
DAILY SCRIPTURES TO CONSIDER

Monday:

Isaiah 54:5
Hosea 1:1-10

Tuesday:

Hosea 12:2-6
1 John 1:9

Wednesday:

Hosea 3:1-5
Ephesians 5:25-27

Thursday:

Hosea 11:1-12
1 Peter 2:10

Friday:

Hosea 14:1-9
Revelation 21:1-5

SUMMARY

Hosea was a prophet to Israel who prophesied sometime between 785 to 725 B.C. Within the larger scope of biblical prophecy, Hosea's oracles were articulated before the fall of Israel and Judah in 722 and 597 B.C, respectively. Hosea's call was unique in that he was not only called to express God's words by mouth and pen but also to live out a real-life metaphor of God's relationship with his people. Throughout Scripture, God speaks of himself as a husband, or bridegroom, to his people, whom he characterizes as his bride. With that analogy, the Lord instructs Hosea to marry a "wife of whoredom." As shocking as that seems, it parallels God's relationship with Israel. Though he remains a faithful husband, his bride continually seeks out intimacy with the nearby, so-called "gods." This imagery paints a painful picture that Hosea lives out. In so doing, God would give his people a window to see and understand the atrocities they commit toward the Lord; despite that view, they persisted with their infidelity.

Hosea speaks of the hurt but also reflects the unwavering, long-suffering, steadfast love of the Lord. Though his bride exhibits unfaithfulness, he woos her back, covers her shame, and restores her. These actions would parallel God's mercy to his people. Though they continued in unfaithfulness and became subject to God's judgment by way of the nations that conquered them, he would draw them near, cover their shame, and restore them to their land. This narrative would also mimic what the Lord would do on a much bigger scale as Hosea also foretold of Israel's coming Messiah who would remove sin's shame and restore the Bride of Christ—the Church comprised of every nation, tribe, and tongue.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION

Why do you suppose the Lord asked Hosea to go through the pain of marrying an unfaithful bride instead of just describing the hurt of Israel's unfaithfulness?

What parallels do you see between the Church of today and Hosea's bride? What parallels do you see between Hosea's treatment of his bride and the Lord's treatment of his people?

Israel's unfaithfulness was their pursuit of other so-called gods. What are the modern so-called gods which might tempt the Church today? What steps can the Church take to pursue faithfulness to the one true God?

What are some things that surprised you or troubled you in this lesson? Is there something you learned for the very first time?