

# The object of my affection...

## Study 2



In Chapter one of Hosea, God introduced us to his version of Big Brother and invited us into the house of Hosea, Gomer and family. The big issue was Gomer's infidelity to Hosea, and how that represents Israel's unfaithfulness to God. Chapters 2 and 3 give us more insight into the restoration plans God has for Gomer and his people Israel.

Read Hosea 2:1-13

From verse 2, who is being rebuked here?

Has Israel's obedience to God improved at all since chapter one? List the verse numbers and the things God is rebuking Israel for in chapter 2.

What does God want from his people? (v2b, 8)

God's response to Israel's continued rebellion is strong! Is there any logic to God's statements about what he will do to his people? (Proverbs 3:12, Hebrews 12:6)

Read Hosea 2:14 3:5

Things don't seem to get much easier for Hosea. It looks like his wife's unfaithfulness has caused her to leave him altogether. Maybe in a way he was relieved. But not for long... because God tells him to go and get her back!

How would you feel if you were Hosea?

What would be hard about going and getting Gomer back?

The price for redeeming a slave was 30 shekels. Hosea pays half in cash and the rest in grain - maybe because that's all he could afford. In other words, he has to pay everything he's got ... for a wife who has cheated him.

How would Gomer have felt about all this?

God tells Hosea to 'Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other Gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.' What do you think that means?

Gomer is now Hosea's "slave." He has paid for her in full. Now she's living under a strict "curfew" with him (3v3). She's been forced to stop her unfaithfulness. It's not the most romantic of relationships. But how could this situation benefit their marriage?



Israel is going to face a hard time at God's hand too - Israel will be forced to live "*for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or {sacred}pillar and without ephod or household idols.*" (3v4) In other words, they'll lose both their genuinely sacred things (sacrifices and the ephod, the priest's breastplate) and their pagan pillars and household idols. This will happen when God finally sends them into exile. It will be a tough time - like the time Israel spent in the desert before they came to the promised land, hundreds of years before.

It's during this "new" time in the desert that God says he will turn things around. From ch 2:14-23 and 3:5, what changes is God going to bring about?

From one angle, this is a painful story of a hard done by prophet, but from another, it's a powerful picture of God's unshakeable love for the object of his affection. God has brought his people to the place where they will come trembling to David their king and the Lord's blessings in the last days. Who is the king in David's line who finally comes?

What lengths does Jesus go to to "buy back" his people? (Can you think of some New Testament verses that talk about this "redemption"?)

Hosea was humiliated as he paid the price to buy back Gomer. In what ways was Jesus humiliated as he paid the ransom price for us?

What other parallels can you see between the story of Hosea and Gomer and the gospel? How does this understanding of God's love for you affect the way you think and act?