

## Hosea Discussion Qs

1. What is the main problem of the book of Hosea? It is the command by God that Hosea marry a prostitute: **When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD."**<sup>3</sup> **So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son (1.2-3).**
2. What compounds this problem as life unfolds for Hosea? The fact that Gomer becomes an adulteress (3.1) compounds the difficulty and makes people question how the holy Lord of Israel could command such a thing.
3. Does this problem of the book of Hosea compromise the NT principle that believers marry only in the Lord? No, it does not because the command in Corinthians clearly implies a general rule (from the duty that widows marry only in the Lord to the conclusion that all believers come under this command), but the Hosea passage gives a specific command to a unique prophet for a particular purpose, namely, that the prophet embody his message that God loves unfaithful Israel.
4. What is the key implication from Hosea 1.10 that underlies its use in the NT (cf. 1 Pet. 1.1; 2.9-10; Rom. 9.25)? *When they return, their return is the return of the nations* to childship to God, to restoration in His image. In this way, the covenant keeping God fulfills His promise *to bless Abraham and his descendents* and through his descendents, He fulfills His promise to bless all nations of the earth, even if this comes about *through the judgment of his descendents*.
5. How does Hosea show that captivity and restoration in the history of Israel points beyond itself in ways that unfold in cycles that reach the NT and beyond it? The captivity represents mankind lost in the world, no longer His son, now His prodigal (Hos. 6:7, Adam or at least, mankind in general as covenant breakers, fallen and in need of restoration). The restoration reaches beyond the days of Cyrus to the greater Cyrus/deliverer, the Lord Jesus who will include resurrection of the body in his restoration of fallen man (Hos. 14:5-6; 13:14; I Cor. 15:55). Thus, restoration includes the rest in Eden through resurrection (rest is reached via redemption through the conquest over death by the Lord Jesus). Then the great goal of history will be reached; God will do as He promised from the beginning.