

10-16-22

Hosea

KJV 1:2-3 “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 & married Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, which conceived and bare him a son.

Hosea 1–3	Prophet & Chicken Ranch
Hosea 4–6	Prophet & Long Black Train
Hosea 7–13	Sin Harvested
Hosea 14	Restoration Promised

Hosea by Raphael c. 1510

Hosea 1-3 – there's a GREAT problem here

God tells Hosea to marry ... a what?

That is a problem **NOT SOLVED** even when
Hosea is told to BUY her back in Ch. 3

NEVER been able to understand this—**EVER**
NOR any expert commentator/professor helped

I WAS stumped ... wanted to call in SICK

Then an answer CAME ... **NOT** from **IN** the **TEXT** itself

NOT from *inside* Book of Hosea ...but from the **HEART**

And from the Gospel ... **IF YOU READ THE BIBLE**



Hosea 1-3 ... is in many ways a story akin to

Parable of the Prodigal Son

Only ... this ain't no parable ... no myth

No Analogy ... No Mere PICTURE of Redemption

Hosea's Story is true HISTORY

Much SADER ... much more FILTHY than the

Prodigal Son's Pig Pen

There's a nastiness ... that contrasts with

Great LOVE

Before that Great Love, we must *read* the Bible



Many 21st Century Protestants & Catholics—

We do NOT talk about **Whores**

Even I was SURPRISED when we went thru

1 & 2 Corinthians & Galatians

We **HAD** to deal with **Circumcision**

Few of you got tired that ... you know WHY

Circumcision has **ZERO Religious** impact **TODAY**

for all Protestants, Baptists, and most Catholics

As for **WHORE** – we are usually TOO Pure & Holy to

deal with what the BIBLE is saying here



Hosea 1:2 ... KJV

The beginning of the word of the Lord to Hosea.

**The Lord said to him, “Go, take to yourself
a WIFE of WHOREDOMS
and have children of WHOREDOMS**

**For the land hath committed GREAT WHOREDOM
departing from the LORD**

So Hosea married Gomer ...

**That is the KJV translation since 1611 ... 420+ years
Verses 1 & 5 DATE the book BEFORE 722 B.C. when
Israel & Samaria are Taken by Assyria**



KJV, ASV, ESV, NRSV, Darby

“Go, take to yourself a wife of WHOREDOM”

Berean, NAB, ISV, New Living, Amplified

“Go and marry a prostitute”

NKJV, JPS, Coverdale, **“Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry”**

NASB **“Go, take for yourself a wife inclined to infidelity”**

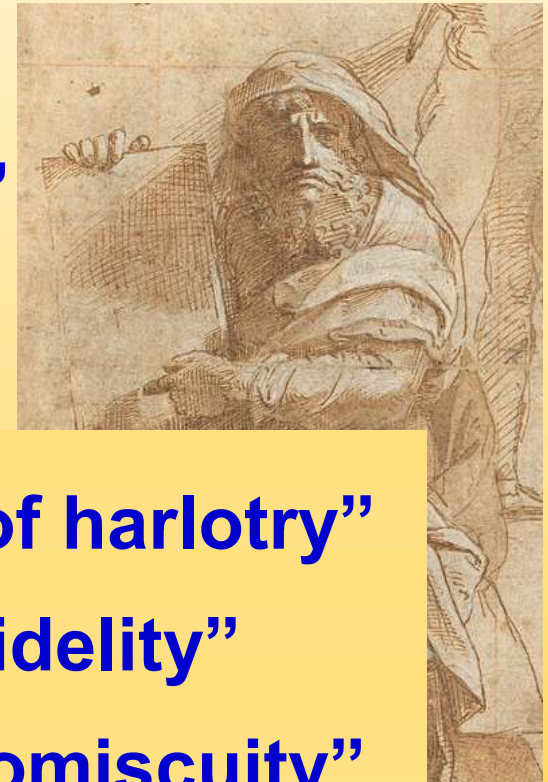
NIV, CSB, Holman, **“Go and marry a woman of promiscuity”**

Doay-Rheims, Bishop’s, **“Go, take thee a wife of fornications”**

Webster’s Bible Trans, **“Go take a wife addicted to lewdness”**

Good New, **“Go & get married; your wife will be unfaithful”**

Whore, Prostitute, Harlot, Promiscuous, Lewd





Alternate Title

**Prophet
and the
Chicken
Ranch**



**Musical comedy adaptation of the
1978 Broadway musical**

**Burt Reynolds is Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd of
Gilbert, Texas**

**He has a longstanding relationship w
Miss Mona Stangley, aka Dolly Parton**

She runs a brothel outside town called

"Chicken Ranch"



Illegal or not, Sheriff doesn't interfere

It's been a fixture of the town since

World War I



Also starred Jim Nabors, Charles Durning, Dom DeLuise

Charles Durning nominated Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for role as Texas governor.

Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture (Comedy or Musical)

Parton for Best Actress in a Motion Picture (Comedy or Musical)

4th Highest-grossing live-action musical film of the 1980s & Top for 1982

FUNNY – NO ... SAD – YES

Generally—TWO major interpretations

1:2 “Go, take unto thee a

wife of **WHOREDOMS**

1. IS what you SEE – she **WAS** a

2. She married Hosea **THEN** became a

Mostly, **#2** is an anachronism ... a view from

> TODAY reinterpreting w marshmallows

> Mainly cause we do NOT WANT to believe the Bible

#1 is mostly a view as Israel was **SUPPOSED** to see

READ what Hosea wrote—you’ll see that Israel was

Repeatedly Unfaithful



Hosea Outline by Chuck Swindoll



PERSONAL

Agony of an Unfaithful Mate

Marriage

————— **1 Marries Whore**

Children

—————

Separation **2 Prophecy**

—————

Reunion **3 Buys WIFE BACK**

CHAPTERS 1–3

NATIONAL

Tragedy of an Unfaithful People

Series of sermons declaring the sin of the people and the character of God

—————

Model of the message as Hosea remains true to his wife in spite of her infidelity

CHAPTERS 4–14

Adulterous nation yet faithful God

Adulterous wife yet faithful husband

Hosea – 1st
= *Largest of 12*

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habbakuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

Kept Together
The Twelve

Names in Hosea

Hosea = *Help, Salvation, God Helps, Deliverance*

Gomer = *Vanishing, Heat, Passion*

son

Jezreel = *God Soweth* 1:4 “**Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel**”

daughter

Lo-Ruhamah = *Not Loved* 1:6 “**I will NO longer show love to Israel**”

son

Lo-Ammi = *No My People* 1:9 “**For you are NOT my people, and I am NOT your God.**”

Names of Hosea’s CHILDREN ... we SEE the meanings
HOWEVER—our culture will NOT accept this as GOOD



Hosea's wife is named Gomer: *heat, passion*

Then there is Gomer the son of Jephthah

> Jephthah is the son of Noah

> Gomer is a grandson of Noah

Genesis 10:2 &
1 Chron 1:5

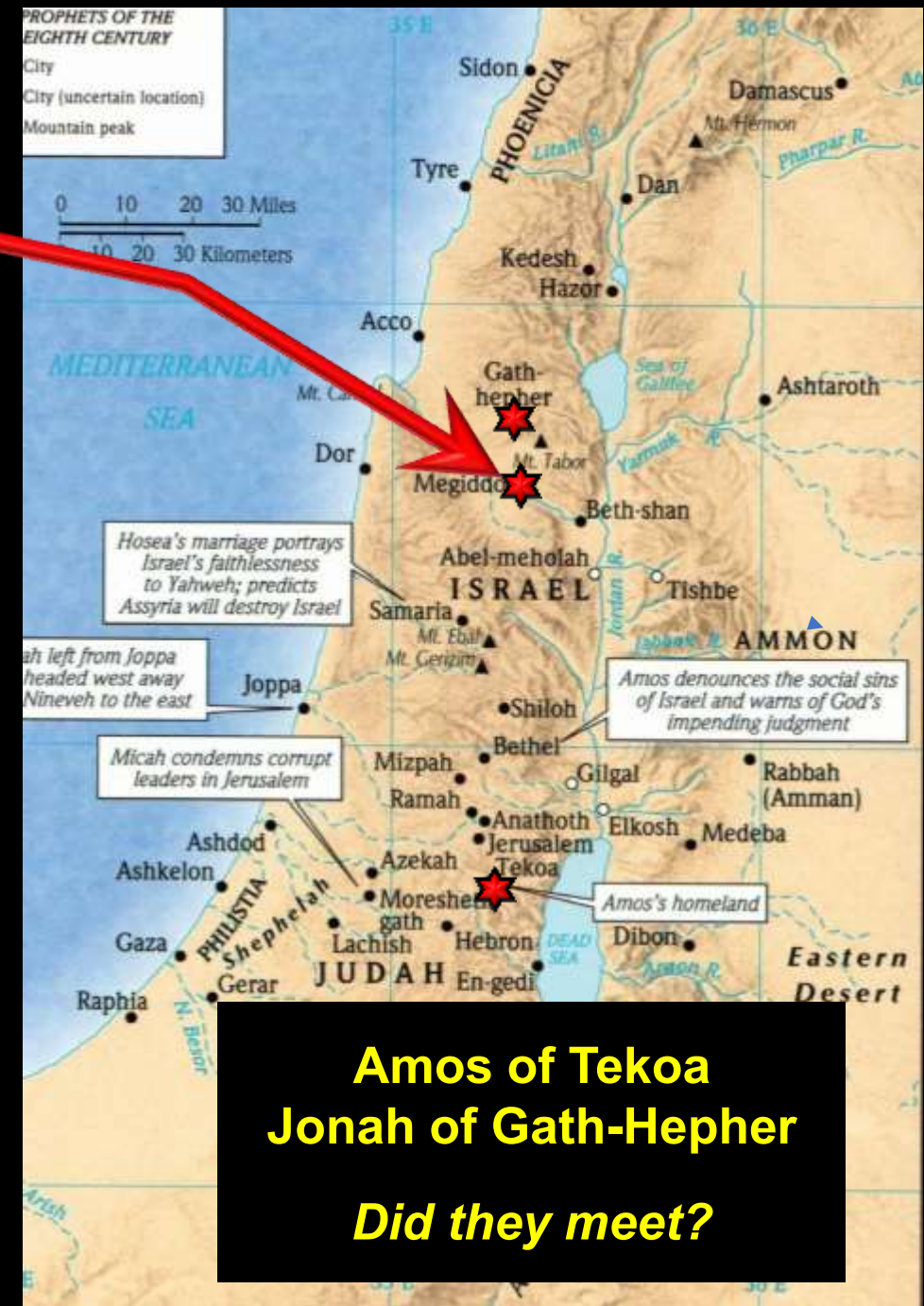
Gomer is a *People*
descended Gomer

Migrating from southern
Russia to Anatolia

Lineage of Cappadocians



Jezreel in Jezreel Valley East of Megiddo



In the late 1980s ... or ...

Christian musician interviewed

Hugh Hefner ... yah know ... Mr. Playboy

He said to Hefner ... something like this

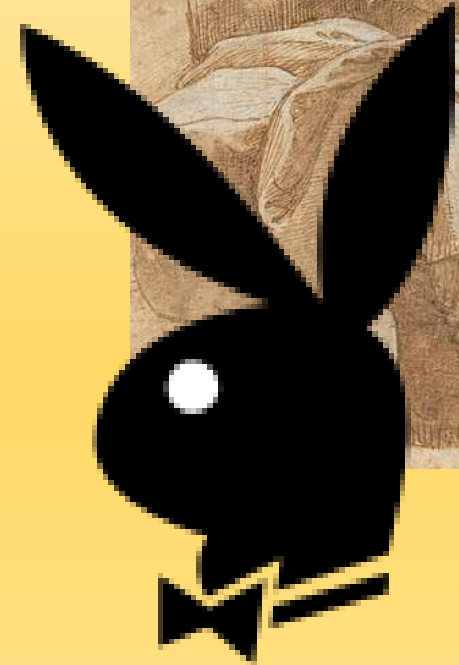
Yah know, your daughter is turning 18

Do you want HER to be a Playmate?

Hefner said he did NOT

NO LOVING parent wants that

Now think about Hosea 1:2



PLAYBOY

**1:2 “Go, marry a promiscuous woman
or wife of whoredom**

ANOTHER view is ... hold onto to your HAT

A Jewish interpreter quoted by Aben Ezra says:

**Hosea was commanded to take a wife of
whoredoms because an**

honest woman was not to be had.

**The whole people had gone astray ... and
she as one of them was a typical example**

What about GOMER?



Hosea 1 ... Hosea's Marriage & Children

Hosea 2 ... Wife & Israel Unfaithfulness

Hosea 3 ... Hosea Buys Back Gomer

Hosea 1, 2, 3 ... easy ...

1 Marries a Whore ... Children of Whore

2 Wife & Israel Unfaithful into Prophecy

3 Hosea Buys his Wife BACK – *Redeems Her*



There are MULTIPLE Conflicts with N.T. Ethic

MULTIPLE Conflicts with 21st Century American

Protestant Baptist MARRIAGE View

Hosea 3 ... Hosea Buys Back Gomer

1 The Lord said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man & is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods & love the sacred raisin cakes.”

2 I bought her for 15 shekels of silver & about a homer and a lethek of barley.

American Paulist Priest

Lawrence Boadt: *homer* “One Ass-Load”

15 Shekels & Homer = One Slave



Loved
Fruitcakes!



Hosea 3 ... Hosea Buys Back Gomer

3Then I told her,

“You are to live with me many days;
you must not be a prostitute *OR*
be intimate with any man,
and I will behave the same way toward you.”

What About Gomer?

Is she the **SLAVE** of God too?

Ordered to Hosea without any **MUTUAL** affection?

Solely for the **PURPOSE** of Israel's Unfaithfulness



Do you **GET – GRASP** Message of Hosea
READ what Hosea wrote! Israel was *clearly*

Repeatedly Unfaithful

Hosea's **MARRIAGE** was **THE Example**

IMPOSSIBLE to see she married *THEN became a*

She was a **WHORE WHEN** she married Hosea

What about Gomer?

What about Hosea?

What's **LOVE** Got to Do with **IT**?



Do you **GET – GRASP** Message of Hosea
One Message of Hosea is that

Israel is the WHORE

Israel Strayed ... to Other gods ...

Love Fruitcakes **MORE** than God

ONE MESSAGE is unmistakable ...

Whatever **NASTINESS** we attribute to **“WHORE”**



That IS Israel in God's Eyes

What's **LOVE** Got to Do with IT?



What is the **MESSAGE** of Hosea - Israel was
Repeatedly Unfaithful

From the N.T. view of **GOD** ... we see **THIS**
Hosea did **NOT** go down to the Chicken Ranch
Ask Dolly Parton to Parade her wares ...

From the N.T. view of **GOD** ... we must have
LOVE Somewhere

But **LOVE** is hard to see ... except in Chapter 3
Where it **APPEARS** God **TELLS** Hosea to Love Gomer

What's LOVE Got to Do with IT?



Friedrich Wilhelm Umbreit (1795–1860)
Respected Protestant Theologian and
chair of Old Testament studies at Heidelberg

**"covenant of Yahweh with Israel is ... marriage bond,
so is the prophetic bond with Israel a marriage....
Therefore, if he feels an irresistible impulse to
enter into the marriage-bond with Israel,
he is bound to unite himself with the bride of an
unchaste character**



Yea, his own wife Gomer is involved in the universal guilt“

Prophetic Bond = Marriage Bond ... *that's too much for me*

What we ARE seeing in a lot of EXPERTS is **MALE Advice**

I CANNOT Make Sense of this ... yet
Clearly, Gomer was a **WHORE** ... she had
Sex money with **MANY MEN** before Hosea
AS SHE had 3 Children ... she
CONTINUED to **WHORE**
Then she LEFT Hosea for *other* LOVERS
That's what she **DID** ... what Israel **DID**
We today have a NEW revelation of God in Christ
Of the SAME God of Hosea ... so we CAN Imply



Perhaps
NOT Hosea's
Children of
Whoredoms
Perhaps Hosea
Claimed them

We MUST FIND that LOVE has SOME PLACE HERE

Another PART of the MESSAGE of Hosea
WHOLE book is about Israel's Unfaithfulness

Then we MUST also see that EVERYONE

Everyone Knew Gomer Was a **WHORE**

That's the MESSAGE ... the SHAME

Everyone **KNEW** Hosea was a Prophet
Everyone **KNEW** Hosea married a Whore

As Hosea walked down the street, over HALF the
men in his town had ALSO had SEX with Gomer

NO Message IF the Shame is **SECRET**



CAN'T Make Sense EXCEPT here – *READ*

Hosea 1:2 ... word of the Lord to Hosea.

Lord said to him, “Go, take to yourself

a WIFE of WHOREDOMS

and have children of WHOREDOMS

the Land committed GREAT WHOREDOM

IF there was *LOVE* ... from at least Hosea

What IF Hosea had ALREADY had ... in the past

SOME Affection for Gomer

THEN Hosea was SEEKING God's will in *LOVE*

THEN God LED Hosea to the *LOVE* of HOSEA's LIFE



Perhaps Hosea was reluctant ... hesitant

Because Hosea **WAS** a **PROPHET** ...

Because **EVERYONE** knew he was a Prophet

Perhaps **HOSEA** was ashamed of his **LOVE**

Read Hosea 1-14 ... you see clearly

GOD's LOVE for Israel

God is **NOT ASHAMED** of his **LOVE**

AT SAME TIME—God never sanctioned Whoredom

Hosea may have known **YOUNG Virgin** Gomer

Saw her prance about when she was innocent



PERHAPS Hosea as a teen had puppy love
God began to **WORK** on Hosea ...

Hosea's heart breaks as Gomer loses
Her Virginity ... then Goes Wild

Hosea—the **Honorable** ... the **Noble**

Hosea—the **Good** ... then, then, then

1:2 Lord said, “Go, take to yourself

a WIFE of WHOREDOMS

and have children of WHOREDOMS

the Land committed GREAT WHOREDOM



What is it to be **CALLED** by God?

No doubting from your N.T. Knowledge?

Hosea was a PROPHET—*perhaps* in **LOVE**

But Hosea could **NOT** ... by himself, alone

How can we see ANY honor in ORDERS to **LOVE?**

Perhaps this way—IF God did NOT *ORDER* Hosea

God was *allowing* Hosea to **LOVE** Gomer

Hosea did **NOT** go SHOPPING at the Chicken Ranch

Hosea did **NOT** ask Dolly Parton for a DISPLAY

What's **LOVE** got to do with it? **EVERYTHING!**



Hosea ALREADY knew who he wanted—**IF, IF, IF**
That is, IF there is NO LOVE > NO Message
Hosea had ALWAYS **Loved** Gomer ...
As GOD Has ALWAYS

Always **LOVED** ALL of US

Hosea did **NOT** go the Chicken Ranch

Hosea KNEW where Gomer was ... and

SOUGHT out ONLY Gomer

Gomer had been *Hosea's Girl* all his **LIFE**

That's what Love is ALL about

Hosea saw the Dirt & Filth – But DIRT did NOT Matter



Hosea **ALREADY** knew who he wanted
Hosea had **ALWAYS** Loved Gomer ...

Where she had been ...

With whom she had been ...

With **HOWEVER** many she had lain ...

Though Hosea had never known Gomer

Gomer was still **Hosea's First Love**

You know ... now you KNOW ... that is OUR N.T. God

In spite OUR Fright, Failure, Filth – GOD has always

Always LOVED ALL of US



**When a man loves a woman
Can't keep his mind on nothin' else
He'd trade the world
For the good thing he's found
If she is BAD, he can't see it
She can do no wrong
Turn his back on his best friend
If he put her down**



**When a man loves a woman
Spend his very last DIME
Trying to hold on to what he NEEDS
He'd give up ALL his comforts**



**You know ... now you KNOW ...
That is OUR Great God in Christ**

In spite OUR Fright, Failure, Filth – GOD has always

Always LOVED ALL of US

