

July 9 Answers

- 1) Hosea was the **last** prophet God sent to the northern kingdom of Israel before they were **exiled** to Assyria. God told Hosea to take a “wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom” (Hos 1:2). This meant that God wanted Hosea to marry someone who would eventually **reject** him, commit **adultery** and have children by other men. This experience would **mirror** the spiritual adultery of Israel, who had forsaken God for the Baals. The **names** of Hosea’s children were sovereignly chosen by God so that they would be living **testaments** to His grief and anger over Israel’s sin. Yet those names also held the promise of the **gospel**, for God referenced them when He spoke of a day of future restoration (Hos 1:10; 2:23). Paul quoted Hosea when he explained God’s plan to include the **Gentiles** in the people of God: “Even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? As indeed he says in Hosea, ‘Those who were not my people I will call “my people,” and her who was not beloved I will call “beloved.”’” (Rom 9:24–25). Peter also cited Hosea in his message to the Gentile Christians: “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were **not** a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received **mercy**, but now you have received mercy” (1 Pet 2:9–10). How marvelous to think that while Hosea was preaching God’s message of judgment to Israel, God was looking forward to the day when He would call the **nations** of the world to His side! Gomer eventually left Hosea, but he was **kind** to her, in spite of her sin, and this illustrated the “last days” when God will be **reunited** with a repentant Israel (Hos 3:1–5). Hosea’s marriage is a window into God’s **heart**, for it shows us how hurt He is when His people reject His love and mercy.