

Minor Prophets Summer 2025 - Lesson 2

Faithfulness Amid Unfaithfulness - Hosea 2 & 3

Theme Verse: "And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy." Hosea 2:19 (ESV)

What's in a Name?

Parents often spend a lot of time contemplating what they will name their child. They consult baby name books, research family genealogies, and ask the advice of family and friends. Names are also very important in the Bible. When Hosea and Gomer's children were born, the Lord told Hosea how to name them.

1. Son = Jezreel ("God sows"): Hosea 1:4-5; 2 Kings 8:28-29 & 10:1-11 – both that He caused His people to grow in the land, and yet, His people were unfaithful and the land of Jezreel had seen much bloodshed.
2. Daughter = Lo-Ruhamah ("No Mercy"): Hosea 1:6-7; 2 Kings 17:6, 23
3. Son = Lo-Ammi ("Not My people"): Hosea 1:8-9; Leviticus 26:12
4. Ba'al ("master," "husband," "lord"): Hosea 2:16; **1 Kings 18:18-19**
 - a. Reading **Hosea 2:16-17**, what is the significance on a godly level and/or on a personal level of not calling God our Ba'al (which means husband), if He then says that His people will call Him our husband? How does this show the Lord's mercy?
 - b. Continue reading **Hosea 2:18-20** → God is faithful to His people/bride.

Marriage and Divorce

In Matthew 19:3-9, the Pharisees challenge Jesus by asking if a man can divorce his wife. Jesus teaches that God joins a man and woman in marriage and that people should not separate this holy union. However, the Lord allows for divorce in cases of sexual immorality.

5. Hosea had a moral and legal right to divorce Gomer for her unfaithfulness. And yet, Hosea forgave Gomer. How might this be applied to Christian marriages today?
6. Hosea even "purchased" Gomer back to himself away from the man that she had gone to (Hosea 3:1-3). How does this apply to God's people? To you?
7. The Lord says, "I am not her husband" (Hosea 2:2). Read **Isaiah 50:1**. What does it mean when God divorces His people?

Mercy and Redemption

In Hosea 2:14, God says that He will “allure her” (His people) and “speak tenderly to her.”

8. How does the Lord win back and redeem His people? Specifically, what means does God use to call His people back to Himself?

God’s Word for Today

Names and marriage are prominent in this section of Hosea. The Lord named Hosea’s children, and with their names He pronounced judgment on Israel. Still in many places today, a bride takes on her husband’s family name when they are married. In Baptism, God places His name – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – upon His people.

9. Read **1 Peter 2:9-10**. Contrast the meaning of the names of Hosea and Gomer’s children “No Mercy” and “Not My People” with what you find in these verses.

Luther writes, “So when our sins and conscience oppress us, we strengthen ourselves and take comfort and say, ‘Nevertheless, I am baptized. And if I am baptized, it is promised to me that I shall be saved and have eternal life, both in soul and body’” (Large Catechism, IV 44).

10. Read **1 Peter 3:20-22**. Peter connects Noah’s ark to Holy Baptism. How does being baptized into the Lord’s name help us cope with the struggles we face in our lives?

In Closing

- Remember your Baptism daily by confessing your sins and trusting in God’s rich forgiveness for Jesus’ sake.
- If you are a baptismal sponsor/godparent, pray for that person.
- Read Hosea 4-6:3 for next Sunday.

Prayer: Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that he might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in his death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

This study is based on:

“God’s Word for Today: Hosea, Joel, and Amos - Faithfulness amidst Unfaithfulness.”