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Here's Hope
by Rev. Jerry Rea

A Doorway of Hope

Hosea's prophecy is sad and tragic. His wife was adulterous, and God said that was also the way Israel had become. She had left Him for other gods. For fourteen chapters Hosea blasts the people of God. That's what prophets do. There is intense grief and passion in the book, just as there is grief in broken marriage relationships. They are reminded that they cannot and will not "get away with" their sin. Then, God offers them hope.

At chapter 2, verse 15 we see it in a very clear form. God says that He has opened a door of hope. In spite of their sinful condition, God was making a way that their relationship could be restored. Through forgiveness, they could be reconciled. Don't you just love it when you hear of a married couple who are able to get back together? All is bleak, and then a light of hope shines in. It really is a miracle. People are stubborn; have you ever noticed? Sometimes I believe that men are the worst, and then sometimes I believe women are just as bad. We all like our own way and resent anyone who gets in our way. If we get hardened in our own way, we then get prideful, sometimes arrogant.

In Hosea's day there was no question it was Israel's fault. God had done nothing wrong. They could not blame Him, or His ways. They had left Him for the worship of Baal. It must've hurt God for them to leave Him. The Bible speaks of "grieving" the Holy Spirit. Apparently, God can hurt. I'm remembering that Jesus wept. I believe we hurt God when we turn from Him and His ways and His love. Then verse 15 springs like a flower through a sidewalk. It just shouts "there is hope." There is not hope because we have done anything righteous. The wages of sin is always death, for the lost and for the saved. We get entangled in our own choices and wrongful desires. Then God makes a way, in this case a door of hope. Again, in spite of her sinful condition, God reaches out in love.

If you are willing to ask, God will forgive you. He made a door of hope through the work and ministry of Jesus Christ. There is hope! It is provided for you by God, through Jesus. "Could God forgive me?" you ask. Yes, He stands at the door.

Hosea 2:15
Jerry Rea