

GLEANINGS

TO WHOM IS GOD SPEAKING?

In previous articles we offered three suggestions which will enable you to glean the truth from your Bible while you stay away from the seeds of error in your translation (please read article GE-7).

Today we would like to offer a fourth suggestion. Always be aware of (1) who is speaking, (2) to whom are they speaking and (3) what is the subject under discussion, that is, what is the content of those verses.

Not every passage in the Bible applies to you and me. Many passages and commandments were written for and apply to only one person or to one particular group of people. For instance, God required the Jewish Theocracy to worship Him on the last day of the week (Saturday). God commanded the Jewish Theocracy to circumcise every male child within their membership. Are those two commands applicable to you and me?

God told Hosea (Osee) to marry a prostitute. *“2. In the beginning of the Lord’s speaking to Osee, the Lord said to Osee: ‘Go, take a harlot wife and harlot’s children, for the land gives itself to harlotry, turning away from the Lord.’” Hosea or Osee 1:2 Confraternity–Douay Version (Saint Joseph New Catholic Edition).*

Does that apply to us? Is the Lord telling you and me that we are to leave our spouse and marry a prostitute? No, you say. You say, God was speaking but He was speaking only to Hosea (Osee). I agree. But we are making a mistake today when we read instructions that were only given to one person or to one group and try to apply them to ourselves. We are also making a mistake today when we read promises that were only given to one person or to one group and claim them for ourselves.

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