

Church

God sends Hosea to Israel to show his abiding love for his people Sunday school lesson

HOSEA MARRIES GOMER (Read from your Bible, Hosea 1:2-2:1)

"In the place where it said unto them, ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, ye are the sons of the living God." (Hosea 1:10)

In the lessons which we have just completed, our hearts have been lifted by glorious message of the resurrection. It may seem strange to go back seven hundred years into the Old Testament to the time of the prophet, Hosea. Hosea was a citizen of Judea whom God called as a prophet to serve the Kingdom of Israel. The story of Hosea and Gomer is one of the most interesting stories of the Old Testament. Israel, to the north of Judah, was moving swiftly to its end.

God's judgement would soon fall

upon them. Yet, God wanted, even yearned for, the nation to repent and so escape the judgement to come. Judgement would come in the form of the Assyrian government, who would invade Israel, defeat her and take the people into exile. God called and sent Hosea to Israel to portray His abiding love and His desire to forgive a repentant nation.

God used Gomer to help teach and prepare Hosea for the task to which he had been called. Symbolically, Gomer would be likened to the wayward nation of Israel...and Hosea, symbolically, would be likened to God.

JEZREEL—GOD SCATTERS (Hosea 1:2-5)

The lesson text given begins with verse 2 of Chapter 1, "The beginning of the Word of the Lord by Hosea.

And the Lord said unto Hosea, go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms..." This startling command has long puzzled earnest students of the Scriptures. First, Hosea was ordered to marry a prostitute. Was Gomer a prostitute before they were married, or did she become a prostitute afterwards?

The first child from the union was fathered by Hosea, but the Scripture is silent concerning the other children. Sincere scholars may differ about the interpretive detail concerning Hosea, Gomer and the children, but on the spiritual truth, which God intended, there is little to disagree about. The Lord is using a human situation to teach a spiritual truth. The Bible pictures God as the husband and Israel is married to Him.

Israel has departed from God and

she is involved in idolatrous relationship with pagan gods—she is committing adultery. Through the names given to Hosea and Gomer's children God is telling Israel of the coming judgement which will be brought upon them.

The first child Jezreel means "God Scatters." The nation will be defeated and the people scattered abroad. In 721 B.C. The nation will be defeated and the people scattered abroad. In 721 B.C. the Assyrian forces defeated Israel and the people were marched off into captivity.

LO-RUHAMA—NO MERCY (Hosea 1:6-7)

"And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And God said call her name Lo-Ruhamah: for I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel." What a strange name for a

child. There is a great spiritual teaching in this. People may sin and disobey God to the point that He withdraws His mercy from them. That is stark reality: yet scripturally true. There is a point beyond which God says "enough," then comes judgement. One can fully imagine what it would be like to be adrift in the world without God's protective hand.

LO-AMMI-NOT-MY-PEOPLE (Hosea 1:8-9)

"Then said God, call him Lo-Ammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God." (Verse 9).

The Northern Kingdom of Israel consisted of ten tribes of the original twelve tribes. Today they are spoken of as the ten lost tribes of Israel; God did indeed scatter them. Their downfall began with the separation into the Northern and Southern Kingdoms

which were disobedient to God's will. Israel's first king under the separation was Jeroboam I. Immediately upon becoming king, he built two pagan altars, one in the south. The people were ordered to worship these pagan dieties, instead of Jehovah God. There is another great spiritual truth here. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (The first commandment.)

(Lesson based on the International School Lessons.)

Perquimans County area church calendar

Rummage sale

The Oak Grove United Methodist Women will have a rummage and bake sale Saturday, May 9, at the Winfall Community Building from 9-12:00 p.m. Proceeds will be used for projects of the unit.

First Baptist schedule

The First Baptist Church Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. Morning worship starts at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor London preaching from the subject "A Picture of A Good Mother." Proverb 31:10. The senior choir will sing under the direction of Barbara Shannon. The Holy Communion will be served.

The First Baptist Church Annual Woman's Day worship will be held

Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. The guest speaker is Mrs. Fannie S. Leigh. The Bay Branch A.M.E. Zion church will sing.

Chairperson, Christine Modlin invites all to attend.

Modlin to preach

The Rev. James Modlin, Jr. of Baltimore, Maryland, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Modlin, Sr. of Hertford, N.C. will preach at the Bay Branch, A.M.E. Zion Church on Saturday night, May 9, 1987 at 8 p.m. He will be accompanied by the Spiritual Lights with Mrs. Gloria Mitchell, organist. This program is sponsored by the senior ushers of Bay Branch A.Z.E. Zion Church.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

Domestic violence conference

Professionals and volunteers who assist victims of domestic violence across the state are encouraged to attend a conference on domestic violence at Peace College in Raleigh, May 27-29.

Featured speakers will include Sister Elaine Roulet, known for her ministry to women in prison; Rep. Margaret Keesee-Forrester of Greensboro; Beth Richie, co-chair of the Women of Color Task Force of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and Catherine A. Jourdan, a clinical counselor with the Stress Management and Counseling Center in Winston-Salem.

Participants will attend workshops covering topics such as grant writing, rural program needs, legal issues, education in this schools and in the community, child sexual abuse and many others.

The fee for the conference registration is \$30, covering workshops, materials and breaks. For those who register after May 15, the fee will be \$35.

For information and registration, contact Julia Reeves, Director, N.C. Domestic Violence Project, 526 N. Wilmington St., Raleigh, N.C., 27604, or call (919) 733-2455.

The conference is being sponsored

by the Governor's Task Force on Domestic Violence and the N.C. Council on the Status of Women in cooperation with about 15 other agencies.

"Each month, programs and shelters across the state are seeing an average of a thousand women who are victims of domestic violence and are seeking help for the first time," said Anna Mills Wagoner of Salisbury.

CALVARY CHURCH

is planning a trip
to Thrashers Reunion
DENTON, N.C.

please make reservations
before May 21

Call Maude Elliss at
426-7200

Committee formed

20 YEARS AGO

Medical Committee Appointed Tuesday: A Medical Committee was appointed by the Perquimans County Commissioners Tuesday night at a special session held in the Court House. Committee members are Mrs. T.P. Brinn, Mrs. Lucille S. Winslow, Emmett Landing, Charles Harrell, Jr., Thomas Nixon, Jr., and Robert Spivey. The purpose of the meeting was to make plans to set up some type of Medical Program here to meet our current need. Following a lengthy discussion, concerning the difficulties involved in securing a physician for Hertford and the county, it was decided that a Medical Committee should be appointed to contact the doctors in Elizabeth City and Edenton seeking their assistance in supervising a Medical Clinic here to meet the emergency.

Wayne College Names Honor Roll: John E. Hurdle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elton Hurdle of Hertford, Route 1, for his academic achievement is listed on the Honor Roll at Wayne Commu-

nity College during the Winter Quarter, 1968-69. Hurdle, a Forestry student, has been enrolled for at least twelve quarter hours and has earned a quality point average of at least 3.00 for the quarter with no grade below C to be eligible for this honor.

Perquimans County HEW Hearing set For June 10: Superintendent C.C. Walters has announced the Perquimans County Hearing with HEW has been scheduled for June 10. The purpose of the hearing is to reevaluate the situation in Perquimans County concerning its compliance with HEW regulations.

TRY CLASSIFIEDS!



Card of Thanks

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you who showed your love and concern through flowers, visits, telephone calls and prayers while I was a patient in Albemarle Hospital and since my return home.

May God bless all of you.

Howard D. Hurdle and Family

We would like to express our sincere thanks for the many flowers, food, visits, cards, prayers, and many acts of kindness shown us during the death of Wallace J. Chappell.

I want to thank the Nurses at Guardian Care for their good care of me.

I would like to thank all who gave food since my return home from Guardian Care, and for your many prayers, cards, visits, and many acts of kindness you are still showing me.

May God be with each of you.

Dorrie Mae Chappell

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HERTFORD

"MOTHER'S DAY"

Raymond C. Needham, Pastor
Hertford Baptist Church

The word "Mother" has a very special meaning in our thinking, and our observance of "Mother's Day" next Sunday will surely be accompanied by a sense of love and gratitude for this special lady in our lives and homes. Motherhood has, in recent years, come under attack by some who regard it as a second rate role in life, as something that is degrading, depriving a woman of fulfillment and the attaining of her potential. Yet, what could be a greater achievement in life than to have reared a child who has learned to reverence God, and out of that reverence, become a preserving influence in the society of which he is a part?

Our concept of motherhood is also a reflection of the value we place upon the life of a child. Think of Hannah, the mother of Samuel, who became a faithful, God-fearing leader of the nation Israel. She prayed for a son, and when he was born, she regarded him as a gift from the Lord. We are not surprised to learn that her chief desire for Samuel was that he might be used of the Lord all the days of his life. Thus we hear her saying, "For this child I prayed . . . therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord." (I Samuel 1:27,28). Her baby boy was not regarded as a burden and an inconvenience.

Another worthy mother from God's word is Eunice, the mother of Timothy, another young man who became a blessing to others. When the apostle Paul wrote to him he "Called to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in three, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother, Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." (II Timothy 1:5). We read also that Timothy had known the scriptures from his youth. His mother sought God's best for him.

Perhaps the greatest influence regarding the destiny of our nation lies with our mothers. This is to take nothing from the tremendous responsibility of the fathers; but it is the mother who usually gives this intimate daily care to the child. Her words, her touch, her compassions expressed are all keys in the formulation of that tender life. It would be unrealistic to say that her responsibility is not a great one; but it would be equally unrealistic to deny that she has one of the highest privileges known, for she has in her hands the opportunity of moulding a life for good.

As we honor our mothers and express our thanks for all that they mean to us, let us also pray for God's blessings upon them, for their task is indeed demanding, but there is One who is able to supply their needs.

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Dear friends,

St. Augustine made this comment approximately 400 A.D. "The laying out of the body, the burial rites . . . are more of a consolation to the living than of assistance to the dead." Since that time, many other qualified persons in religion and psychology have agreed. The funeral service impresses the reality of death, while it brings together relatives and friends to share the burden of grief of the bereaved family.

Respectfully,

Larry Swindell

Swindell Funeral Home, Inc.

509 Dobbs Street
Hertford, N.C.
426-7311