

HOSEA SESSION 2

Review: Last week I gave you the background, and we went through chapter 1 of Hosea. The LORD commanded Hosea to take a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms to be an illustrative message to Israel who had “played the harlot” with many Canaanite gods. Hosea took Gomer to be his wife and she had three children. The first was fathered by Hosea while the other two were products of her unfaithfulness. The three children were named by God and were a sign of judgment that was coming upon Israel. Jezreel – God scatters, Lo-ruhamah – no mercy, Lo-ammi – you are not my people. The chapter closes with the promise of restoration and blessing for Israel in the last days.

Hosea 2:1-4 Say ye unto your brethren, Ammi; and to your sisters, Ru-hamah. Plead with your mother, plead: for she *is* not my wife, neither *am* I her husband: let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts; Lest I strip her naked, and set her as in the day that she was born, and make her as a wilderness, and set her like a dry land, and slay her with thirst. And I will not have mercy upon her children; for they *be* the children of whoredoms.

- **The reversal of judgment** – The first verse carries on from the end of chapter 1. God looks forward to a time of future grace. The names of Hosea’s previously rejected children – Lo-Ammi(not my people) and Lo-Ruhamah(no mercy) are reversed into Ammi and Ruhamah meaning that God will have compassion on His people.
- **The legal indictment** - God commands the children to "plead" or "contend" with their mother. The mother represents the nation of Israel as a whole. God stops treating Israel as His wife because of her brazen idolatry and harlotry with false gods like Baal. He demands she remove her adulterous lifestyle.
- **The threat of judgment** - If Israel refuses to repent, God warns He will strip her bare "like the day she was born" and turn the land into a dry, thirsty desert. This stripping symbolizes exposing a covenant-breaking nation to public shame, stripping away the false security and material wealth she credited to her pagan lovers.
- **No mercy upon the children of whoredoms** - God declares He will have no compassion on Israel's children because they are "children of adultery". This means the next generation is raised in a culture of spiritual apostasy. They will experience the painful, natural consequences of their society turning away from the true source of life and provision.

Hosea 2:5-8 For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give *me* my bread and my water, my

wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink. Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths. And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find *them*: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then *was it* better with me than now. For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, *which* they prepared for Baal.

- **Playing the harlot** – This means to act like a prostitute. To commit spiritual adultery by turning away from God to worship false idols. Just as a spouse breaks a wedding vow by pursuing someone else, Israel broke their covenant with God by chasing pagan deities like Baal and Ashtaroth.
- **Israel credited her blessings to her idol gods** - Israel falsely believed that pagan gods—not Jehovah—were providing their crops, rain, wine, and oil. Turning to these idols for security and wealth was viewed as selling oneself out for material gain. It was the LORD all along that had provided for her.
- **The hedge of thorns** - Israel is determined to chase after foreign nations and pagan idols (her "lovers"). To stop her, God constructs an agonizing, impassable barrier. The "thorns" and "wall" represent divine frustration. God allows political crises, economic failure, or military defeat to ruin her plans. He makes her sinful paths so painful and difficult to walk that she is physically blocked from pursuing her idols.
- **The futile chase and realization** – When the hardships come, Israel will look to her idol gods for help. When none comes, she realizes that she needs to return to her first husband (Jehovah) for help. The hedge of thorns will serve as a roadblock to destruction and bring them to repentance. God's discipline is really an act of mercy.

Hosea 2:9-13 Therefore will I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax *given* to cover her nakedness. And now will I discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of mine hand. I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts. And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, whereof she hath said, These *are* my rewards that my lovers have given me: and I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them. And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the LORD.

- **God's promise of judgment** – He promises to take back all the things that Israel has accredited to her idols.
- **"I will discover her lewdness"** - In the ancient world, exposing a person's nakedness was a metaphor for complete public humiliation and legal judgment.

Israel had acted like an unfaithful spouse, flaunting her wealth and practicing pagan rituals. By "uncovering" her, God is stripping away the luxury, crops, and political alliances she was so proud of, exposing her true moral and spiritual bankruptcy to the world.

- **“In the sight of her lovers”** - Israel's "lovers" were the false gods (like Baal) and the pagan nations (like Assyria and Egypt) she relied on for safety and prosperity. God purposefully executes this judgment in front of them to prove a point: her idols are completely powerless. The false gods cannot stop the drought, and foreign allies cannot stop the coming military defeat.
- **“None shall deliver her out of mine hand”** - This emphasizes God's absolute sovereignty. Israel believed her political treaties and pagan rituals made her untouchable. God shatters this illusion by making it clear that when He enacts judgment, no human army or false deity has the power to rescue her.
- **The end of false joy** - Israel was attempting to practice a hypocritical, blended religion. They kept God's calendar of holy days (Sabbaths, New Moons, annual festivals) but filled them with pagan customs and empty rituals. They used God's feasts as an excuse for self-indulgent partying ("mirth") rather than true worship. God promised to put an end to all of this.
- **The end of false security** - Vines and fig trees were symbols of peace, stability, and agricultural wealth. Israel looked at her booming economy and claimed it was the "wages" (prostitution fees) paid to her by her pagan "lovers" (the Baal deities of fertility). God strikes the agricultural economy to shatter this delusion. By turning cultivated vineyards into overgrown wild forests overrun by wild animals, God proves that *He* was the one who gave her the land and *He* is the one taking it back.
- **The root problem** - Israel is pictured as a woman getting dressed up in her finest jewelry, not for her husband, but to go out and seduce other men. She used the very gold and silver God blessed her with to make jewelry and idols to worship Baal.
Baalim is plural for multiple idol gods.

Hosea 2:14-17 Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her. And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt. And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, *that* thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali. For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name.

Hosea 2:14-17 marks one of the most stunning plot twists in the Bible. After verses of fierce judgment, public exposure, and legal condemnation, God abruptly shifts His tone.

He transforms from a furious judge back into a tender, pursuing husband who designs a beautiful plan to win back His unfaithful wife.

- **"I will allure her":** Instead of using force, chains, or anger to drag Israel back, God says He will *woo* or *entice* her. He uses the language of romance.
- **The Wilderness:** In the Bible, the wilderness is a place of stripping away distractions. God takes her back to the "desert"—recalling the Exodus from Egypt—not to punish her, but to get her alone. Away from the noise, false security, and temptations of her pagan "lovers," she can finally hear His voice.
- **"Speak comfort to her":** The literal Hebrew phrase means to **"speak to her heart."** God speaks tender, reassuring words to a broken, bankrupt nation.
- **The Valley of Achor:** *Achor* means "trouble" or "disaster." Historically, this valley was where Achan sinned and brought severe judgment upon Israel (Joshua 7). God promises to take the place of Israel's deepest shame and failure and transform it into a "door of hope."
- **A New Song:** Israel will look at God's restoration and burst into songs of joy, just like her ancestors did at the Red Sea after escaping Egypt. God is offering her a total relational reset.
- **Ishi not Baali** - God shifts the fundamental vocabulary of their relationship. The Hebrew word *Baal* can mean "master" or "owner," but it was also the name of the pagan god Israel had been cheating with. God says, "I don't want you to view Me as a rigid, demanding master (*Baali*). I want you to view Me with the deep, safe intimacy of a husband (*Ishi*)."
- **Total Cleansing** - True restoration requires a clean break from the past. God promises to cure Israel of her addiction to false idols so thoroughly that the names of the pagan gods will never even cross her lips again. The memory of her unfaithfulness will be completely blotted out.

Hosea 2:18-23 And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and *with* the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely. And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD. And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the LORD, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth; And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel. And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to *them which were* not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, *Thou art* my God. *This chapter ends with a small view of the millennial kingdom (Christ's 1,000-year reign on earth). The millennial kingdom is the last dispensation to come on this earth. Today we're living in the grace dispensation*

or “the church age”. The millennial kingdom is the dispensation of PEACE. Christ will rule the whole earth in righteousness and because of that the whole world will experience peace. Israel will be the head of all nations then and God promises to betroth her to Himself forever. The creation will flourish under the reign of Christ and the absence of Satan (who is bound in the bottomless pit during this time). During the millennial kingdom, the curse that is upon the creation will be lifted and the curse pronounced upon Israel in this book will be reversed.

The chapter ends by completely undoing the tragic names of Hosea's children from Chapter 1. God promises to plant His people firmly back in the land and proclaims:

- To the one called *No Mercy (Lo-Ruhamah)*: **"I will have compassion."**
- To the one called *Not My People (Lo-Ammi)*: **"You are My people!"**
- And the people will joyfully answer: **"You are my God!"**