

In the opening chapters of Hosea, God commands the prophet to marry a “woman of harlotry” who would be unfaithful to him. Hosea’s marriage to Gomer, along with the children she bears, reflects the unfaithfulness of Israel to God, and His subsequent judgment and redemption of the nation.

1. Which explanation of Gomer’s story best fits the application that Hosea makes of this marriage in his prophecy?
  - a. The whole story is just an allegory; none of it actually happened.
  - b. Gomer was already a harlot with illegitimate children when Hosea married her.
  - c. God knew that Gomer would play the harlot after her marriage to Hosea.
2. What was the meaning and significance of the names of Gomer’s three children?

Name	Meaning	Significance
Jezreel		
Lo-ruhamah		
Lo-ammi		

3. In II Kings 9-10, God directs Jehu to obliterate the house of Ahab, a task that Jehu executes with brutal effectiveness, with most of the blood spilling at Jezreel. In II Kings 10:30, God rewards Jehu’s obedience with a dynasty of four kings. Yet in Hosea 1:4, God states He will “punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed of Jezreel.” How can God both reward and punish for the same set of activities?
4. According to Romans 9:23-26 and II Peter 2:10, what is the fulfillment of Hosea 1:10-2:1?
5. In what ways could the thoughts of 2:2-13 be those of Hosea talking about Gomer?
6. In what ways could the thoughts of 2:2-13 be those of the Lord talking about Israel?
7. Where does Gomer/Israel think her blessings come from? Where do they truly originate?
8. Does Gomer/Israel find true fulfillment in pursuing her illicit lovers? (2:6-7)
9. What significance would using the name Ishi (“my husband”) rather than Baali (“my owner”) have to the relationship between God and His people? (2:14-17)
10. In what five things will God betroth His people “in that day”? (2:18-20)
11. In 2:21-23, how do the promises of God’s relationship to the people invert the names given to Gomer’s children in chapter 1? What play on words do you see with “Jezreel”?
12. What did Hosea have to do in 3:1-2 to restore Gomer to her role as his wife?
13. How might this experience relate to Romans 5:6-8?
14. What might Gomer’s period of seclusion (3:3) represent for Israel (3:4)?
15. Who would be “David their king” that Israel would later seek? (3:5)