

Hosea 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.

Analysis

This verse reveals God's shocking response to unfaithful Israel: 'Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.' The Hebrew 'allure' (פָּתַח, patah) means to entice, persuade, or woo—remarkably tender language for a husband addressing an adulterous wife. Despite Israel's spiritual prostitution with Baal worship, God pursues her with love rather than abandoning her. The wilderness motif recalls Israel's early covenant relationship when God redeemed them from Egypt and met them at Sinai (Hosea 2:15)—a time of dependence and intimacy before apostasy. 'Speak comfortably' (צָבַר עַל־לֵב, dabar al-lev, literally 'speak upon the heart') conveys tender, intimate communication meant to win back affection. This demonstrates covenant love (chesed) that persists despite betrayal. God doesn't give Israel what she deserves (judgment) but what she doesn't deserve (restoration). This points directly to the gospel: God pursues rebellious sinners, strips away false securities (the wilderness), and wins hearts through grace. Ephesians 5:25-27 applies this imagery to Christ and the church—He gave Himself to sanctify and cleanse His bride. The wilderness experience represents trials God uses redemptively to expose idolatry, create dependence, and restore pure devotion. This isn't divine abuse but loving discipline that breaks sin's power and restores relationship.

Historical Context

Hosea prophesied to the northern kingdom (Israel/Ephraim) around 755-725 BC, during the final decades before Assyrian conquest. Israel had abandoned exclusive

worship of Yahweh for Canaanite Baal worship, believing Baal provided fertility, crops, and prosperity. The cult involved ritual prostitution and child sacrifice. Hosea's own marriage to Gomer, a prostitute who repeatedly abandoned him, embodied Israel's spiritual adultery. God commanded this painful marriage to illustrate His covenant relationship with Israel. The 'wilderness' symbolized both judgment (exile approaching from Assyria) and purification (stripping away idolatrous prosperity). Historically, Israel went through wilderness wandering after Egyptian bondage—a time of total dependence on God's provision (manna, water from rock) and reception of the law. God promises to recreate that foundational experience, removing false securities to restore covenant faithfulness. The promise of restoration (Hosea 2:14-23) looks beyond immediate judgment to ultimate redemption. Though Assyria destroyed the northern kingdom in 722 BC, scattering the ten tribes, God's promise of restoration remains. Romans 9:25-26 and 1 Peter 2:10 apply Hosea's promise to the church, showing God grafts Gentiles into covenant relationship and restores unfaithful Israel through Christ.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's persistent love for unfaithful Israel reveal the nature of His covenant commitment to you?
2. What false securities or idols might God need to remove (wilderness experience) to restore pure devotion?
3. How does understanding God's 'allurement' rather than coercion shape your view of sanctification?

Interlinear Text

וְהִלְכַּת יְהֹוָה לְכָל |

H3651

H2009

H595

מִפְתַּח יְהֹוָה

Therefore behold I will allure

H1980

H6601

לְבָבָה: עַל יְדֵבֶרֶת |

her into the wilderness

and speak

H5921

comfortably

H4057

H1696

H3820

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 12:6 (Parallel theme): And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Isaiah 30:18 (Parallel theme): And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

Revelation 12:14 (Parallel theme): And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Genesis 34:3 (Parallel theme): And his soul clave unto Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the damsel, and spake kindly unto the damsel.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org