

## I. Theme of Hosea: God's Love and Israel's Unfaithfulness

- A. Israel's unfaithfulness is portrayed by the actions of Hosea's wife
- B. God's love is shown in the actions of Hosea
- C. Key aspects of the relationship:
  - 1. Begins with Hosea's love for Gomer
  - 2. Despite that love, Gomer leaves home and suffers
  - 3. In the end, Hosea brings her home in an act of enduring love

## II. The Nature of God's Love and the Love He Expects in Return

- A. Hosea 6:1-4
  - 1. We should return to God *because He loves us*
  - 2. Your loyalty (*hesed*) is like a morning cloud (v 4)
- B. Hosea 11:1-9
  - 1. I loved Israel
  - 2. My people are bent on turning from Me (v 7)
  - 3. How can I give you up - I will not
- C. Hosea 14:1-9
  - 1. Return to the Lord your God
  - 2. I will heal; I will freely give (v 4)

### Assignment:

*Read II Kings 17*

*Verses 7-23 give an explanation of why Israel was taken captive.*

*What are the key elements of the writer's explanation?*

### III. The Devoted Love of God

- A. *Hesed* is the basis of God's relationship with His people
1. Contrast the romantic love which forms the basis of most American marriages
    - a) Based on emotion
    - b) Drawn out of us by something in the one loved
    - c) Out of our control
  2. *Hesed* combines three key thoughts:
    - a) Strength
    - b) Steadfastness; endurance
    - c) Love
- B. *Hesed* is used in combination with other words
1. Psalm 23:6
    - a) Goodness - *tobe*
    - b) Mercy; lovingkindness - *hesed*
  2. Psalm 25:6
    - a) Compassion; tender love; motherly love - *racham*
    - b) Lovingkindness - *hesed*
  3. Psalm 25:10
    - a) Lovingkindness - *hesed*
    - b) Truth; trustworthiness - *emeth*
  4. Psalm 92:2
    - a) Lovingkindness - *hesed*
    - b) Faithfulness; firm fidelity - *emunah*
  5. Lamentations 3:22-23
    - a) Combines *racham*, *hesed*, and *emunah*