

Hosea 2

Hosea 2.1-7

V1 – Because of the hope of *Hosea 1.10-11*, what names were finally used for Hosea's children? Ammi ("my people") and Ruhamah ("compassion")

V2 – Back to Hosea's problem: **How had Hosea been hurt?** By Gomer's adultery

V3 – **How was an unfaithful wife treated in ancient times?** Being stripped of clothes
-Hosea has slipped into symbolic language: Gomer = Northern Kingdom
-Gomer was a symbol for the Northern Kingdom

V4 – **Why would her children not be loved?** Because they were children of harlotry
-The idea is that these were not Hosea's children, but they had different fathers (because of Gomer's unfaithfulness)

V5 – **Further evidence of this idea?** Normally a man pays a prostitute, but she went after men for customers
-**Message?** The Northern Kingdom gave its goods to the idol Baal
-Pagan people would leave food for idols to eat (they still do that today in many countries)

V6 – Extreme measure: **How would God stop the idolatry of the Northern Kingdom?** He would physically stop her (by captivity)

V7 – **Would she be able to commit adultery again?** No – she could not catch new customers
-**Result?** Hopefully, she would go back to her first husband (Hosea, or God)
-We see here how much God loved the Northern Kingdom and wanted the people to repent

Hosea 2.8-13

V8 – Great irony here: **Who had blessed the Northern Kingdom with grain and wine and oil?** God had
-**But what were these blessings being used for?** To give to Baal
-Notice the word "lavished" – they were totally in love with Baal

V9 – **What was God going to do?** Take back the grain, wine, flax (for clothing)

V10 – **What else would God do?** Uncover her nakedness (in other words, expose the Northern Kingdom to its enemies)

V10c – Very powerful: Wouldn't it be terrible for God to say that about us in the United States today?

V11 – **What would God bring to an end?** All the holidays and festivals
-The religious festivals of the Northern Kingdom had been turned into wild parties (sounds like Christmas today, doesn't it?)

-Notice the shift here from Gomer to the Northern Kingdom

V 12 – **What else would God do to the Northern Kingdom?** Make it like a forest (desolate with wild animals)

-This was during the Assyrian captivity (which started in 721 BC)

V 13 – They were going to be punished because of their idolatry

Hosea 2.14-20

V 14 – God was still not ready to turn loose of the Northern Kingdom (a great debate was going on in his mind throughout the book)

-**What did God want to do?** Go off with the Northern Kingdom into the wilderness (maybe a reference to the 40 years in the wilderness)

-He wanted to speak kindly to her; maybe a second honeymoon

V 15 – **Presents from God?** Vineyards, valleys of crops – "It will be like old times"

V 16 – **What was God looking forward to?** When they would call him Ishi ("my husband")

V 17 – God wanted the word Baal removed from the mouths of the people

V 18 – He was looking forward to a day of peace (which came in the New Testament church)

V 19-20 – **What were the terms and conditions of marriage?** Righteousness, justice, loving kindness, compassion, faithfulness

Hosea 2.21-23

V 21 – At the marriage of God and the Northern Kingdom, the heavens and earth will respond

V 22 – "Jezreel" = "God sows"

V 23 – The Northern Kingdom will once again be the people of God – that was his goal
-and the Gentiles would be allowed into the kingdom of God

Compare our religion with God to marriage:

1. To last a lifetime
2. Requires faithfulness

See *Eph. 5.22-33* – the church is the bride of Christ

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