

## Hosea was a prophet of God to Israel for over 60 years.

Way back when the Jews were slaves to Pharaoh God saw their struggle, their pain and their cries for help. He had already decided to make of these tormented people a great nation, numbering more than the stars of the heavens and the sand on the sea shore, but they were a rebellious bunch.

### Genesis 15: 5

*And He brought Abram forth abroad and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if you are able to number them: and He said unto him so shall your seed be.*

That promise, given to Abraham all those years ago is still being fulfilled today. It was God's intention to produce a people who would follow Him, worship Him, and obey Him and to be an example to other nations who were becoming wayward and sinful in the eyes of a Holy God.

The problem, right from the start was sin, and it is still a problem today. Satan, the enemy of God and of those who follow Him is the master of sin, he created sin which we were all born into and have to fight against in our daily lives. Satan suspected that at some time or other sin would have to be dealt with once and for all, so he is doing his very best to drag man and woman down into sin and away from the cross of Christ and God's love. God loves the world He created and the people in it who are also His creation but when people disobey or rebel He has no alternative but correct them as any loving father would his children.

God's children, called the Children of Israel, were given Prophets who were the voice of God on earth teaching the principles that God wanted Israel to live by. When the Children of Israel came out of Egypt and entered Canaan God told them very plainly not to mix with other nations they meet because they knew not God Jehovah and did not worship Him but worshipped idols they had made out of wood or stone and set them up in their tents and houses. This continued for very many years; Israel took no notice of the warnings and callings from God through the voice of the Prophets.

The nation of Israel was becoming prosperous and in part their prosperity led them away from their God. Also they disobeyed God and mixed with other nations and brought home pagan idols and worshipped them in their homes and in special places called groves.

Self-sufficiency is a dangerous thing and we must remember all that we have is given by God and without the breath he gives us we can do nothing and He could if He so wished take that breath away in a second.

Israel continued to rebel against God and go the way of Satan. As we have said before God cannot look upon sin, the very thing that separates man from God. An all knowing God was very mindful of the fact that one day He would offer his Son Jesus as a sacrifice to set men and women free from the bondage of sin. You may remember when Jesus was on the cross He took upon Himself the sins of the world and God had to turn His back away from His only Son, and Jesus felt the loneliness saying *My God My God why have you forsaken me.*

## So let's move on and look at how God used the prophet Hosea to show Israel the state it had fallen into.

The name Hosea means "Salvation" and he was a contemporary with Isaiah; both of these men were Prophets, both lived very close to God and often gave messages to Israel from the Lord. These messages were completely ignored. Spiritually Israel had sunk to rock bottom following continued worship of other gods and this displeased God greatly. Israel, God's chosen people were following the ways of the heathen, the very people God said they were not to associate with. Idol worship was the sin that is exceedingly hateful and an affront to God comparable to the pain a married woman would cause her husband if she cohabited with other men. A stone idol replaced God in every home and in every heart, then one day the Lord said to Hosea that he was going to show Israel their sins and call them back again to Himself.

God said to Hosea “Go take unto you a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land has committed great whoredoms, departing from the Lord” God had great patience with the people He loved and although He called them, showed them His love, fought their battles, fed them and gave them victories they turned their backs on Him and worshipped dead images of wood or stone and departed from the Lord and forsook Him.

God used Hosea through the prophet’s marriage to an unfaithful wife, to highlight to Israel their sin in devoting their worship to idols when it belonged to God and show them what an exceedingly hateful sin and an abomination it was to Jehovah. So Hosea’s marriage illustrated the nation’s disregard and rejection of God. Every time they gave glory to any idol it robbed God of the glory that was due to Him and Him alone. But of course we would not do such a thing today!

What a thing to ask a God fearing man, and a Prophet at that, to go and marry a wife committed to idol worship. God’s mouth piece must show the land of Israel their sin in committing great whoredom and departing from the Lord and to show how exceedingly hateful it was in the eyes of God. What would Israel think of the Holy man of Israel telling them to repent and get back to God but now going after and marrying a prostitute, whose sin led others into sin, one who had departed from the Lord and now living with other men? This was the exact pattern Israel was following with idols at the centre of their worship. God had it all under control I am sure, and the Holy Spirit worked on Israel to bring home God’s very important message that Israel was no better than Hosea and they were prostituting themselves with idols and rejecting the God who loved them.

### Chapter 1.verse3

*So he went and took Gomer...who conceived and bare him a son.*

With such an incredible demand from the Lord you would think Hosea would question God about this. In Exodus 4:10 we read how Moses argued with God about his assignment and God was not very happy with Moses. Hosea on the other hand didn’t say a word he just got up and went to town and chose a wife. The wife Hosea was to choose was an adulterous women one who was well known in the town for the way she lived. We must also be ready to bear any cross the Lord appoints us, in our study of Samuel we noted that God said *obedience is better than sacrifice*; we must trust God and follow Him. In the town walked Hosea the Prophet in the sight of and recognised by everyone and he chose Gomer to be his wife. Some of the oldest manuscripts explain that the backsliding of Israel included all sorts of perversions and sex involving idols, and freely given and shared with one another. Sin had griped Israel to their hearts which were now given over to Satan. The Holy Spirit must have been at work to show Israel that the Lord thought Israel was behaving just like a whore in the sight of God and was using Hosea to shock them and draw their attention to what God was doing for them.

Gomer conceived and bore Hosea a son. God told Hosea to call his son Jezreel, the second child he had was a daughter, he named her Lo-ruhamah and a third was a boy and God called him Lo-ammi. Names had real and important meaning in the East and all Israel understood that when a child’s name was announced they knew what the meaning of the child’s name was.

Jezreel signifies *dispersion*. Or *God will scatter and sow*. This means that God would scatter Israel and sow them into many nations all round the world. In the fullness of God’s time He will call them back and restore Israel and sow them again into their own land.

Lo-ruhamah means *not beloved* or *not obtained mercy* indicating God abandoning the nation of Israel. He said in verse 6, “*for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away.*”

This was literally fulfilled. The 10 tribe kingdoms were never again restored, God did utterly take them away and only those few who remained stayed with Judah and the kingdom of David and were restored with them becoming a nation.

The truth is God had showed mercy, love, care and provision from the day He brought His people out of Egypt. But the sin of the people turned away Gods mercy, and continued forgiveness. We love God because He first loved us but our being cast out of covenant like Israel is due to our own backsliding and folly. God’s own professing people spurned His mercy and through the names of Hosea’s children, plus

Hosea's extraordinary mission God showed Israel the error of their ways. Israel went into total idolatry and left the Lord even though the greatest Prophets were sent to them with strong messages from God warning them that the Northern Kingdom would be destroyed as a nation as a result of the sin.

### Hosea 5:3

*I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now O Ephraim you commit whoredom and Israel is defiled.*

Ephraim, the Northern Kingdom, being the largest Tribe led the other tribes into idolatry and therefore defiled the entire nation.

The third child is born to Gomer and God named him Lo-ammi which means *for you are not my people and I will not be your God*. Positionally speaking Israel will always be the people of God, but they only experience the benefits and promises of being such when they believe Him and worship Him and not the idols that filled their homes. Later Israel would repent and God would forgive them and He would call them His people again.

### Hosea 2:23

*And I will sow her unto Me in the Earth and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not My people, you are My people and they shall say You are My God.*

Hosea showed Israel that they were to live and manage without God for a while, from a position of not My people to later becoming My people again. In the Kingdom Age at the return of Christ, God will 'sow' Israel into the Earth after a great dispersion and a great recalling to their homeland, and a restoration has taken place, Israel will be sons and daughters of the living God again but this time forever.

Regardless of being cut off Israel will multiply to be great in Christ when all Israel will be saved.

### Romans, 11:26

*And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written "There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. (Israel)*

### Isaiah 59:20/21

*And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob (Israel) said the Lord. As for me, this is my covenant with them, says the Lord; My spirit that is upon you, and my words which shall not depart out of your mouth, nor out of the mouth of your seed, nor out of your seed's seed says the Lord from henceforth and for ever.*

Israel has had a special place in the heart of God since He heard their desperate cries in Egypt; the Bible says Israel is the wife of God.

### **Isaiah 54:5-7 God's everlasting love for Israel**

*For your Maker is your husband: the Lord of hosts is his name and your Redeemer the Holy one of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall He be called. For the Lord has called you as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit and a wife of youth, when you were refused says the Lord. For a small moment have I forsaken you; but with great mercies will I gather you.*

Israel is often spoken of as a woman and as the wife of Jehovah (Isaiah 54:4-6 ) We have learned in our study that God has forsaken Israel because of her sins; He has forsaken Israel but only for a 'small moment' then He will bring them back to himself to remain with Him forever. The words 'maker' and 'husband' refer to the Lord being such to Israel.

God went to great lengths to show Israel the sins they were committing, and He was so disappointed with them he now uses Hosea in such a dramatic way to highlight the sin that separated them from God. My question is when was the last time you heard that sin separates us from God in your church? Did the preacher challenge you like God challenged Israel? Sin separates us from God, God hates sin, but sin is

seldom mentioned in church because it would upset the congregation. TV preachers I listen to, some magazines I read, even people I talk to tell me the church is asleep, or the church needs to wake up! In our slumber are we sure we are not in sin? Remember, Jesus was not pleased with the lukewarm people of Laodicea.

### 1.Thess:5-7

*Therefore let us not sleep as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they who sleep, sleep in the night and they who be drunken are drunken in the night.*

Ask yourself if the church is overcome by lethargy and apathy, it is always being criticised and told it is not relevant today. I heard an interviewer on Television asked several people if they believed in God. Most were young and in their late teens and early to mid-twenties, all of them said they did not believe there is a God. One or two said if they could be sure of a God they would like to meet him. Many churches are being sold today as nurseries, warehouses and the like. My wife has just read, as I write, a church has just been found in the UK used as a cannabis factory. Another has taken the seats out and built a large helter-skelter in the aisle, yet another has built a crazy golf layout where the seats should be! We can see on TV churches packed out with people, not worshippers of the living God but people buying and selling antiques. By the way our church was packed on Sunday all worshipping Jesus! Jesus went up to Jerusalem for the Passover and with a whip expels the sellers and money-lenders from the very temple they were to offer the Passover Sacrifice from. Buildings set apart to become houses of prayer have been turned into businesses. Why because there is no longer a passion in people's hearts to turn to the one true God and allow Him to live through them. Ask yourself today have you lost the passion you once had. Have you become weary in well doing and turned back to your old way of life, an old way of thinking? If you have we encourage you to invite Jesus back into the very centre of your heart to revive you and relight the fire that was once there.

The reality is that since the days of Hosea, almost 2800 years ago, people haven't changed at all. Can we wonder then why God has turned His back on the UK and left us to our own devices we are in such a mess because God has left us *for a small moment*? Just like Israel we have rejected God and replaced Him with idols. We have replaced an all knowing God with men and women who have proved over the last 3/12 years they can't agree on principles for Brexit and made fools of themselves in front of the whole world. As Christians we are to maintain our relationship with Jesus by continued watchfulness for His coming again, by our prayer life, worship and thanksgiving to Jesus for the cross. Those Christians who live in spiritual darkness have no idea what is coming upon this world or their involvement in it when that time comes and therefore are unprepared for His coming. Isaiah 29 speaks of a time when the Lord calls his people spiritually blind and asleep, a time in which we live I think! As a result we are unable to see or understand what the Bible is talking about and get upset at writings like this.

Read Isaiah 29 and feel the frustration of the Lord with wayward, sinful sleepy people.

### Hosea 2:1

Thank God there is always a remnant. There will always be those few who will pray in the darkest of times. There will always be those few who will trust and believe God when things look as though they cannot get any worse. There will always be those few who will sacrifice and give when it is most needed, and God knows who they are. God called out to a small company of true believers in Israel who were praying and calling on God in the middle of a sinful backslidden nation. He mentioned the two names of Hosea's children Ammi and Ruhamah. These encouraging names and their meaning were known to these faithful few, God called them Ammi "My people" and Ruhamah "the engraced"

Whatever our surroundings, however black the path if we continue to trust and pray and keep close to Jesus He knows where we are. He knows our name and watches over us to encourage us. He knows the way is difficult and sometimes unbearable, He said it would be but if we stay close He calls us His engraced people, we belong to Him. And just like Israel we all will be changed into His likeness and He will do a *marvellous work*, not only in Israel but in all of us.

### Isaiah 29:14

*Therefore behold I will again do a marvellous work among this people, a marvellous work and a wonder; For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden.*

What an exciting and fulfilling time awaits repented Israel and the repented gentiles too as one when we get to glory.

### Verse 2.

*Plead with your mother plead; for she is not my wife neither am I her husband.*

The use of the word 'mother' speaks of all Israel as one nation. The pleading is to be done by those who spoke about in verse one, the remnant, those who love God in spite of the difficulties.

Gomer was to leave Hosea and go back to her sin and old ways as a harlot. Israel did not heed to the lesson God showed them through Hosea,

Israel also left Jehovah for more idol worship the marriage in both cases was dissolved.

### Verse 3

*Lest I strip her naked and set her as in the day that she was born, and make her as a wilderness, and set her like a dry land and slay her with thirst.*

This shows that Israel could have had prosperity but rather chose subject poverty both naturally and spiritually. She took a backward step and rejected God. Israel would become a dry land not producing anything of use to other nations therefore end up weak, and poor. Israel chose to reject God.

My prayer is that at this time, at the leaving the EU, with Britain in turmoil and unrest she will not forget her God. In his book Britain, a Christian Country by Paul Backholer he writes "For over a thousand years Britain has been defined by Christianity, with monarchs dedicating the country to God and national days of prayer that saved this nation in its darkest hours". In the 1904-1905 Welsh revival it is estimated that a million people came to Christ in only a few months and the Spirit of God spread the whole country. It is reported that over 100 million born again believers can trace their new life in Jesus back to those meetings in the Assures Street revival. The churches were full with queues outside; today the churches are no more than playgrounds empty of worshipers. What have we done with Jesus?

### Verse 4

*And I will not have mercy upon her children, for they be the children of whoredoms.*

It would appear that the children will suffer too from the deeds of the 'parents' that is certainly the case with Great Britain today. We have not taken heed of our forefathers let alone take notice of God. We must pass on to our children the message of the cross so they will pass that message to their children and so on. This is a Bible principle for the spreading of the gospel. We were once a Christian nation and the world knew it, we have lost our way may God forgive us. We pray we will find it again as Gomer did. She found her life in harlotry very unhappy and unsuccessful she found it was better when she was with her husband than with these lovers. Israel would find it much better with Jehovah than with the idols of Baal.

### Jeremiah3:12-13, 20 (NLT)

*My faithless people come home to me again, for I am merciful.*

*I will not be angry with you forever, only acknowledge your guilt.*

*Admit that you rebelled against the Lord your God and committed adultery against Him by worshipping idols under every green tree.*

*Confess that you refused to listen to my voice...*

*You have been unfaithful to me, you people of Israel!*

*You have been like a faithless wife who leaves her husband.*

## Hosea 2: verse 13

*And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them and she decked herself with ornaments, bracelets, jewels on her forehead, earrings and fine linen all for the benefit of her lovers. And forgot me says the Lord.*

Baalim is plural for Baal so there were very many idols that replaced God and every home had one or more. A hurt God is using Gomer as a type representing Israel and He said He would visit and reject them for giving the glory and praise due to Him to idols. We note although there is forgiveness, punishment has to be made but from the loving heart of God to an unrepentant nation. Verse 8 tells us that it was God who gave Israel her corn, her wine, her oil, and multiplied her silver and gold but Israel gave all this provision to the Baal idol made of wood or stone unable to speak or walk or talk or fight wars. Israel was so wrapped up with the gods of the Assyrians and the Egyptians they forgot that the great blessings they enjoyed came from Jehovah.

## Verse 16

*And it shall be at that day, says the Lord, that you shall call Me Ishi; and shall call Me no more Baali.*

The word Ishi means my husband and the word Baali means my Lord. In Isaiah we are told God will do a marvellous thing and a wonder with Israel which is a prophecy relating to Israel at the end times of this age and the start of the Kingdom Age. God has great things in store for His chosen people Israel. Here are some of them all in Chapter 2;

Israel will be in the wilderness not a literal wilderness but very much like the times she is living in our study. She will be far from God, surrounded by her enemies who will be at the very walls of Jerusalem planning to invade when Israel's God (and mine) will return to save His people (and me) in victory.

Israel will recognise Him whom they have crucified and shout in recognition "*blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord*" This acknowledgement from Israel will be genuine and from the heart. They will worship Him whom they pierced and give Him praise and God will honour them and that "small moment" will end So in Hosea Chapter 2 God promises that He will;

- 1) Speak comfortably to her (14)
- 2) Give her back her vineyards (15)
- 3) Bring her back to a spirit of singing (16)
- 4) Marry her again (16)
- 5) Take the names of multiple idols from her mouth (17)
- 6) Make a covenant with dangerous beasts not to threaten life (18)
- 7) Bring peace to them
- 8) Betroth her to himself for ever (19)
- 9) Betroth her to himself in righteousness (19)
- 10) Betroth her to himself in faithfulness (20)
- 11) Make them prosperous (21-22)
- 12) Make them a plant of His own (23)
- 13) He will become their God (23)

There will come a day when Israel will be the first to welcome the Lord as He returns from heaven in majesty and glory to the Mount of Olives just outside Jerusalem. He will smash the enemies of Israel and all Satan's armies just as was prophesied in the image of Nebuchadnezzar when Jesus represented by the stone, smashed the feet of his image and toppled all the nations who have done their best to destroy Israel. How can we express the joy, the happiness, the excitement, that God will feel as He, at last, is united with the nation He chose thousands of years earlier headed up by Abraham. (See [www.wordlightmypath.com](http://www.wordlightmypath.com) The Books of Daniel and Revelation)

That is what Israel has to look forward to, if only they knew what has been revealed to us today, would they have behaved better, would they have listened to Hosea or Isaiah and gave up their idol worship and worshipped Jehovah? We have the knowledge they didn't; we have the Holy Spirit to open up the scriptures to us, everything is available to us for a better understanding of the Bible and to bring us in

line with what God wants of us in these last days. There is no excuse for any of us, the truth of God is all about us and we ignore it at our peril.

### Chapter 3

*Then said the Lord to Hosea Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress according to the love of the Lord toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love flagons of wine.*

Hosea was told by God to “go yet” notwithstanding her shameful conduct, and love Gomer his wife who had forsaken him for her old lovers. He was to love her as God loves Israel who also left Him to go after other gods and loved flagons of wine. (Also translated cakes of raisins) These were grapes made into cakes used in idol worship.

### Jeremiah 7:17/18

*See you not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.*

These cakes were made of honey and all sorts of other strange ingredients and shaped like the moon to which the cakes were offered. The Phoenicians called the moon Ashtoreth who was the wife of Baal or Molech, to whom their children were sacrificed. (See more on Ashtoreth in the Samuel study). They called the idol Molech the king of heaven. The male and female pair of deities were symbols of the generative powers of nature, this brought about the introduction of prostitution connected with worship. The moon became the symbol of female productiveness and all women were supposed to submit to immorality at least once in this worship. Note that all the family were involved in this practice, even the children were to collect the wood for the fire! That is why God said that the “old men” were to teach the children and the children were to teach their children the truth of God so as to pass on God’s ways and the true way to live. (See study of Samuel [www.wordlightmypass.com](http://www.wordlightmypass.com)) This research is given to show the depth to which Israel had gone, it may disturb you as it did me but we can feel *in a very small part* how God must have felt because He loved these people so much and still does.

Just as Hosea married Gomer the second time, after she learned her lesson regarding being true to her husband, so the same would happen to Israel regarding her relationship with Jehovah. According to the scriptures God will marry Israel again and betroth her to Himself forever in righteousness and faithfulness. (Verse 19-20). Let’s look at V23 in which God says;

### Verse 23

*And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people Thou art my people: and they shall say Thou art my God.*

The Jews are often disliked by people all over the world and blamed for the slightest thing that goes wrong. I believe that is a Spiritual thing born about by Satan himself. The Jews are God’s chosen nation, He said He would make them as the stars of the heaven or the sand on the sea shore, He said He would disperse them all over the world to be brought back to their own land at His appointed time. That time, as you know happened on May 14, 1948, just 71 years ago when approximately 650,000 Jews lived in Israel. Today the population tops 9 million and growing fast and the Jews are returning to their land every day. We are studying about Israel being fought over by Satan, tempting Israel to disobey and do wrong time and again, and God wooing them back to the safety and shelter of His side. Let us all pray for Israel that her heart would be turned to her God.

God knew they would become a great nation He knew that most of the Bible would be written by Jews; Jesus knew He would be born a Jew. He also knew Salvation would come through the Jews. God knew Israel would be a great contributor to the world’s trading partners being the 23<sup>rd</sup> largest in the world. It is considered a high-income country by the World Bank. It has very high life expectancy. A report in March 2019 says, “The past decade has seen Israel’s economy boom, possibly beyond the wildest dreams of the founding fathers who established the state 71 years ago amid hostile

neighbours”. Israel has created within 3 years and at the cost of \$200 million dollars an Iron Dome which can detect when a missile has been fired and it fires a missile of its own at the intruder. It has taken down over 1000 missiles since 2011 when first launched with a 90% success rate. Israel has about 12 of these unique safeguards, the only ones in the world! Israel is researching and developing a new plastic that after a short time will dissolve in water! This would be a great asset to the marine life to be sure. Israel has developed an irrigation process that is selling to nations worldwide. To fly across Israel takes just over one hour, to fly across the USA takes 5 hours!

We could go on and on telling of the successes of Israel but surely I have given enough information to confirm that Israel is most certainly blessed of God. He went to extraordinary lengths in Hosea’s time, about 781 BC, to show Israel how she has fallen, but also how much He loves her.

Hosea married Gomer the second time after she had learned her lesson regarding being true to her husband, the same will happen to Israel and her relationship with Jehovah. According to the last verse of this chapter God will marry Israel again and sow her into a nation and betroth her into himself forever in righteousness and faithfulness (v19-23).

### Chapter 3 verse 2

*So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for a homer of barley and for half homer of barley:*

Hosea took from his savings fifteen pieces of silver and so much barley. This small amount of barley and money marked the worthlessness of this slave (Exodus 21:32)

Hosea was indeed a Godly man commanded by the Almighty to still love Gomer even though she proved faithless to the prophet and fell into degraded bondage again. This illustrated God’s love for Israel and His persistence in perusing Israel to save her from the bondage of her idol worshipping lovers.

### Verse 4

*For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image or ephod and without teraphim. (household gods)*

This prophecy predicted that they should remain for a long period of time, already over 2600 years, without government, Priest, or Levitical sacrifice and free from idolatry. So it has been right up to today and will continue to be in the latter days.

This verse remains to be fulfilled at the 2<sup>nd</sup> advent of Christ and the Bible fully explains this event in

### Romans 11:25-27,

*For I would not, brethren that you be ignorant of this mystery lest you should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, there shall come out of Zion the Deliverer and turn away ungodliness from Jacob (Israel). For this is my covenant unto them when I shall take away their sins.*

We are exalted to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, we are encouraged to be friends of Israel and this is the reason why. Israel is a very special nation because it belongs to God; they were in part blind to what God wanted of them and their bright future in promoting God’s will for the nations’ Instead they were backsliders from the God who chose them, loved them, and forgave them. He scattered them among the nations for “many days” to be without a king or a prince or a sacrifice, image, ephod or teraphim (3:4-5) which has been the case for over 2000 years so far. But just as Gomer realised her place was with her husband, Israel too will come back to her God having been fully restored and forgiven to spend eternity with her ‘husband’. They are truly special to God, so should be special to us.



## Verse 5

*Afterwards shall the children of Israel return and seek the Lord their God and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days.*

This verse remains to be totally fulfilled 'afterwards' means after the many days, 2700 years so far this verse is in the process of being fulfilled such as seeking the Lord and David their king, and fearing God in the latter days remain to be fulfilled. In God's time He will pour out the Holy Spirit as He promised in;

## Zechariah 12:10

*And I will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced and they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son and shall be in bitterness for him as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. Great mourning and repentance will last 3 days (Hosea 6:1-3) Then with a true heart they will say "Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord" (Mathew 23:37-39)*

At this time all Israel will be saved as the Lord returns from heaven to the Mount of Olives, all the armies of the nations under the command of the Antichrist as they seek to take down the walls and enter the city of Jerusalem and destroy the Jews. They will shake for fear under God's supernatural defence of the Jews and Jerusalem and He will be visible over all Israel (Zechariah 9:14). Panic will set in as they see the God of Israel defend the children of Israel and every horse and rider in the armies of the Antichrist will be smitten by the Lord. (Zechariah 12:4). Zechariah 12: 8 and 9 speaks of the Lord personally defending the inhabitants of Jerusalem when they are about to be destroyed.

If only Israel had knowledge of the great and wonderful future that God had prepared for them if they were to obey and trust their Lord. They had great Prophets like Isaiah, who we read and learn from today. They had Hosea who we are also studying who was showing them through spectacular example how much God loves them, and how He wants to be their saviour even though they were disobedient.

He wants to be your saviour too! He loves you just as He loved Israel in our study. You have Ministers, Pastors, the Bible, and many other ways to get to know the same God that Israel rejected so why not find out about Him, get to know what a friend He can be.

*I do not want to be unfair, but a gospel that offers a marvellous new life  
without the conviction of sin is not of God. (Martin Lloyd Jones)*

My thanks to my friend Graham Towse for his assistance to my studies, may God bless him and his wife Viv in their work for Jesus.

Be blessed  
billholdstock@icloud.com

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