

Title: The March Of Unfaithfulness & The Joy Of Redemption

Text: 1:1-2:1

Main Idea: Reject unfaithfulness and embrace God's redemption.

Division Statements:

1. Unfaithfulness leads to barren captivity (vv. 3-5).

Note: It's important to discuss the meaning of Jezreel and the scattering of the nation. Then the comparison must be drawn between the nation and the impact of sin on the individual life.

2. Unfaithfulness leads to untempered justice (vv. 6-7).

“Call her name Lo-Ruhamah, for I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel.”

3. Unfaithfulness leads to separation from God (vv. 8-9).

“Call his name Lo-Ammi, for you are not My people, and I will not be your God.”

[One may break the chapter into two separate messages at this point. This is especially desirable if a long introduction is given and an in depth discussion of Hosea's taking “a wife of harlotry.” However, this choice will lose the natural pace of the text and the climax of the book's introduction. Better, I think, is a separate introductory message or a very brief introduction.]

4. Redemption leads to great fruitfulness (vv. 10a, 11a).

Note: The play on the name “Jezreel,” and God's amazing knack for turning a seeming disaster into something utterly glorious.

5. Redemption leads to adoption by God (v. 10b).

The doctrine of adoption is wonderfully explicit here with the change in Lo-Ammi's name.

6. Redemption leads to great mercy (vv. 1:11-21).

רַחֲמֵהוּ - The sentence in Hebrew ends simply with the name, giving it a wonderful emphasis. This word refers to deep love (usually of a superior for an inferior). In the Piel, as in this verse, it is used for the deep inward feeling we know variously as tender compassion, pity, and mercy.

Bridging From Text To Sermon

Textual Idea: God presents for us in the marriage of Hosea and Gomer the desolation of spiritual unfaithfulness, but then shows the joy His redemption can bring.

Sermon Proposition: Reject unfaithfulness and embrace God's redemption.

Interrogative: Why should we be faithful to God and embrace the redemption He provides?

Transition: The text gives us six reasons for doing so.

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