

Hosea 3:1-5

Overview of Chapter 3:

1. YHWH gives a command to Hosea (3:1)
2. Hosea obeys and fulfills the command (3:2-3)
3. YHWH explains the message meant to be observed or learned from Hosea’s actions (3:4-5)

This is exactly the pattern seen in chapters 1 and 2.

The explanations were longer in chapters 1 and 2 since there were more “signs” or children.

Here there is one act and one message.

Hosea speaks here in chapter 3.

In chapter 1 and 2 the details were given in third person. Here in first person.

This is similar to the rest of the book.

Sometimes Hosea is speaking in first or third person for himself, but also, there are times Hosea is speaking for God in first or third person.

Hosea 3:1 – “**And the Lord said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.”** (ESV)

7453 [e]	157 [e]	802 [e]	157 [e]	1980 [e]	5750 [e]	413 [e]	3068 [e]	559 [e]
rê·a'	'ā·hu·baṭ	'iš·šāh,	'ēhab-	lêk	'ō·wḏ	'ē·lay,	Yah·weh	way·yō·mer
רַעַ	אֲהַבְתָּ	אִשָּׁה	אֲהַב-	לְךָ	עוֹד	אֵלַי	יְהוָה	וַיֹּאמֶר 1
a lover	[who is] loved by	a woman	love	go	again	to me	Yahweh	And said
N-ms	V-Qal-QalPassPrtcpl-fsc	N-fs	V-Qal-Imp-ms	V-Qal-Imp-ms	Adv	Prep 1cs	N-proper-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms

6437 [e]	1992 [e]	3478 [e]	1121 [e]	853 [e]	3068 [e]	160 [e]	5003 [e]
pō·nîm	wə·hēm,	yis·rā·'êl,	bē·nê	'et-	Yah·weh	ke·'a·hā·baṭ	ū·mə·nā·'ā·peṭ;
פְּנִים	וְהֵם	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּנֵי	אֶת-	יְהוָה	כְּאַהֲבַת	וּמְנַאֲפֶת
look	and they	of Israel	for the sons	-	of Yahweh	just like the love	and is committing adultery
V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp	Conj-w Pro-3mp	N-proper-ms	N-mpc	DirObjM	N-proper-ms	Prep-k V-Qal-Inf	Conj-w V-Piel-Prtcpl-fs

6025 [e]	809 [e]	157 [e]	312 [e]	430 [e]	413 [e]
'ā·nā·bîm.	'ā·šî·šê	wə·'ō·hā·bê	'ā·hê·rîm,	'ē·lō·hîm	'el-
עֲנָבִים:	אֲשִׁישֵׁי	וְאַהֲבֵי	אֲחֵרִים	אֱלֹהִים	אֶל-
raisin	the cakes [of the pagans]	and love	other	gods	to
N-mp	N-fpc	Conj-w V-Qal-Prtcpl-mpc	Adj-mp	N-mp	Prep

1. NIV paraphrases this verse
2. Literal reading could be: “And the LORD said to me again, ‘Go, love a woman loved by another and committing adultery, just as the LORD loves the children of Israel even though they are turning to other gods and love raisin sweetmeats.’”
3. The Hebrew does not say “your wife”, but merely “wife” or “woman”. “Your wife” in Hebrew is different.

4. Verse 3:2 uses the phrase “I procured her” which indicates it was not just any “wife” or any “woman”, but instead a specific “wife”. So, it is safe to say this was Gomer, but this verse does not say that.
5. This woman is clearly an adulteress, but it would make no sense if Hosea was to merely go to just any adulteress.
6. “Again” most likely refers to the Lord speaking again, not to showing love again.
 - a. This helps decide if this is a retelling of chapter one or part two of the story.
 - b. This is part two of the story because of “again”
7. “love a woman” is not “take a wife” which indicates this is Hosea’s wife already.
8. “loved by another” does not mean there is an emotional connection in another love affair, but shows there is sexual activity with another man.
 - a. So, “love a woman” does not merely mean Hosea is to “fall in love”, but Hosea is to be sexually active with his wife which he is already involved with through a covenant relationship.
9. “love the sacred raisin cakes” in NIV is a paraphrase of the Hebrew.
 - a. “sacred” is not in the text
 - b. Israelites “love raisin cakes”
 - i. David distributed raisin cakes and other deserts to the people when the ark came to Jerusalem, 2 Samuel 6:19
 - ii. Raisins were an energy food eaten for energy as in 1 Sam. 30:12
 - iii. Song of Songs 2:5 raisin cakes appear to increase sexual desire, sexual pleasure, or sexual behavior
 - c. It seems the raisin cakes were used for energy in sexual activity likely involved with Israel’s involvement in pagan worship

Hosea 3:2 – **“So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethek of barley.”**

8184 [e]	3963 [e]	8184 [e]	2563 [e]	3701 [e]	6240 [e]	2568 [e]		3739 [e]
še·'ō·rīm.	wə·lê·tek	še·'ō·rīm	wə·hō·mer	kā·sep;	'ā·šār	ba·hā·miš·šāh	lî,	wā·'ek·kə·re·hā
שְׂעִירִים	וְלֶתֶק	שְׂעִירִים	וְחֹמֶר	כֶּסֶף	עֶשְׂרִים	בְּחֲמִשָּׁה	לִי	וְאָכַרְתִּי 2
of barley	and one-half homers	of barley	and one	of silver	[and] ten [shekels]	for five	for myself	So I bought her
N-fp	Conj-w N-msc	N-fp	Conj-w N-msc	N-ms	Number-ms	Prep-b, Art Number-ms	Prep 1cs	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-1cs 3fs

1. Homer may be about 6 bushels or 200 liters
2. Lethek may be half a homer
3. “I bought her” means what it says because the price is given.
4. “bought” includes the Hebrew idea of haggling, bartering and negotiation in the street.
5. It appears Hosea had to use both coin and substance to put together enough money for her. This means he may have had a hard time coming up with the money.
6. Why buy her? Why was this necessary?
 - a. She had fallen into slavery because of her lifestyle and choices
 - b. This is the “wilderness” she ended up in after she was sent out by Hosea

Hosea 3:3 – **“And I said to her, “You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you.”**

3808 [e]		3427 [e]	7227 [e]	3117 [e]	413 [e]	559 [e]
lō	lî,	tê-šə·bî	rab·bîm	yā·mîm	'ê·le·hā,	wā·'ō·mar
לֹא	לִי	תִּשְׁבִּי	רַבִּים	— יָמִים	אֵלֶיהָ	וָאָמַר 3
not	with me	You shall stay	many	days	to her	and I said
Adv-NegPrt	Prep 1cs	V-Qal-Imperf-2fs	Adj-mp	N-mp	Prep 3fs	Conj-w V-Qal-ConseclImperf-1cs

413 [e]	589 [e]	1571 [e]	376 [e]	1961 [e]	3808 [e]	2181 [e]
'ê·lā·yik.	'ā·nî	wə·gām-	le·'îš;	tîh·yî	wə·lō	tîz·nî,
אֵלֶיךָ:	אָנִי	וְגַם—	לְאִישׁ	תְּהִי	וְלֹא	תִּזְנֶה
toward you	[will] I [be]	so too	a man	shall you have	nor	you shall play the harlot
Prep 2fs	Pro-1cs	Conj-w Conj	Prep-I N-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-2fs	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	V-Qal-Imperf-2fs

1. “Many days” may refer to the prohibition period where they lived together without sexual relationship. Kind of a process of purification

Hosea 3:4 – **“For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods.”**

8269 [e]	369 [e]	4428 [e]	369 [e]	3478 [e]	1121 [e]	3427 [e]	7227 [e]	3117 [e]	3588 [e]
śār,	wə·'ên	me·lek	'ên	yîs·rā·'êl,	bə·nê	yê·šə·bū	rab·bîm,	yā·mîm	kî
שָׂר	וְאֵין	מֶלֶךְ	אֵין	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּנֵי	יִשְׁבּוּ	רַבִּים	יָמִים	כִּי 4
prince	or	king	without	of Israel	the sons	shall abide	many	days	For
N-ms	Conj-w Adv	N-ms	Adv	N-proper-ms	N-mpc	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Adj-mp	N-mp	Conj

8655 [e]	646 [e]	369 [e]	4676 [e]	369 [e]	2077 [e]	369 [e]
ū·tə·rā·pîm.	'ê·pō·wd	wə·'ên	maš·šə·bāh;	wə·'ên	ze·bāh	wə·'ên
— וְתַרְפִּים:	אֶפֶד	וְאֵין	מַצֵּבָה	וְאֵין	זֶבַח	וְאֵין
or teraphim	ephod	and without	sacred pillar	or	sacrifice	and without
Conj-w N-mp	N-ms	Conj-w Adv	N-fs	Conj-w Adv	N-ms	Conj-w Adv

1. “without” these things means they are to live without any right relationship or Pagan religious structure. Just like Gomer’s time of purification.

Hosea 3:5 – “Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the Lord and to his goodness in the latter days.

1. Mention of David is Messianic. It is more than the reestablishment of the line of David.
2. David also means the two kingdoms would have to be reunited.
3. “last days” is eschatological and means “at the end of the days:

853 [e]	430 [e]	3069 [e]	853 [e]	1245 [e]	3478 [e]	1121 [e]	7725 [e]	310 [e]
wə·'êṭ	'ē·lō·hē·hem,	Yah·weh	'eṭ-	ū·bīq·šū	yis·rā·'êl,	bə·nê	yā·šū·bū	'a·ḥar,
וְאַתְּ	אֱלֹהֵיהֶם	יְהוָה	אֶת־	וּבְקִשׁוּ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּנֵי	יָשׁוּבוּ	אַחֲרַי 5
and	their God	Yahweh	-	and seek	of Israel	the sons	shall return	afterward
Conj-w DirObjM	N-mpc 3mp	N-proper-ms	DirObjM	Conj-w V-Piel-ConjPerf-3cp	N-proper-ms	N-mpc	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Adv

3117 [e]	319 [e]	2898 [e]	413 [e]	3069 [e]	413 [e]	6342 [e]	4428 [e]	1732 [e]	
ḥay·yā·mīm.	bə·'a·ḥā·rīt	ṭū·bōw	wə·'el-	Yah·weh	'el-	ū·pā·ḥā·dū	mal·kāḥ;	dā·wid	
פְּ	הַיָּמִים:	בְּאַחֲרֵית	טוֹבוֹ	וְאֶל־	יְהוָה	אֶל־	וּפְחָדוּ	מֶלְכָם	דָּוִד
-	the days	in latter	His goodness	and	Yahweh	unto	and they shall fear	their king	David
Punc	Art N-mp	Prep-b N-fsc	N-msc 3ms	Conj-w Prep	N-proper-ms	Prep	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3cp	N-msc 3mp	N-proper-ms