Date: 15 October 2023 Speaker: Rev Clement Chew

Topic: The Book of Hosea: Great is Thy Faithfulness!

Text: <u>Hosea 1:1-2:1</u>

1. The central theme of Hosea is the faithful love of God. *Hosea* means salvation. This book was addressed to the children of Israel, particularly the Northern Kingdom. They had been unfaithful people. They prostituted themselves to foreign gods, syncretising the worship of the one true God. God will be faithful to His people in (1) His judgement and (2) His promises.

- 2. God commanded Hosea to take a wife of whoredoms, representing the Northern Kingdom. God will use the children <u>born to Gomer</u> as signs to the children of Israel. The first was Jezreel, Hosea's son. The second, not of Hosea, was named Loruhamah, meaning no mercy. The third, born out of Gomer's infidelity, was called Loammi, meaning "not my people".
- 3. God means all He says- His judgements and promises will come to pass (v10). There will be a generation faithful to God. Yet, even up till now, the children of Israel are far from God. There will be a regathering of the children of Israel, who shall be ruled by the greater Son of David- the Lord Jesus (v11). The Lord will reach out to them through discipline and encouragement. They will return to Jehovah again.

Faithful is His judgements, and faithful are His promises.

Great is His faithfulness.