

Divine Love



1. The involvement of divine love

(Hos. 1:2-3)

Hosea 1:2-3

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

2. The tenacity of divine love

(Hos. 3:1-5)

Hosea 3:1

The Lord said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.”

Hosea 3:2-3

So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.”

Hosea 3:4-5

For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the Lord and to his blessings in the last days.

3. The passionate
jealousy and anger of
divine love

(Hos. 2:1-13)

Hosea 2:1-13

God takes us to the place
where we have nothing to
turn to but Him.



“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us,...



C.S. Lewis

...like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”



C.S. Lewis

4. The gentle patience of divine love

(Hos. 11:8-9; 2:14-20)

Hosea 11:8

“How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel?

How can I treat you like Admah?

How can I make you like Zeboyim?

My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused.

Hosea 11:9

... I will not carry out my fierce anger,
nor will I devastate Ephraim again.
For I am God, and not a man-the Holy
One among you. I will not come
against their cities.

5. The transforming
power of divine love
(Hos. 14:4-7)

Hosea 14:4-5

“I will heal their waywardness
and love them freely,
for my anger has turned away from
them.

I will be like the dew to Israel;
he will blossom like a lily.

Like a cedar of Lebanon
he will send down his roots;

Hosea 14:6-7

his young shoots will grow.

His splendor will be like an olive tree,
his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon.

People will dwell again in his shade;

they will flourish like the grain, they
will blossom like the vine—Israel's
fame will be like the wine of Lebanon.

“For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.”

2 Corinthians 11:2