



Resilient Hope

HOPE

How can we maintain resilient hope in our lives?



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Hosea



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'When God starts to use Hosea as a prophet, first thing he says is, 'go find a prostitute, marry her. Why? Because Israel is a prostitute – guilty as charged: walking out on our relationships and having lurid affairs with other gods.' So Hosea goes and marries Gomer, the prostitute, and has children with her.'

(Hosea 1 - Adapted from the Street Bible.)



Hosea

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First child is called Jezreel – meaning *won't be long until I punish*. Hosea 1:4

Second child Lo-Ruhamah- meaning *not loved*. Hosea 1:6

Third child Lo-Ammi – meaning *not my people*. Hosea 1:9



Hosea

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'God says to Hosea, 'Go find your wife; tell her you love her and you want her back. Yeah, I know she's having an affair with someone else and she's been unfaithful to you. But love her like I love the Israelites, even though they go off with other gods and get on the rison cakes used at their sacrifices... tell her "Come let's get engaged again. Let's be an item. Don't go out on the town. Don't sleep with anyone else – I'll wait for you.'"

(Hosea 3 - Adapted from the Street Bible.)



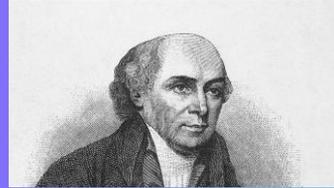
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The message of Hosea, is that God still loves Israel and was desperate to have them back. That's why Hosea was prepared to have resilient hope and make a sacrifice for God.



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William Carey (1761-1834)



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David Livingstone (1813-1873)



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Adoniram Judson (1788-1850)



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"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

(Matthew 16:24-27)



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But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24