

HOSEA

God's word came to Hosea through personal sorrow, the tragedy of a broken home and an unfaithful love. He had found a woman who was among the evil people of the land, a woman named Gomer who cared only for her selfish desires. Soon after their marriage, Hosea's wife left him, and turned to other men who seduced her beauty and offered her gifts of bread, wool, flax, and wine. Hosea was heartbroken and grieved for the wife he had lost and for the children she had caused him and his children.

Then God spoke to Hosea and said, "Now you know my suffering, as your wife has left you with grief and shame, so have My children and I left Me to suffer by going to worship idols and following greed and instead of justice and righteousness."

After a while, the other men that Gomer had gone to grew tired of her and left her. When Hosea's unfaithful wife had eaten the bread, drunk the wine, and used the flax, oil, and wool, she realized that she was left with nothing. She became a slave and saw the great mistake she had made by trading her husband's love for worthless flattery and gifts that were quickly used.

Then God told Hosea to redeem his wife from slavery and forgive her, for she had learned her lesson and had repented for her sins. Hosea realized that this was a lesson for the people of Israel, too; that if they saw the worthlessness of their false gods and truly repented, God would redeem and love them.

