

Hosea Chapter 1:4-11 - Questions

Hearing from God that his new bride, once a prostitute, would someday go right back to prostitution had been gut-wrenching. And perhaps Hosea really didn't think it was going to happen...after all...she was beautiful....she had left her life of prostitution for him....they were happy...they were going to be bringing children into the world. They were going to be a family. Hosea was going to keep preaching far and wide and then coming back home to his own, wonderful world.

But next God told Hosea He would be the One who would name their three children. And the names He chooses? You wouldn't want your worst enemy to be stuck with these names!

The prophet Isaiah, prophesying in the Southern Kingdom at the same time Hosea was in the Northern Kingdom, was also told by God that He wanted to be the namer of his children. God named Isaiah's children Shearjashub (meaning "a remnant shall return") and Mahershalalhashbaz (meaning "haste to the prey").

What was God doing?

1. (:4) What name does God give their firstborn? Girl or boy? (the name means "cast-away")
2. (:4-5) What seems to be the message God wants to send by naming this child this name? (Look up 2nd Kings 9:30-33, and 2nd Kings 10:1-11. These two passages give the background)
3. (:6-7) What name does God give their second child? Girl or boy? (the name means "not pitied")

4. What seems to be the message God is sending through this second child's name?
5. (:8-9) What name does God give their third child? Girl or boy? (the name means "not my people")
6. Why did God choose this name?
7. (:10-11) God is obviously sending a frightful message to the people of Israel through these three names, right? What message does He send next through the preaching of Hosea?
8. Why does God send this next message?

Application Questions:

9. Does it seem fair to you that someone could rebel against God and not even care to pay any attention to Him, and then receive mercy and be welcomed back into God's good graces?
10. Read the story of the Prodigal Son and ask yourself again – is it fair that a prodigal son could return home after squandering his father's wealth and then be welcomed with open arms? (Luke 15:11-32)