

Communion Meditation

Hosea 2.19-23 "Eternal Betrothal" September 2nd, 2018

Hosea Background

- Hosea is 1st of the 14 Minor Prophet books / large at 14 chapters
- Prophesied during the final decades of the northern kingdom (*fell to Assyria*)
- **v1.2** ~ Married Gomer ~ "Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry")
 - God contrasted His fidelity towards Israel with her infidelity towards Him

v19 ~ Eternal Betrothal

- **v19** ~ "I will betroth you to me forever"
- **v19-20** ~ "righteousness .. justice", "lovingkindness .. mercy", "faithfulness"
 - Even wicked men require, or at least appreciate, these from others . . .
- Though Israel declined in doing these – it didn't lessen their value
 - These are attributes of God that He will extend to the faithful for eternity

v21-22 Jehu and Jezreel ~ "It shall come to pass .. shall answer Jezreel"

- Jehu had been anointed King of Israel by God
- He'd killed the wicked kings of Israel and Judah in 1 day – killed Jezebel
- But Jehu then denied God bringing bloodguilt upon himself and the land

v22b-23 ~ "they shall answer Jezreel .. You are My God"

- Paul quotes this in **Romans 9.26** / Peter in **1 Peter 2.10**
- Gomer gave Hosea 3 children (**1.4-8**)
 - Son Jezreel, "I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu"
 - Daughter Lo-Ruhamah, "Not Pitied", "I will no longer have mercy on Israel"
 - Son Lo-Ammi, "Not My People", "you are not My people"
- But God's blessing would return and restore them
 - **v22d** ~ Blessings from God -> "they shall answer Jezreel" / "Account for"
 - **v23b** ~ "I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy"
 - **v23c** ~ "I will say to those who were not My people, You are My people"

God extended abundant mercy to Israel (northern kingdom)

God blessed them greatly but they'd abandoned Him & He judged them

But though God judges, yet He shows mercy and embraces us as His children