

Hosea 2:1-13

Hosea 2:1 – **“Say to your brothers, “You are my people,” and to your sisters, “You have received mercy.”**

1. This verse may actually be part of the concluding thoughts of chapter 1 which ends with the reversal of the negative pronouncements presented in the children’s names.
 - a. The sister (2nd child No Mercy, a daughter) is to tell her brothers (Jezreel and Not My People) that “You are my people”.
 - b. The brothers (Jezreel and Not My People) are to tell the sister(s) No Mercy that “You have received mercy”
 - c. Applied to Israel, the citizens of the rebellious nation, there will be the day when they will again be told by YHWH “You are my people” and “You have received mercy.” They will tell this to each other.
 - d. This verse ends the reversal of chapter one.

Hosea 2:2 **“Plead with your mother, plead—
for she is not my wife,
and I am not her husband—
that she put away her whoring from her face,
and her adultery from between her breasts;**

1. Beginning here the words are spoken historically to Hosea’s wife and also apply to Israel and their relationship to YHWH
2. “Plead” (ESV) or “Rebuke” (NIV) is Hebrew word *rib* which basically means “to contend, to strive” and refers to contentions and struggles in public places and society. Hosea is saying to his children “strive with your mother in rebuke.” Hosea is asking his children to contend with the mother for violating the family and their father. It would be a shaming operation
3. Applied to Israel this is the common, middle class citizen contending with their national leadership and the national direction with a call to return to faithfulness to the Lord. The prophets did this as well and Hosea will refer to this again in 4:1 and 12:2
4. Hosea has disowned his wife in these verses. It is in 3:1 the Lord commands him to take her back.
5. Concerning Israel this verse is the manifestation of the name given to the second son “Not My People” or Lo-Ammi (1:9)
6. The second part of the verse is describing both Gomer’s and Israel’s behavior, dress, makeup and/or jewelry depending on how the words are interpreted. The use of the phrase “put away” and “from between” would seem to indicate some type of physical objects or material such as jewelry, perfume, makeup, etc. Jer. 3:3 refers to the forehead of a harlot which may include head dress or jewelry to attract.
 - a. Behavior – pursuing lovers/false gods with facial expressions of lust and exposed breasts to entice.
 - b. Makeup – “whoring from her face” could be makeup with painted eyes, etc.
 - c. Jewelry – “adultery from between her breast” could be the decorative jewelry of a whore hanging low from around her neck
7. Also coming into the picture of characters in this chapter will be:
 - a. The physical Land of Israel portrayed by animals and plants
 - b. The spiritual dimension or the heavens respond to YHWH and the Land
 - c. Hosea’s family portrays all of these dimensions in the coming verses.

Hosea 2:3 **lest I strip her naked**

**and make her as in the day she was born,
and make her like a wilderness,
and make her like a parched land,
and kill her with thirst.**

1. If Gomer/Israel does not respond to this challenge they will suffer nakedness, “wilderness”, “parched land” and death by “thirst”
2. Death by thirst would be the result of being exposed “naked” in the “wilderness” of a “parched land”.
3. These are the consequences of not responding.
4. This is abandonment by Hosea/YHWH

Hosea 2:4 **Upon her children also I will have no mercy,
because they are children of whoredom.**

1. Here the children (who were speaking in 2:2) become the victims
2. This is true in a marriage just as it is true in a nation. The leadership fails, the middle class suffers.

Hosea 2:5 **For their mother has played the whore;
she who conceived them has acted shamefully.**

**For she said, ‘I will go after my lovers,
who give me my bread and my water,
my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.’**

1. Gomer speaks here and in 2:7.
2. This may be an expression of Gomer’s thinking or plan of action. Instead of repenting, she is going to do this: 2:5 and 2:7
3. The lovers are mentioned 4x:
 - a. 2:7
 - b. 2:10
 - c. 12:12
 - d. 2:13
4. The lovers are the Canaanite deities which are *baalim* in the Hebrew
5. Gomer/Israel attributes their provisions and blessing to these foreign/false/fake gods
6. The provisions are listed in:
 - a. 2:5 – bread, water, wool, flax, oil, drink
 - b. 2:8 - grain, wine, oil, silver, gold
 - c. 2:9 – grain, wine, wool, flax
 - d. 2:12 – vines, fig trees
 - e. 2:22 – grain, wine, oil
7. Gomer/Israel gave their lovers/gods “favors” and, according to their false reality and false religion, in return the lovers/gods gave them these provisions

Hosea 2:6 **Therefore I will hedge up her way with thorns,
and I will build a wall against her,
so that she cannot find her paths.**

1. The Assyrian invasion

Hosea 2:7 **She shall pursue her lovers
but not overtake them,
and she shall seek them**

but shall not find them.

Then she shall say,

**'I will go and return to my first husband,
for it was better for me then than now.'**

1. The better life/reality that Gomer/Israel had anticipated and had pursued would never be attained. She would never reach the "good life"
2. Gomer/Israel will have to return to Hosea/YHWH if they want to return to the good life

Hosea 2:8 And she did not know

**that it was I who gave her
the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and who lavished on her silver and gold,
which they used for Baal.**

1. Gomer/Israel did not know it was their true lover Hosea/YHWH who was giving them the good things and providing them the good life.
2. All the good things they received were not recognized as gifts from their husband, but instead they glorified the false lovers/gods.

Hosea 2:9 Therefore I will take back

**my grain in its time,
and my wine in its season,
and I will take away my wool and my flax,
which were to cover her nakedness.**

Hosea 2:10 Now I will uncover her lewdness

**in the sight of her lovers,
and no one shall rescue her out of my hand.**

1. Her protection is gone.
2. She no longer has a husband's protection

Hosea 2:11 And I will put an end to all her mirth,

**her feasts, her new moons, her Sabbaths,
and all her appointed feasts.**

1. The provisions will be cut off
2. The celebration and "party life" will end

Hosea 2:12 And I will lay waste her vines and her fig trees,

**of which she said,
'These are my wages,
which my lovers have given me.'**

**I will make them a forest,
and the beasts of the field shall devour them.**

Hosea 2:13 And I will punish her for the feast days of the Baals

**when she burned offerings to them
and adorned herself with her ring and jewelry,
and went after her lovers
and forgot me, declares the Lord.**

1. Again, the jewelry is mentioned as a lure to get her lovers' attention
2. Israel had been actively pursuing false gods. They were not just deceived, but actively pursuing deception.