

## Message #4

## Hosea 2:14-23

Not long ago someone wrote me an email asking a question about the sovereignty of God in election. They were struggling with the doctrine of election and their question concerned the matter of what happens to one who lives in some jungle who has never heard the Gospel. How could that one be saved? My response was the doctrine of election guarantees they will be saved. In fact, Jesus said, “All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me” (Jn. 6:37). He does not say they “might” come to Me; He said they “shall” come to Me.

I do not think that most people grasp how sovereign God actually is. But you must come to terms with the sovereignty of God when you go through Hosea because there is no other explanation for unfaithful Israel being saved other than the love of God and the sovereignty of God. If ever you want to see a text that promotes that idea, it is right here in the book.

**NO MATTER HOW UNFAITHFUL GOD’S PEOPLE HAVE BEEN, IN THE END THEY WILL BE IN A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND EXPERIENCE THE FULL BLESSINGS OF GOD BECAUSE GOD WILL SOVEREIGNLY CAUSE THIS TO HAPPEN BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE.**

This is an amazing passage in this story of Hosea. We would naturally expect in view of the horrible immoral things done by God’s people and the horrible things done by Gomer that God would have nothing to do with them. But in fact, God says I tend to use My sovereign saving grace to redeem them.

Now I want you to notice how **verse 14** begins, “therefore.” This therefore introduces a “logical consequence” of the preceding verses. Now if we let this stand in the context, what Hosea should say is therefore, in view of your unfaithfulness, I am abandoning you just like you have abandoned me. But it is shocking what God says because He says just the opposite.

In view of the fact that God’s people were unfaithful, immoral and adulterous and not interested in obeying Him, God still promises that He will sovereignly bring her back to a right relationship with Him and bless her in the future. If ever there is a text that teaches the eternal security of the property of God, it is this one. There are eight future blessings described here:

**FUTURE BLESSING #1** – God will allure His faithless harlot wife to the wilderness and speak kindly to her. **2:14**

Now God reveals that He will allure His harlot wife into the wilderness and He will speak kindly to her.

Now this is significant because the word “allure” is a word that means to entice or persuade by deception (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 696). So Israel will be led into the wilderness thinking one way about God, but will discover that when she is there her husband is there who will be very kind to her.

This specifically has to do with what will happen to Israel in the Tribulation. She will be forced to flee to the wilderness because the Antichrist will be attempting to exterminate the Jew (Rev. 12:6, 14). What she doesn't realize is that God is actually luring her into the wilderness and He will meet her there and begin a brand new wonderful relationship with her as a nation. He will be kind to her.

I met a man in Saint Louis who my brother Tim was working with because he was married to a Jewish woman who was attending my brother's Bible study at a Jewish mission. He had a remarkable testimony. He was running two houses of prostitution. He started to have car problems so he took his car to a garage and the man who worked on the car was a Christian. What impressed this man was that this Christian seemed to be so nice and kind to him. In fact, he said one day, "do you know who I am and what I do?"

The man said, "Yes." He asked him why he was so kind to him. He said because of my relationship with Jesus Christ. Through his witness this man came to faith in Jesus Christ. Many of the girls working for him as prostitutes came to faith in Jesus Christ. He shut down his lucrative houses all because he was lured by car problems to a garage and was treated in a kind way.

God will use serious problems to lure Israel into the wilderness and He will kindly draw her into a proper relationship with Himself.

**FUTURE BLESSING #2** – God will bless her and give her the land and Israel will sing. **2:15**

The specific thing that is predicted here is that the valley of Achor will become the door of hope. Now the valley of Achor remembers the sin of Achan. Because Achan sinned against God and took what he should not take, God struck him down in judgment and the valley was named the valley of Achor (Josh. 7:26). In fact, the word "Achor" actually means "trouble." What God is promising here is that the very valley that once was known for producing a troubled relationship with God, will be a valley known for hope.

So never again will there be trouble in this relationship between Israel and God. They will not be judged anymore but this whole relationship will be one of hope, joy and songs of praise.

Now we may remember that in **verse 12**, God said He would destroy her vines and vineyards because of her unfaithfulness. Now in an amazing reversal, God says He will give her the vineyards and bless her in every way.

**FUTURE BLESSING #3** – God will be called by Israel Ishi not Baali. **2:16**

Now carefully observe how **verse 16** begins "in that day." This prepositional phrase shows up in **verses 16, 18 and 21**. **There is coming a future day in which there will be a total and complete transformation of the relationship God has with His people.** Everything about the relationship will be completely changed. The first thing that will happen is that Israel will realize who her God actually is. She will not be confused about this point.

Ishi means “my husband” and Baali means “my owner.” So what is predicted here is that there will come a day when Israel will be totally dedicated to her God and to her relationship with her God.

Don’t over look who is causing all of this—God. The transformation is not due to the Israelites faithfulness; it is all due to God’s faithfulness. God is the One who will work in the minds and hearts of His people to bring about this transformation in their attitude toward Him. They will certainly not do it.

The Apostle Paul made a similar statement concerning N.T. Grace Age believers. He said, “If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself” (II Tim. 2:13). Once you have believed on Jesus Christ, you are the property of God and no matter how far you have drifted, your relationship with God is eternally secure. One day you will realize the special covenant relationship you have with God and one day you will realize He is your owner.

**FUTURE BLESSING #4** – God will remove the name of all false religions. **2:17**

In fact, in that day there will be an eschatological removal of all false religions in the world. There will come a day when no false religion or deity will ever be mentioned anywhere in the world. Now we know this hasn’t happened yet because false religions are mentioned everywhere.

There are so many religions in the United States that one historian observed this has become a very “competitive market.” The number one state where people go to church is Mississippi and the state where the fewest people go to church is Vermont. Michigan is number 28, tied with Florida, Maryland and Wisconsin. There is a lot of religion in the United States. God says, “I’ll put an end to it all.” There is coming a day when God will demolish false religions and I also think He will demolish denominations. As this verse says, “they will be mentioned by their names no more.”

**FUTURE BLESSING #5** – God will establish a peace covenant with animals and people.  
**2:18**

All of creation will be in a pre-curse existence again. God is going to make the world a peaceful and tranquil place. We may certainly see here that the covenant relationship God has with Israel is not conditioned on Israel’s faithfulness because she has been totally and completely unfaithful.

All of creation groans now and longs for the time when God will establish peace in the world (Rom. 8:20-21). There will come a day when peace will exist in the animal world and in the human world. Isaiah saw exactly the same thing (Is. 11:6-7). No more war, no more threat of war and all people everywhere will “lie down in safety.”

We are living in a time when many make sure before they turn out the lights and go to bed that the house is locked and the gun is loaded.

What a wonderful blessing it will be when we come to a time when that is no longer the case. We will be able to leave the doors unlocked and the windows open. God will create peace all over the world.

**FUTURE BLESSING #6** – God will betroth Himself to Israel forever. **2:19-20**

Now it is obvious to me from this verse that God clearly is in a divorced state in regard to Israel and will one day remarry Himself to her. Three times in **verses 19-20**, God says He will “betroth” Israel to Himself.

Right now there has been a fracture in the relationship between God and Israel. Frankly there are times when there is a fracture in the relationship between God and us. But one day this will all change. Our covenant relationship with God will be perfect.

The relationship in this marriage will be fabulous. It will be perfect. It will be based on righteousness, justice, lovingkindness and compassion. It will also be a relationship based on faithfulness. At that time Israel will know the LORD the way a faithful wife should know her husband.

Now carefully notice that the betrothal will be based on God’s righteousness, God’s justice, God’s mercy/lovingkindness and God’s compassion and God’s faithfulness. So all of these things are the basis for a wonderful relationship God will have with Israel.

Here is a prescription for a fabulous marriage relationship. Have a relationship that squares with the righteous Word of God. Have a relationship that does what is just and right in regard to each other. Have a relationship that is gracious, merciful, forgiving and compassionate. That is the stuff that makes for a great marriage.

The truth is God will give her all necessary righteousness that meets all of His just standards and that is all based on His mercy and compassion and it is all due to the fact that He is faithful.

All of this will be a wonderful gift of God that He will give to Israel.

**FUTURE BLESSING #7** – God will use His heavens to bless Israel on earth. **2:21-22**

The basic idea here is that God will address heaven and the heaven will respond to what God wants it to do; specifically bless Israel. God will cause the land of Israel to flourish and blossom.

God will use His majestic power to create a new heavens and new earth and new Jerusalem. He will enable the earth to be fertile and fruitful.

In fact, God refers to Jezreel that looks back to the beginning of the book when God declared there would be calamity and poverty but that would all change to prosperity.

**FUTURE BLESSING #8** – God Himself will put Israel into her land. **2:23**

God will have compassion on His people. God will move the entire heavens and earth to bless His people.

God will say to those who were not His people that they are His people and His people will respond and finally say to God that “you are my God.”

Think about this. This nation did not deserve any of this and God says you are still My people and one day you will know I am your covenant-keeping God.

Now let’s just think about our own relationship to God for a moment. Haven’t we all drifted a time or two? Haven’t we all been unfaithful to our wonderful God?