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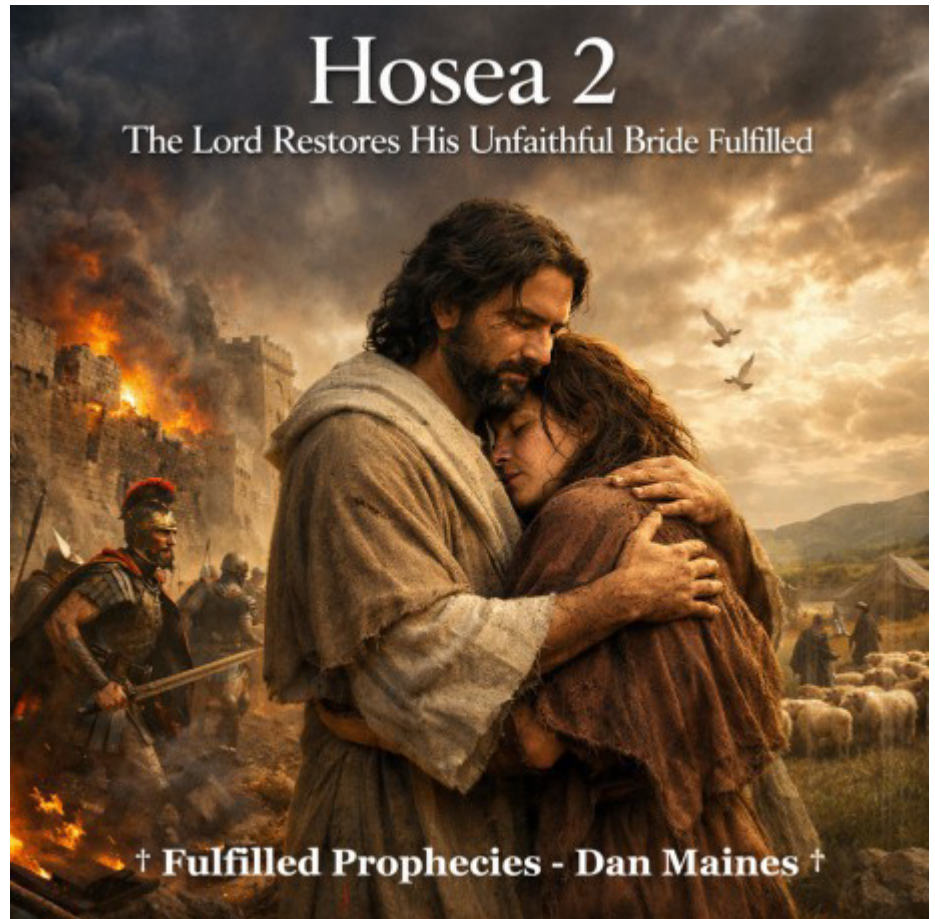
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Hosea 2 The Lord Restores His Unfaithful Bride Fulfilled



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† Hosea 2 shows the full picture of covenant unfaithfulness and restoration, not just judgment, but the turning point where God removes the old covenant relationship and establishes a restored one.

† This chapter isn't about a distant future, it's about Israel's condition leading up to the first century and the fulfillment of

both judgment and restoration in Christ.

† The language of marriage, divorce, wilderness, and remarriage all point to covenant transition, not individual salvation stories, but national covenant identity being judged and renewed.

Hosea 2:1-5

Say to your brothers, Ammi, and to your sisters, Ruhamah. Contend with your mother, contend, for she is not My wife, and I am not her husband; and let her put away her prostitution from her face and her adultery from between her breasts, or I will strip her naked and expose her as on the day when she was born. I will also make her like a wilderness, make her like desert land, and put her to death with thirst.

Also, I will have no compassion on her children, because they are children of prostitution.

For their mother has prostituted herself; 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.

† This is covenant divorce language, God is declaring that Israel is no longer His wife because of her unfaithfulness (Jeremiah 3:8).

† The stripping naked and wilderness language points back to Egypt and exile, showing a return to covenant judgment conditions (Ezekiel 16:37-39).

† The lovers represent false gods and foreign alliances, Israel trusted nations and idols instead of the Lord (Isaiah 30:1-3).

Hosea 2:6-13

Therefore, behold, I will block her way with thorns, and I will build a wall against her so that she cannot find her paths. She will pursue her lovers, but she will not overtake them; and

she will seek them, but will not find them. Then she will say, I will go back to my first husband, for it was better for me then than now.

For she does not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the new wine, and the oil, and lavished on her silver and gold, which they used for Baal.

Therefore, I will take back My grain at harvest time and My new wine in its season. I will also take away My wool and My flax given to cover her nakedness.

And then I will uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and no one will rescue her from My hand.

I will also put an end to all her joy, her feasts, her new moons, her Sabbaths, and all her festive assemblies.

I will destroy her vines and fig trees, of which she said, These are my wages which my lovers have given me. And I will make them a forest, and the animals of the field will devour them.

I will punish her for the days of the Baals when she used to offer sacrifices to them and adorn herself with her earrings and jewelry, and follow her lovers, so that she forgot Me, declares the Lord.

† God removes the blessings Israel thought came from idols, showing He was always the source (James 1:17).

† The stopping of feasts and Sabbaths points directly to the end of the old covenant system (Colossians 2:16-17).

† This was fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, where temple worship completely ceased.

Hosea 2:14-17

Therefore, behold, I will allure her, bring her into the wilderness, and speak kindly to her.

Then I will give her her vineyards from there, and the Valley of Achor as a door of hope. And she will respond there as in the days of her youth, as in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.

And it will come about on that day, declares the Lord, that you will call Me Ishi and will no longer call Me Baali.

For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, so that they will no longer be mentioned by their names.

† The wilderness here isn't punishment, it's restoration, just like the Exodus, a new beginning (Exodus 19:4-6).

† The valley of Achor, once a place of judgment, becomes a door of hope, showing reversal and redemption (Joshua 7:24-26).

† Calling Him Ishi instead of Baali shows a new relationship, not legal bondage, but intimate covenant union fulfilled in Christ (Romans 7:4).

Hosea 2:18-23

On that day I will also make a covenant for them with the animals of the field, the birds of the sky, and the crawling things of the ground. And I will eliminate the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and will let them lie down in safety.

I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, in favor and in compassion, and I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the Lord.

And it will come about on that day that I will respond, declares the Lord. I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the earth,

and the earth will respond to the grain, the new wine, and the oil, and they will respond to Jezreel.

I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, and I will say to those who were not My people, You are My people! And they will say, You are my God!

† This is the new covenant marriage, not a return to Sinai, but a better covenant established in Christ (Hebrews 8:6-13).

† Paul directly applies this passage to the inclusion of the Gentiles and the new covenant people (Romans 9:25-26).

† The betrothal forever shows permanence, unlike the broken old covenant, this one cannot fail.

Historical References

† Josephus records the destruction of Jerusalem, showing the complete removal of temple worship and covenant system, Wars of the Jews Book 6.

† Eusebius writes that believers fled Jerusalem before its destruction, showing the separation of the faithful remnant from the judged nation.

† Tacitus confirms the devastation of Judea and the collapse of its religious structure.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We aren't under a broken covenant system, we're part of the fulfilled marriage, united to Christ in a permanent relationship.

† We don't look for a future restoration of Israel's old system, that system was judged and removed exactly as Hosea said.

† We live in the reality of being His people, those who were not a people are now His people.

† Our identity isn't tied to law, temple, or rituals, it's tied to Christ and the finished covenant.

† The warning still stands, unfaithfulness leads to judgment, but the promise stands stronger, restoration has already been

fulfilled.

Q And A Appendix

Q Was Hosea 2 about a future restoration of national Israel

A No, it was fulfilled in the transition from the old covenant to the new covenant in Christ, Romans 9:25-26

Q What does the marriage language represent

A It represents covenant relationship between God and Israel, and later fulfilled in Christ and His people, Ephesians 5:25-27

Q What does the wilderness mean

A It represents a place of renewal and covenant transition, just like the Exodus, not just punishment, Exodus 19:4-6

Q Why were the feasts and Sabbaths removed

A Because they were part of the old covenant system that was fulfilled and ended, Colossians 2:16-17

Q Who are the people that were not a people

A They are the Gentiles brought into the covenant through Christ, Romans 9:25-26

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Hosea 2

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews Book 6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Tacitus, Histories

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