

# BROKEN HEARTS

HOSEA 2 1-22-2020



*Warren Wiersbe wrote, "Hosea is preeminently the prophet of love, but unlike some teachers today, he doesn't minimize the holiness of God. John told us God is love (1 John 4:8, 16), but he also maintained that God is light (1 John 1:5)." We will see this delicate balance in Hosea chapter two.*

## UNCONDITIONAL LOVE WITH UNYIELDING LIMITS

The prophet Hosea is clear that God's love is gracious, but it is also godly.

For example, he begins the second chapter with the assurance that God cares for them, but he moves forward by confronting unacceptable behavior that was going on in Israel.

Hosea addresses three specific sins that were found among God's people that were short-circuiting His best for them: idolatry, 2:2-5a, ingratitude, 2:5b-9 and insincerity (hypocrisy), 2:10-13.

Christian psychologist and author, Dr. James Dobson, used to urge parents to practice what he called, "tough love". He encouraged them to clearly express love to their teenage children, while holding fast to their standards of right and wrong.

God's love is not just based upon sentimental feelings. It is undergirded by standards that are in keeping with His upright character.

### **Goal of Assurance, 2:1**

His goal was to remind the people of

Israel that they were His people. This is why Hosea speaks of their acceptance first in chapter two. Did you ever just look at your kids while they slept and thought, "I love these kids so much!"

### ***Assurance of Membership in His Family***

*"Say to your brothers, 'You are My people!'"*

### ***Assurance of Mercy through His Forgiveness***

*"...and to your sisters, 'You have received mercy.'"*

### **Assurance of Acceptance in Christ**

Another Minor Prophet wrote of God's amazing love in Zephaniah 3:17 when he says, "*The Lord your God is in your midst, a Mighty One who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love; He will exult over you with loud singing.*"

*In Ephesians 1:6 the Lord discloses our basis of acceptance in Christ when it states, "to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved."*

## Guilty of Apostasy, 2:2-5

Israel was running from the Lord to a false god named, Baal. Their spiritual unfaithfulness (idolatry) to God is exposed in 2:2-5. Listen as we hear the pain of the Lord comparing Himself to a betrayed Husband pouring out His plea for repentance, accountability and justice.

### *Charges against the Rebel*

Notice the charges that the Lord brings against Israel in verse 2. She was guilty of "whoring" and "adultery".

### *Consequences to the Relationship*

The seriousness of the damage to the relationship can be seen in His words to Israel that "*she is not my wife, and I am not her husband*". The nation had violated their covenant with the Lord.

The consequences of sin can be severe as one can see by the disciplinary measures given in verse 2. Disobedience can lead to the removal of things by the Lord. Or, it could result in isolation and estrangement.

As it does in real life, spiritual adultery also impacts children and will often create a fog of emotional and spiritual shame for the misdeeds. In Psalm 32 David pours out his grief over the fallout from his adultery.

### *Call for Repentance*

Psalm 32 and Psalm 51 both proceed to say, however, that David found joy again after repentance. Hosea calls on Israel to "*put away her whoring...and her adultery...*"

### *Conscious of Reality*

One takeaway from the first few verses in this passage is that God knows what is really happening. He is conscious of reality. James 1:13-16 and 1 John 1:5-10 both urge us not to be deceived about sin.

## Goads to Awareness, 2:5a-13

God was aware of what was happening in the life of His people, but they were "asleep at the wheel". God would have to use the harshness of Israel's sinful choices to help her come to her spiritual senses. At this point, she was not broken over her sin but rather hardened by her sin.

What can bring someone back to their senses? The prodigal son's experiences give us a clue in Luke 15:11-24. He only came to his senses after he was starving in a pigpen.

In Acts 9:5 Paul identifies what God uses to slow down a rebel long enough to realize how much He loves them. Goads! Ever heard of a cattle prod?

*"I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."*

*Acts 9:5*

Some may assume that the Lord is being mean, but really, it is love.

Hosea speaks for God in stating that they really did not leave Him many options for how to deal with their persistent disobedience. He would have to bring out the "goads". Let's look at four types of "goads" He used.

### *Fences in the Way, 2:6*

The rebel may not be able to see it, but the Lord may have to place some invisible walls between them and their lovers. He blocks the way forward.

### *Frustration along the Way, 2:7*

Another "goad" the Lord may use to make sin seem unfulfilling is simply frustration. He can so rearrange the circumstances of life that it is no longer worth it to keep pursuing idols that take us in the wrong direction.

### *Forgetfulness in the Way, 2:8, 13*

Sin has a way of confusing us as to the real source of the good life.

### *Failures along the Way, 2:9-13*

The Lord can take it all away since ingratitude has turned into insincerity.

## Grabbed by an Awakening, 2:7

The woman at the well was a little feisty with Jesus at first, but there came a moment in their conversation when she was overwhelmed by the love and the truth. She ran to tell others about Jesus and forgot all about her water pot that she brought to the well (John 4:28-30).

Hosea is inspired to write of a future awakening that will happen among the Jews someday. He wrote, "*Then she shall say, 'I will go and return to my first*

*husband, for it was better for me then than now.*"

2:7

A great spiritual awakening took place in Rupert, Vermont in 1803. The 2nd Great Awakening was going in other places across America, but nothing spiritual was happening in Rupert.

The pastor began to pray about the apathy once a week. In November 84 were saved and added to their church. Before long, 1,000 new converts were ushered into the Kingdom in Rupert.

## God Can Allure? 2:14

Proverbs 6:24-29 and 7:5-27 warn of women who try to allure men to go in the wrong direction toward adultery. Unfortunately, this is a reality.

However, God also allures us to go in the right direction. In Christian circles we call this kind of alluring, "wooing". Hosea describes God's approach at this point with these words, "*Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her.*" Hosea 2:14.

Jeremiah also spoke of this drawing power of God in Jeremiah 31:3. He said, "*I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.*"

## Grace That Is Amazing! 2:15

What would the Father do if you were to return to Him? Luke 15:20-24 informs us that when we are on the way back to God in repentance He is already in motion running toward us.

Many years before the generation of Hosea, a man named Achan betrayed his nation and stole things (Joshua 7). As a result, 36 men lost their lives when the troops of Israel went up to face the people of Ai. He and his family were put to death in a place called, the Valley of Achor (7:22-26).

Now Father brings up this place "Achor" again only this time He is going to change it from a *valley of trouble* into a *door of hope* (Hosea 2:15). He will give Israel a brand new start like she had when He first called her out of Egypt.

The parable of the Prodigal Son along with this account in Hosea tells us that God's grace is amazing because of what it gives...

*Grace gives gifts to an unworthy person*

*Grace gives hope in an unexpected place*

*Grace gives joy after some unhappy problems*

Sin will take from you, but grace will give to you.

**Glory Afterwards, 2:16-23**

There is no time frame placed upon Hosea 2:16-23, but most conservative bible scholars take "in that day" (vs. 16, 18, 21) as a clue that this is a prophecy of the great revival among Jews that will be during the Millennial Reign of Christ just after the Tribulation.

Listen to the dramatic change that will take place in the loyalty of the people to the Lord. The days of Israel's spiritual adultery will finally be over. She will return to the Lord.

*Profession to the Father, 2:16, 23*

*Purity in the Faith, 2:17*

*Peace from the Foes, 2:18*

*Promise with Faithfulness, 2:19-20*

*Prayer Answered Fast, 2:21*

*Plenty of Fruitfulness, 2:22*

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**ADDITIONAL NOTES**