

Hosea 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Say ye unto your brethren, Ammi; and to your sisters,
Ruhamah.

Analysis

The call to proclamation: 'Say ye unto your brethren, Ammi; and to your sisters, Ruhamah.' The names reverse chapter 1's judgment: Lo-ammi (not my people) becomes Ammi (my people), Lo-ruhamah (no mercy) becomes Ruhamah (mercy shown). This shift from third to second person ('ye...your') makes it personal, moving from distant prophecy to direct address. The imperative 'say' commissions believers to proclaim identity transformation. Theologically, this anticipates the gospel: those declared 'not my people' now addressed as 'my people.' Romans 9:25 and 1 Peter 2:10 apply these names to the church, demonstrating that Gentiles—ultimate outsiders—receive covenant identity through Christ. The sibling language ('brethren...sisters') emphasizes family: covenant creates kinship transcending biology. We proclaim to others what God has proclaimed over us: acceptance, mercy, belonging.

Historical Context

This call to proclamation suggests a restored remnant declaring God's mercy to fellow Israelites post-exile. Historically, prophets like Haggai and Zechariah encouraged returnees from Babylon to recognize God's renewed favor. Yet fuller fulfillment came through apostolic preaching: Jews and Gentiles together constitute God's family (Galatians 3:26-29, Ephesians 2:19). The early church's inclusion of Samaritans (Acts 8) and Gentiles (Acts 10-11, 15) embodied this reconciliation. That believers are commanded to 'say' these names demonstrates evangelism's essence: proclaiming identity change available through Christ. We

announce to the world: you can become God's people, receive mercy, join the family.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does being renamed from 'not my people' to 'my people' through Christ change my identity and sense of belonging?
2. What responsibility do I bear to 'say' to others what God has declared over me—to proclaim the gospel's offer of identity transformation?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	לְאַחֵיכֶם	עַמִּי	וְלְאַחֹתֵיכֶם	רַחֲמָהּ:
Say	ye unto your brethren	Ammi	and to your sisters	Ruhamah
H559	H251	H5971	H269	H7355

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 2:10 (Parallel theme): Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Hosea 2:23 (Parallel theme): And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.