### Hosea

## Chapter 3

1And the [messenger of the] Lord said to me:  
  
 ‘Go again and love an adulteress  
 Who wishes to do what’s evil!  
 For, even though Jehovah loved IsraEl’s sons,  
 They’ve looked to strange gods,  
 And of raisin cakes, they’ve been fond!’  
  
  
2So I hired [such a woman] for myself for 15 silver coins, 200 quarts (190l) of barley, and a skin flask of wine. 3And I said to her:  
  
 ‘You must now sit next to me and you may not be immoral or be with [another man] for many days… You must be mine alone! 4For this is how the sons of IsraEl will sit for some time… Without a king or a ruler, and with no altar, sacrifices, priesthood, or anything else to give them direction.  
  
 5‘But after these things are completed, IsraEl’s sons will return to search for their God Jehovah and for David to serve as their king. So at the end of the days, they’ll find joy in Jehovah and with the good things that He provides.’