

## God's Messengers

The Story – Chapter 15

## Where is Israel with God?

- In desperate need of repentance
- Priests and Judges were corrupt
- Violence and oppression reigned
- People had forsaken covenants
- People faced opposition and hardship
- BUT
- God loved them to leave them alone

## The Upper and Lower Stories

- The Raven feeds Elijah
- Miraculous victory
- Conquest in enemy terr
- Healing of Naaman
- Washing in the Jordan
- Grace instead of death
- Covenant & meal
- Hosea marries Gomer
- Hosea buys her back
- God provides
- The cross – victory of defeat
- Jesus came to world
- Salvation for Gentiles
- Baptism = obedience
- For all mankind
- Lord's Supper
- Israel's adultery – God
- Jesus paid the price

## Ahaz & Jezebel

- Son of Jothan
- Imitated Israel's kings
- Raised altars in Jerusalem
- Sac son as Canaanites
- Took Temple gold/silver & gave it to Kg Assyria
- Died at age of 36
- Followed by Hezekiah
- Sought to kill Elijah for killing her prophets
- Elijah prophized her death – eaten by dogs
- Fulfilled
- ③

## Deuteronomy 13. 1-5

<sup>1</sup> If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears, <sup>2</sup> and <sup>3</sup> the sign or wonder spoken of takes place, and the prophet says, "Let us follow other gods" (gods you have not known), and let us worship them," <sup>3</sup> you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. <sup>4</sup> You must not let such a message find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. <sup>4</sup> It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him. That prophet or dreamer must be put to death. <sup>5</sup> You must not pity him, for he has brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. That prophet or dreamer tried to turn you from the way the LORD your God commanded you to follow. You must purge the evil from among you."

## #5 – Where Elijah Ran

- Mt Horeb
- Where Moses received – The Ten Commandments

## Hosea

- Ministered under
  - Jeroboam II – Israel (Northern Kingdom)
  - Uzziah – Judah (Amos in Sathem Kingdom)
- Ministry spanned approx – 50 yrs 760-710 BC
- Proclaimed failure to be faithful to covenant
- Therefore judgment was coming

## Hosea – The Man

- His life shows how God loves us
- God will never stop loving His people
- Agreed to sacrifice his life in marriage
- Hosea 1. 2
  - "When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, "Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the LORD."

## Gomer/Hosea – Israel/God

- Gomer
  - Wife of Hosea
  - A Prostitute
  - Chased after other men
- Hosea
  - Suffered because of wife
  - Loved Gomer regardless
  - Did not divorce her
  - Redeemed her
  - Punished her
  - Restored & forgave Gomer
- Israel
  - Spiritual wife – Israel
  - Spiritual harlot
  - Chased after other gods
- YHWH – God of Israel
  - Suffered because of Israel
  - Loved His people uncond
  - Has not forsaken His own
  - Redeemed His people
  - Disciplines His people
  - Restores & Forgives

## Hosea 4 The Charge Against Israel

<sup>1</sup>"Hear the word of the LORD, you Israelites, because the LORD has a charge to bring against you who live in the land. <sup>2</sup>There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land. <sup>3</sup>There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bonds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. <sup>4</sup>Because of this, the land and the people will be laid waste; the birds in the sky will feed on the flesh, in the seas of sweet sunray. <sup>5</sup>But let no one bring a charge, let no one accuse another, for your people are like those who bring charges against a priest. <sup>6</sup>You stumble day and night, and the prophets stumble with you."

Message

God forgives

Come Home

## Hosea 5 – The Charge against Israel

<sup>4</sup> "Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. A spirit of prostitution is in their heart; they do not acknowledge the LORD."

## Hosea 14 Repentance to Bring Blessing

<sup>1</sup>"Return, Israel, to the LORD your God. Your sins have been your downfall! <sup>2</sup>Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to him, 'Forgive all our sins and be gracious,' what we have done against you. <sup>3</sup>Assuredly, we will not mount warhorses. We will never again say, 'Our gods' find compassion.' <sup>4</sup>"I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them. <sup>5</sup>I will be like a cedar of Lebanon; he will send down his roots; <sup>6</sup>his young shoots will grow. His splendor will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon. <sup>7</sup>People will dwell again in his shade; they will flourish like the grain, they will blossom like the vine— Israel's name will be like the wine of Lebanon. <sup>8</sup>Ephraim says, 'I am like a flourishing juniper; your and care for him, I am like a flourishing juniper; your fruitfulness comes from me.' <sup>9</sup>'Who is wise? Let them realize these things. Who is discerning? Let them understand. The ways of the LORD are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.'