

A JEALOUS GOD

Put together by Bongie Kuzwayo

Expose' of Hosea Chapter2

[Exodus34v12--17] Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. (13) But you shall destroy their altars, and break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images (14) "(for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), (15) lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods, and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of their sacrifice, (16) and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods. (17) You shall make no molded gods for yourselves.

The Nation of Israel (the then church) was the only nation who had a (covenant) relationship with the Living God, when every nation around them worshiped idols. Several times God warned the Nation of Israel never to enter into covenant with the nations and to destroy their sacred pillars that they were likely to find in the land they were entering to possess. In Hosea chapters1 up to 3 = Israel is depicted as Jehovah's

unfaithful wife. Hosea's (harlot) wife, Gomer, models the role of the Nation of Israel.

- Gomer = complete.

God sent three prophets [(at the same time) – Hosea, Isaiah and Amos], to plead with the Nation of Israel to repent and return to God.

HOSEA (Chapter 2)

Here we meet God heartbroken and disappointed with His wife (the church) who was playing a harlot with the baals. God is bringing a charge against the Nation. He is prepared to show mercy (v1). The blessings with which God had blessed the Nation – she attributed those blessings to baal. 'For she said, "I will go after my lovers, who give me my bread and water, my wool and my linen, my oil and my drink (v5).

It is very common today that we meet many children of God seeking prayer because they are looking for a job. Once they get the job, they slaughter an animal (and wear ISIPHANDLA) thanking their ancestors for the job. Elijah's words would be a good question to ask today, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him: but if baal, follow him (1Kings18v21)

God had done everything for Israel and expected them to be a righteous bunch to His dismay. He says, [Isaiah5v4] What more could have been done to My vineyard, that I have not done in it? Why then when

I expected it to bring forth good grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes? In anger, He says, "I will lay it waste; it shall not be pruned or dug, but there shall come up briars and thorns. I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain on it. (Isaiah 5v6).

(Hosea 2v6–8)

Out of anger, God says, I will hedge up your way with thorns, and wall her in, so she cannot find her paths (v6).

You will remember that thorns were not created, but were pronounced by God as a curse when Adam sinned. " He said, "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field (Genesis 3v17–18).

- I will hedge up your ways with thorns = God is cursing the nation.
- So she cannot find her paths = she will not find solution to the challenges that will befall her.
- (7) She will chase her lovers , but not overtake them = she will try everything (to please ancestors) to try get out of the situation to no avail.
- God would punish her to give her a chance to (make up her mind) to return to God.

Hosea comes to the scene to prophecy to the Northern Kingdom when the house of Jehu is in power. God tells Hosea to name his [first-fruit] son Jezreel, because He

is determined to put an end to the kingdom of Isarel.

- Jezreel = God sows

(v9) God decides to withhold His blessings from the Nation so that her appointed feasts will not be a JOY

(v11)

[Amos5v21–24] I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies. (22) Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. (23) Take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments. (24) But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

(v12 –V13) God brings desolation to the Nation.

(v14–16)The God who is longsuffering, slow to anger and abounding in goodness and love decides to allure the Nation so He can speak comfort to her. He **was giving them a chance to repent.**

(v17) When Israel has repented = she will not remember the names of her baals. Will call God = "My Husband" (v16)

(v18) God is prepared to continue to give them protection (safety).

[V19–20] I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in

lovingkindness and mercy; (21) I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord.

Notice the expression I will betroth you to Me" is mentioned three times. Three stands for that which is:

- Solid
- Substantial
- Complete and
- Entire.

Remember the name Gomer means = complete. This whole thing means God will complete\perfect what He is purposing. And you can sense He is in a militant mood. This He will do in:

- Righteousness – He is righteous (Psalm36v5–6)
- Justice – He is just (Psalm 89v13–14)
- Lovingkindness – (Romans8v35–39)
- Mercy – He is merciful (Psalm62v11–12)
- Faithfulness – He remains faithful (Lamentations3v21–24)

These five attributes tell us that God will do it because of His grace.

(v21–22) The favourable weather that is meant to give Israel good crop (to yield grain, new wine and oil) = shall answer Jezreel – the soil will be ready for God to sow the nation.

(Hosea2v23) – God speaks of sowing the Nation. How was He going to sow them?

[Hosea2v23] Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, and I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; then I will say to those who were not My people. "You are My People!" And they will say, 'You are my God.'

- Then I will sow (plant\scatter as seed) her to Myself.

God sent prophet Isaiah (the son of Amoz) to also prophesy. [Isaiah 6v9–13] And He said, "Go and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive. (10) Make the heart of this people dull, and ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes; and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and turn and be healed. (11) Then I said, "Lord how long?" And He answered, "Until the cities are laid waste without inhabitant, the houses are without a man., the land is utterly desolate. (12) The Lord has removed man far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land. (13) But yet a tenth will be in it, and will return and be for consuming, as the teberinth tree or as an oak, whose stump remains when it is cut down. So the holy seed shall be its stump.

This people = does not call them, 'My people.' = He has turned His back on them. [Isaiah 65v2] I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according

to their own thoughts.

The message by Isaiah = God is withdrawing revelation\proceeding word from the nation. 'Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God' (Matthew 4v4)

Withdrawal of revelation =

1. Spiritual death
 2. Desolation
 3. Poverty
 4. Sickness
 5. Demonic attacks
 6. Attacks by foreign nations and no intervention by the Almighty God.
- I will have mercy on her (Gentile nations) who had not obtained mercy. [Isaiah 65v1] I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that was not called by My name.
 - Then I will say to those who were not My people (Gentile nations), "You are My people."
 - But the tenth will be in it = a remnant.
 - The analogy of the teberinth\oak stump that remains = God says, it is a holy seed (or a remnant). God will always leave Himself a remnant to start all over again. In Noah's time – His remnant was only eight people. [Job 14v7–9] For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and

that its tender shoots will not cease. (8) Though its root may grow old in the earth, and its stump may die in the ground, (9) yet at the scent of water it will bud and bring forth branches like a plant. **Water = proceeding word (that brings life)**

[Job14v10–12] But man dies and is laid away; indeed he breathes his last and where is he? (11) As water disappears from the sea, and a river becomes parched and dries up, (12) so man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, they will not awake nor be roused from their sleep.

Israel at this time was very prosperous and they persisted in error. [Isaiah2v7–9] Their land is also full of silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; their land is also full of horses, and there is no end to their chariots, (8) Their land is also full of idols; they worship the work of their hands, that which their own fingers have made. (9) People bow down, and each man humbles himself; therefore do not forgive them. Israel would not heed the prophets. [Amos7v12–13] Then Amazia (a priest in Bethel) said to Amos, "Go you seer! Flee to the land of Judah. There eat bread, and there prophesy; (13) but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is a king's sanctuary, and it is the royal residence.

It very common today that the people of God will only seek Him when they experience difficult times. They will earnestly seek the prayers of the leadership. Once they breakthrough – they don't have time for God. Some will not even bother to share with you the good

results of your prayers. In fact you cease to even exist in their dictionary. Abanandaba nawe.

When God was tired of relenting, He said, [Hosea9v7, 11–12] The days of punishment have come; the days of recompense have come. Israel knows! The prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is insane, because of the greatness of your iniquity and great enmity. (11) As for Ephraim, their glory shall fly away like a bird—no birth, no pregnancy, and no conception! (12) Though they bring up their children, yet I will bereave them to the last man. Yes, woe to them when I depart from them. [Isaiah10v22–23] For though your people, O Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant of them will return; the destruction decreed shall overflow with righteousness. For the Lord God of hosts will make a determined end in the midst of all the land.

Israel is finally banished from their land and were carried away captive by the king of Assyria (2Kings17). God removed His people from Israel because of apostasy =

- Idolatry
- Baal worship
- Calf worship
- Sacrificing of children

The land of Israel was now an empty church building
Exactly what God prophesied by Isaiah = **Until the cities are laid waste without inhabitant, the houses are without a man, the land is utterly desolate, the Lord**

has removed men far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land. (Isaiah 6v11–12).

Today's Gomer (the harlot\false church)The church today is no different from the Nation of Israel, if not worse. Most of the church is engrossed in inventing the trickiest gimmicks in the name of increasing numbers and amassing wealth. It is not so much about forming Christ in the fabric of the believer. Gifts are exalted above character. Charisma gives one the best position in the church.

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