

# Hosea 1:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.

## Analysis

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**Take unto thee a wife of whoredoms** (אֲשֶׁת זָנוּנִים, eshet zenunim)—God commands Hosea to marry Gomer, a prostitute, creating a living parable of Israel's covenant unfaithfulness. The phrase **wife of whoredoms** doesn't mean merely past sin but ongoing harlotry, paralleling Israel's continuous spiritual adultery with Baal worship. **The land hath committed great whoredom** (תִּזְנַח תִּזְנַח הָאָרֶץ)—the intensive form emphasizes persistent, shameless idolatry. This prophetic sign-act dramatizes God's covenant love pursuing an unfaithful bride, prefiguring Christ's redemption of His adulterous church (Ephesians 5:25-27).

## Historical Context

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Hosea prophesied to the Northern Kingdom (Israel/Ephraim) during the 8th century BC, beginning around 755 BC during Israel's final decades before Assyrian conquest. God's shocking command for Hosea to marry Gomer, a woman of promiscuity, came during an era when Israel had syncretized YHWH worship with Baal cult practices, treating God's covenant as casually as Gomer would treat marriage vows. This living parable confronted a society that was materially prosperous under Jeroboam II but spiritually bankrupt, pursuing foreign alliances and fertility cults while claiming covenant loyalty to YHWH.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Hosea 1:2 deepen your understanding of God's character, particularly His holiness, justice, and mercy?
2. What specific attitudes, thought patterns, or behaviors does this verse call you to examine and change in light of the gospel?
3. How does this passage point forward to Christ and His redemptive work, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?

## Interlinear Text

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תְּחִלַּת	דְּבָר	וְיְהִי	וַיֹּאמֶר	הָוֶשֶׁעַ	יְהִי:
The beginning	of the word	And the LORD	by Hosea	said	And the LORD
H8462	H1696	H3068	H1954	H559	H3068
אֵל	וְיְהִי	לְךָ	לְבָנֶת	אֶשְׁתֶּת	לְבָנָן יִם
H413	by Hosea	H1980	take	H0	unto thee a wife
	H1954		H3947		of whoredoms
				H802	and children
				H2183	H3206
בְּאֶרֶץ	תְּזִנָּה	תְּזִנָּה	תְּזִנָּה	בְּאֶרֶץ	
of whoredoms	H3588	hath committed great	hath committed great	for the land	
H2183		H2181	H2181	H776	
מַאֲכָל	וְיְהִי:				
departing from	And the LORD				
H310	H3068				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hosea 3:1** (References Lord): Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.

**Deuteronomy 31:16** (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.

**Psalms 106:39** (Parallel theme): Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions.

**Jeremiah 3:9** (Parallel theme): And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.

**Revelation 17:5** (Parallel theme): And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

**2 Peter 2:14** (Parallel theme): Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

**Ezekiel 6:9** (Parallel theme): And they that escape of you shall remember me among the nations whither they shall be carried captives, because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols: and they shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations.

**Mark 1:1** (Parallel theme): The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

**Hosea 5:3** (Parallel theme): I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled.