

As you begin to study, pray that GOD will speak to you through His word. Read the chapter a few times, know the contents. After reading the introduction, answer the questions. The important thing is to consider honestly and prayerfully how the questions apply to your life and your relationship with God.

Chapter 3

A RESTORED LOVE:

After her marriage to Hosea, and following the births of their three children, Gomer runs away from her marital and family responsibilities. How long a period of time had elapsed between her marriage to the prophet and her unfaithfulness the Bible does not state. But Hosea was certainly aware of her ability to become unfaithful. Now, after she has left, God commands Hosea to go after her and to purchase her out of the place of prostitution and slavery.

I am constantly amazed at some of the things God commands his prophets to do. You might remember that God commanded the prophet Ezekiel not to mourn his dead wife. He commanded the prophet Elijah to appear before the most ungodly king of his time and announce a drought as God's punishment for sin. God even commanded the prophet Jonah to leave a successful prophetic ministry in Israel and to travel to the land of their enemies, the Assyrians, to deliver a message from God. Now God commands Hosea to go and to be restored to his wife who had been so grossly unfaithful to him.

What would have been your response, if I had been in Hosea's shoes, would you have argued with God that Gomer was not worthy of being brought back; that you had been patient with her these many years and this was the way she had repaid your faithfulness. We probably would have told God that our life would be more peaceful and less stressful without having to watch out for her all the time.

I wonder what went through Hosea's mind as he paid the money to purchase his backslidden wife. He had loved her freely, but she had scorned that love and deserted her husband to follow other loves. Yet, Hosea had continued to love her.

Gomer is such a picture of who we are. We are so easily swayed from our walk with God by the enticements of Satan. Yet, while we are straying away, God still loves us and pursues us with his love and His desire is to restore us into fellowship with Himself.

What do you think are the major causes for friends drifting apart? What could husbands and wives do together to strengthen their bond of oneness? How can you keep the wrongs for which you have forgiven others from creeping back into your mind and destroying your peace?

Is the woman mentioned in third chapter the same Gomer of Diblaim?

Find information about the gods they served? (Give background)

What were the raisin cakes of the pagans?

In our currency what is the price he bought Gomer for?

What are Christians bought with? (Back up your answer)

If I offered a car for sale, which I think is worth seven thousand dollars, and the offers I receive are ranging from two thousand to nine thousand, how much is the car worth? The seven that I think it's worth or the "low-ball" offer of two? The car is worth what the highest bidder is willing to pay in the open market, right? Just like the car, man's worth is what the highest bidder will pay. The highest bidder is God, and the price-tag was the Cross. Our worth is established and can never change. God has made the ultimate offer and paid the highest price. Revelation 5:9

Gomer is not only separated from her lovers, but also from _____. Why do you think this was done? What period of time is spoken of in verse 4?

Israel has been stripped of all forms of _____, as the harlot had been stripped of

contact with her _____.

Define the following:

1. Sacred pillar:
2. Ephod:
3. Teraphim

What was unusual about God's love for Israel?