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*Hosea, Joel, Amos  
and Obadiah*

*Read. Reflect. Respond.*



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# HOSEA

**1** The word of the LORD that came to Hosea son of Beeri during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and of Jeroboam son of Jehoash, king of Israel.

### *Hosea's Marriage and Children*

<sup>2</sup> When the LORD first spoke to Hosea, he said this to him:

Go and marry a woman of promiscuity,  
and have children of promiscuity,  
for the land is committing blatant acts of promiscuity  
by abandoning the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> So he went and married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to him:

Name him Jezreel, for in a little while  
I will bring the bloodshed of Jezreel  
on the house of Jehu  
and put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.

<sup>5</sup> On that day I will break the bow of Israel  
in Jezreel Valley.

<sup>6</sup> She conceived again and gave birth to a daughter, and the LORD said to him:

Name her Lo-ruhamah,  
for I will no longer have compassion  
on the house of Israel.  
I will certainly take them away.

<sup>7</sup> But I will have compassion on the house of Judah,  
and I will deliver them by the LORD their God.  
I will not deliver them by bow, sword, or war,  
or by horses and cavalry.

<sup>8</sup> After Gomer had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and gave birth to a son. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said:



Name him Lo-ammi,  
for you are not my people,  
and I will not be your God.

<sup>10</sup> Yet the number of the Israelites  
will be like the sand of the sea,  
which cannot be measured or counted.  
And in the place where they were told:  
You are not my people,  
they will be called: Sons of the living God.

<sup>11</sup> And the Judeans and the Israelites  
will be gathered together.  
They will appoint for themselves a single ruler  
and go up from the land.  
For the day of Jezreel will be great.

**2** Call your brothers: My People  
and your sisters: Compassion.

### *Israel's Adultery Rebuked*

- <sup>2</sup> Rebuke your mother; rebuke her.  
For she is not my wife and I am not her husband.  
Let her remove the promiscuous look from her face  
and her adultery from between her breasts.
- <sup>3</sup> Otherwise, I will strip her naked  
and expose her as she was on the day of her birth.  
I will make her like a desert  
and like a parched land,  
and I will let her die of thirst.
- <sup>4</sup> I will have no compassion on her children  
because they are the children of promiscuity.
- <sup>5</sup> Yes, their mother is promiscuous;  
she conceived them and acted shamefully.  
For she thought, "I will follow my lovers,  
the men who give me my food and water,



my wool and flax, my oil and drink.”

- 6 Therefore, this is what I will do:  
I will block her way with thorns;  
I will enclose her with a wall,  
so that she cannot find her paths.
- 7 She will pursue her lovers but not catch them;  
she will look for them but not find them.  
Then she will think,  
“I will go back to my former husband,  
for then it was better for me than now.”
- 8 She does not recognize  
that it is I who gave her the grain,  
the new wine, and the fresh oil.  
I lavished silver and gold on her,  
which they used for Baal.
- 9 Therefore, I will take back my grain in its time  
and my new wine in its season;  
I will take away my wool and linen,  
which were to cover her nakedness.
- 10 Now I will expose her shame  
in the sight of her lovers,  
and no one will rescue her from my power.
- 11 I will put an end to all her celebrations:  
her feasts, New Moons, and Sabbaths —  
all her festivals.
- 12 I will devastate her vines and fig trees.  
She thinks that these are her wages  
that her lovers have given her.  
I will turn them into a thicket,  
and the wild animals will eat them.
- 13 And I will punish her for the days of the Baals,  
to which she burned incense.  
She put on her rings and her jewelry



and followed her lovers,  
but she forgot me.

This is the LORD's declaration.

*Israel's Adultery Forgiven*

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, I am going to persuade her,  
lead her to the wilderness,  
and speak tenderly to her.

<sup>15</sup> There I will give her vineyards back to her  
and make the Valley of Achor  
into a gateway of hope.  
There she will respond as she did  
in the days of her youth,  
as in the day she came out of the land of Egypt.

<sup>16</sup> In that day —  
this is the LORD's declaration —  
you will call me “my husband”  
and no longer call me “my Baal.”

<sup>17</sup> For I will remove the names of the Baals  
from her mouth;  
they will no longer be remembered by their names.

<sup>18</sup> On that day I will make a covenant for them  
with the wild animals, the birds of the sky,  
and the creatures that crawl on the ground.  
I will shatter bow, sword,  
and weapons of war in the land  
and will enable the people to rest securely.

<sup>19</sup> I will take you to be my wife forever.  
I will take you to be my wife in righteousness,  
justice, love, and compassion.

<sup>20</sup> I will take you to be my wife in faithfulness,  
and you will know the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> On that day I will respond —  
this is the LORD's declaration.



- I will respond to the sky,  
and it will respond to the earth.
- <sup>22</sup> The earth will respond to the grain,  
the new wine, and the fresh oil,  
and they will respond  
to Jezreel.
- <sup>23</sup> I will sow her in the land for myself,  
and I will have compassion  
on Lo-ruhamah;  
I will say to Lo-ammi:  
You are my people,  
and he will say, "You are my God."

### *Waiting for Restoration*

**3** Then the LORD said to me, "Go again; show love to a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, just as the LORD loves the Israelites though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes."

<sup>2</sup> So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and nine bushels of barley. <sup>3</sup> I said to her, "You are to live with me many days. You must not be promiscuous or belong to any man, and I will act the same way toward you."

<sup>4</sup> For the Israelites must live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, and without ephod or household idols. <sup>5</sup> Afterward, the people of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come with awe to the LORD and to his goodness in the last days.

### *God's Case against Israel*

**4** Hear the word of the LORD, people of Israel,  
for the LORD has a case  
against the inhabitants of the land:  
There is no truth, no faithful love,

