

# Hosea 2:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali.

## Analysis

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Name transformation: 'And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali.' Both 'Ishi' and 'Baali' mean 'my husband' in Hebrew, but carry different connotations. 'Ishi' (ishi) emphasizes personal intimacy—'my man,' affectionate. 'Baali' (ba'ali) can mean both 'my master/husband' and sounds like 'my Baal,' tainting covenant language with idolatrous associations. God promises renewed intimacy: calling Him 'Ishi' reflects restored relationship. Refusing 'Baali' severs association with Baal worship—even the sound of Baal's name will be removed. This demonstrates that true repentance changes how we relate to God: from servile obligation ('master') to intimate affection ('beloved husband'). New Testament fulfills this: believers aren't slaves but friends (John 15:15), adopted children (Romans 8:15-17), and the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-32, Revelation 19:7-9). Relationship with God through Christ is intimate, not merely legal.

## Historical Context

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In Hosea's context, Israel's syncretism blurred lines between YHWH and Baal worship—using YHWH's name but adopting Baal's cult practices. God promises purification: future relationship will exclude all Baal association. Post-exilic Judaism developed deep aversion to idolatry, fulfilling this promise partially. Full fulfillment comes through Christ: the new covenant writes God's law internally (Jeremiah 31:31-34), producing heart-level devotion impossible under old covenant. Calling God 'Ishi' reflects Spirit-wrought intimacy, not external

compulsion. Paul contrasts slavery and sonship (Galatians 4:1-7): we receive 'spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father' (Romans 8:15). This intimacy fulfills Hosea's promise—personal, affectionate relationship replacing servile, Baal-tainted formality.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## Study Questions

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1. Do I relate to God as 'Ishi' (intimate beloved) or 'Baali' (distant master)—is my obedience from love or mere duty?
2. What 'Baals'—tainted associations or syncretistic practices—need removing from my relationship with God?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהָיָה הַיּוֹם	וְהָיָה הַיּוֹם	וְהָיָה הַיּוֹם	וְהָיָה הַיּוֹם	וְהָיָה הַיּוֹם	וְהָיָה הַיּוֹם
H1961	And it shall be at that day	H1931	saith	the LORD	and shalt call
	H3117		H5002	H3068	H7121
אִשִּׁי וְלֹא תִקְרָא לִי בַּעַל	אִשִּׁי וְלֹא תִקְרָא לִי בַּעַל	אִשִּׁי וְלֹא תִקְרָא לִי בַּעַל	אִשִּׁי וְלֹא תִקְרָא לִי בַּעַל	אִשִּׁי וְלֹא תִקְרָא לִי בַּעַל	אִשִּׁי וְלֹא תִקְרָא לִי בַּעַל
me Ishi	and shalt call			me no more Baali	
H376	H3808	H0	H5750	H1180	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 54:5** (References Lord): For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

**Hosea 2:7** (Parallel theme): And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now.

**Revelation 19:7** (Parallel theme): Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

**Jeremiah 3:14** (References Lord): Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

**John 3:29** (Parallel theme): He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

**2 Corinthians 11:2** (Parallel theme): For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.