### Hosea

## Chapter 2

1[‘And God said:]  
  
 ‘Now the brother, Not My People, should speak,  
 As should his sister, Show No Mercy.  
 2They should plead with their mother,  
 Although she’s not really My woman  
 And I’m not really her man.  
  
 ‘For I’ll bring an end to her whoring  
 And the adultery she commits between her two breasts.  
 3Then I’ll strip her down ‘til she’s naked  
 And make her like the day she was born.  
  
 ‘To be wiped away, I’ll appoint her,  
 And I’ll make her a waterless land…  
 Then I’ll destroy her with thirst.  
  
 4‘And on her children, I won’t show mercy,  
 For, they’re the result of her whoring…  
 5Because their mother was immoral,  
 The one who bore them, disgraced them.  
  
 ‘For she said:  
  
 ‘I’ll follow my lovers…  
 Those who provided my water and bread,  
 As well as my clothes and fine linen robes,  
 Along with my olive oil,  
 And the rest of the things that I truly deserve.’  
  
 6‘For this, {Look!} with barbs, I’ll close up her way…  
 I’ll block her ways and her roads  
 So she’ll not be easily found.  
  
 7‘Then, when she chases her lovers,  
 She’ll not be able catch them…  
 She’ll search for them, but not find them.  
  
 ‘Then she’ll say:  
  
 ‘I’ll return to my man,  
 For with him, things had always been better.’  
  
 8‘But she doesn’t know that I’m the one  
 Who provided her grain and her wine,  
 As well as her oil and her silver.  
  
 ‘But then she took My silver and gold  
 And used it to make things for BaAl.  
 9And for doing this, I’ll return  
 And remove my grain in its season,  
 As well as my wine in its time.  
  
 ‘Then I’ll take away all of her clothes,  
 As well as My linen robes,  
 And leave her with nothing to cover her shame.  
  
 10‘I’ll expose her filth to her lovers,  
 And from My hand, she won’t be saved.  
 11I’ll remove the joy of her feasts,  
 And her holidays, New Moons, and Sabbaths.  
 12I’ll also take all the grapes and the figs  
 That she thought were the pay from her lovers.  
  
 ‘Then I’ll appoint [those men] to witness [against her],  
 And she’ll be eaten by the beasts in the fields,  
 As well as by the birds in the skies  
 And the things that crawl on the ground.  
  
 13‘Yes, I’ll take vengeance upon her  
 For each day that she offered to BaAl…  
 When she put on her necklace and earrings  
 And forgot Me to chase after lovers,’ said Jehovah.  
  
 14‘And for this, {Look!} I’ll cause her to wander,  
 And I’ll order desolation upon her.  
 But then, I’ll speak to her heart,  
 And I’ll give back her things…  
 I’ll turn that troublesome valley  
 Into a valley of hope.  
 15I’ll make her as humble as she was in her youth…  
 Like the day that she came up from Egypt.  
  
 16‘And in that day, says Jehovah,  
 She will call Me her Husband…  
 No more will she call out to a BaAl!  
 17For the name of a BaAl, I’ll lift from her mouth,  
 And she won’t remember his name.  
  
 18‘And in that day, I’ll conclude  
 An agreement with the beasts of the fields,  
 As well as with the birds in the skies,  
 And with the things that crawl on the ground.  
  
 ‘I’ll also break all the broadswords and bows…  
 Yes, I’ll bring an end to the wars,  
 And I’ll send hope to the land.  
  
 19‘I’ll take her as My woman throughout the ages…  
 I’ll take her rightly and fairly…  
 In mercy and compassion, [I’ll welcome her back].  
 20I’ll take her to Myself in full trust,  
 And she’ll think of Me as her Lord.  
  
 21‘And in that day, says Jehovah,  
 To the skies, I’ll turn My attention.  
 Then, they’ll tend to the land,  
 22And the land will tend to the grain  
 As well as to the wine and the oil…  
 To [the city of] JezreEl they’ll pay attention once more.  
  
 23‘I’ll plant her in the ground for Myself,  
 And I’ll love the one who’s unloved.  
 Then I’ll say:  
  
 ‘You’re My people!’  
  
 ‘To those who weren’t really Mine;  
 And she will say:  
  
 ‘Jehovah is My God!’