



YES, NO & MAYBE

1. Most of the people in this room are not as loyal as I am.
2. If people knew they would never get caught, they would cheat on their spouses, or do so more often.
3. It sure feels like the God of the Old Testament is different from the God of the New Testament.
4. God's feelings are sensitive and can be hurt.
5. There is a time and situation where God decides to not be your God anymore.

-HOSEA-

THE OUTRAGEOUS, HEARTBREAKING,
AND COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED
LOVE OF GOD.

DIVE DEEPER

∞ What was the most pivotal moment in your spiritual walk that led you to see God in a completely different way?

°READ Hosea 1:1 (NIV)

1 The word of the Lord that came to Hosea son of Beeri during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the reign of Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel:

~Who was Hosea? Is there anything significant about his name and his message?

°READ Hosea 1:2-3 (NIV)

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." 3 So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

~Why do you think God would tell Hosea to marry a "promiscuous woman"?

» What is the meaning of "promiscuous" in this context?



THEBIBLELAB

°READ Hosea 1:4-5 (NIV)

4 Then the Lord said to Hosea, "Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel. 5 In that day I will break Israel's bow in the Valley of Jezreel."

~Where have we heard about Jezreel & Jehu before?

» This is the site of many battles (1 Sam 29:1; 2 Sam 2:8; 1 Kgs 21:1; It was here also that Jehu killed Joram, Jezebel, and the rest of Ahab's household and supporters (2 Kgs 9:24-10:11).

» Jezreel means "May God sow." It addresses the issues with the fertility cults of Baal that were now a big problem.

» The word translated "punish" **pāqad** has a wide variety of meanings ("attend to," "appoint," "visit," "muster," etc.). In context, it should probably read: "You are causing us to revisit what happened to the Baal worshipers at the time of Jehu."

°READ Hosea 1:6-7 (NIV)

6 Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the Lord said to Hosea, “Call her Lo-Ruhamah (which means “not loved”), for I will no longer show love to Israel, that I should at all forgive them. 7 Yet I will show love to Judah; and I will save them—not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but I, the Lord their God, will save them.”

~The startling name Lo-Ruhamah calls attention to this estrangement between Yahweh and the people. The little girl was the text of Hosea’s sermons. The people heard that terrible name and no doubt whispered to one another, “Hosea’s wife is unfaithful; he must doubt that this child is his. He has rejected the poor thing!” And Hosea could respond something like: “Do you trouble yourself over Lo-Ruhamah? I tell you, you are Lo-Ruhamah!”

» According to Garrett, D. A. (1997). Hosea, Joel (Vol. 19A, pp. 43–73)., the NIV has a very questionable, and one might even say impossible, translation of the Hebrew. The most obvious meaning of the line is, “But I will certainly forgive them.”

° How does this effect our understanding of verse 6, and how does it fit God’s character?

°READ Hosea 1:8-11 (NIV)

8 After she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, Gomer had another son. 9 Then the Lord said, “Call him Lo-Ami (which means “not my people”), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.

10 “Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘children of the living God.’ 11 The people of Judah and the people of Israel will come together; they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel.

~The NIV has slightly supplemented the text in its translation “and I am not your God” in this verse. The Hebrew only says, “And I am not yours” and omits the word “God.” Some scholars argue that the Hebrew actually means “And I am not ‘I AM’ to you.” In other words, they argue that with these words God has relinquished the title of I AM for Israel (Exod 3:14); he shall no longer be the God of Moses that they knew.

» Does it feel like there is yet another contradiction, when it says that “you are not my people, and I am not your God,” and then immediately it is followed with a blessing and the granting of the title “children of the living God”?

° What does this say about God’s character?

MY PRAYER

1. How am I allowing my relationship with God to become an unfaithful one?
2. How do I need to see God’s unwavering love for me more clearly this week?
3. How do I see God’s character better now?

