that Jesus holds the preachers in His right hand.

Job 38:7 tells us that the morning stars sang together. The Bible has much to say about the stars. May we thank God today for the heavens.

David said in Psalm 8:3 and 4, *"When I consider Thy heavens, the works of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that Thou visitest him?"*

### **CITIZENSHIP DAY.**

Let us pray for God to make us good citizens; and that as Christians, we will be the kind of citizens we ought to be. May today be a wonderful day for you.

### **ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

**1787**

**U.S. CONSTITUTION APPROVED AT PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION** with three clauses protecting slavery.

**1861**

**FIRST DAY SCHOOL FOR FREEDMEN FOUNDED** at Fortress Monroe, Va., with a black teacher, Mary Peake. It was called Hampton Institute.

**1862**

**GEN. GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN CHECKED ROBERT E. LEE'S NORTHERN ADVANCE** at Battle of Antietam.

**1962**

**FOURTH BLACK CHURCH BURNED** near Dawson, Georgia. Three white men later admitted burning the church. They were sentenced to seven-year prison terms.

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# Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

## MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

### EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION: CHRIST'S BIOGRAPHY PREWRITTEN

(Assignment 28)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning" link back on the DailyKJV page.)

#### **His Birth** (742 B.C.)

( ) Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Fulfilled—Matthew 1:23)

#### **His Birth Place** (710 B.C.)

( ) Micah 5:2

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. (Fulfilled—Matthew 2:5-6)

#### **Rejected by His own people** (712 B.C.)

( ) Isaiah 53:3

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we esteemed him not. (Fulfilled—John 1:11)

#### **Sold for 30 pieces of silver** (487 B.C.)

( ) Zechariah 11:12

And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price: and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. (Fulfilled—Matthew 26:14-16)

#### **Hands and feet pierced** (1000 B.C.)

( ) Psalms 22:16

For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. (Fulfilled—John 19:37)