

Hosea 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son.

Analysis

Hosea's obedience to God's shocking command to 'take unto thee a wife of whoredoms' demonstrates the prophetic embodiment of divine truth. The name 'Gomer daughter of Diblaim' grounds this in historical reality—not allegory but actual marriage to a promiscuous woman (or one predisposed to adultery). This living parable illustrates Israel's spiritual adultery against YHWH. The covenant between God and Israel was depicted as marriage throughout Scripture (Isaiah 54:5, Jeremiah 2:2, Ezekiel 16, 23). Hosea's faithful love for unfaithful Gomer mirrors God's *hesed* (steadfast covenant love) toward wayward Israel. This anticipates Christ's love for His bride the Church (Ephesians 5:25-32)—loving her while yet sinful, pursuing her redemption, and presenting her spotless.

Historical Context

Hosea prophesied to the Northern Kingdom (Israel/Ephraim) in the 8th century BC during their final decades before Assyrian conquest (722 BC). This was an era of political instability, syncretistic worship (Baal cult mixing with YHWH worship), and social injustice despite economic prosperity. The marriage metaphor would have resonated powerfully as Israel repeatedly broke covenant with God by pursuing foreign alliances and idol worship. Gomer's bearing children with symbolic names (Jezreel, Lo-Ruhamah, Lo-Ammi) prophesied coming judgment, yet chapter 3 shows Hosea redeeming Gomer back, foreshadowing God's ultimate restoration of Israel.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Hosea's costly obedience challenge my willingness to embody God's truth even when personally painful?
2. In what ways does my life illustrate spiritual adultery—pursuing other loves while claiming loyalty to God?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּלֶךְ	וַיִּקַּח	אֶת	גֹּמֶר	בֵּת	דִּבְלַיִם	וְהָרָה
H1980	and took	H853	Gomer	the daughter	of Diblaim	which conceived
	H3947		H1586	H1323	H1691	H2029
וְהָיָה	לִּי	בֶן:				
and bare	H0	him a son				
H3205		H1121				

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