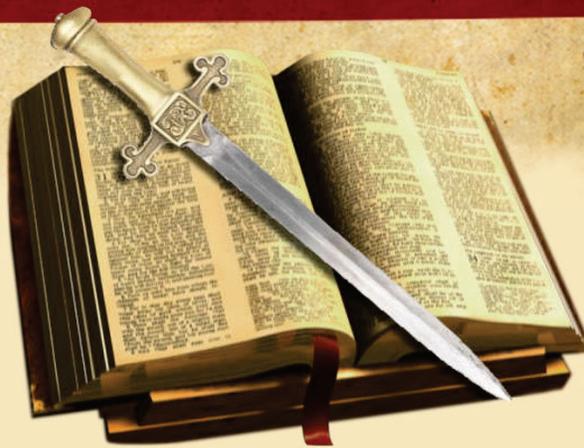


Setting Your Heart on the Kingdom



HOSEA

Beyond Human Remedy

(The Principles of Broken Covenant and Restoration)

Hosea 1:1-11; 2:1-20

He was heartbroken and overwhelmed with grief. The pain of betrayal and infidelity by the woman he loved so dearly was more than he could bear. For this was not just a momentary fling...Hosea's wife had become a prostitute! *And the holy covenant of their marriage was not just tested...it was shattered beyond human remedy.* Turning from hurt to disdain, Hosea divorced his wife and walked away. Added to this tragedy were the lives of their two innocent children. Forever they would live with the disgrace of their mother and the rejection of their father. How could such a wretched calamity ever be restored?

This tragic human drama took place long before the exile to Babylon. Israel had sinned grievously against the Lord in every conceivable way. *But worst of all, they committed spiritual adultery...breaking their holy covenant with God.* Israel forsook the Lord and worshipped Baal, the detestable Canaanite deity of sensual perversion. *Thus, the prophet's adulterous wife and broken marriage were human expressions of the broken covenant of God's people.* Reeling from the ordeal, Hosea began to understand how the Lord must feel. God's divine heart was broken and His grief unimaginable!

Hopefully, you've never had to experience the anguish of a broken marriage. But if you have, you know on a very limited scale how God feels. The holy covenant of marriage symbolizes the intimate relationship between the Lord and His people. But if your affections are given to mammon, will He not mourn and sense your rejection? And if you prostitute yourself with world systems, is God's heart not grieved (Gen. 6:6)? Many people, like Hosea's wife, have shattered their relationship with the Lord beyond human remedy. But the story doesn't end there! Listen to God's infinite grace as He declares, *"I will speak kindly to you. And I will betroth you to Me forever!" Remarkably, God's love reaches beyond our sins and restores us to Himself.* And this can be true for human covenants as well. Just humble yourself...draw near to His gentle voice of reconciliation and repent. *Oh, what a gracious and loving King! In God's Kingdom, even broken covenants can be restored!*

Next: The Kingdom of God in Joel... What Even God Can't Resist!

