

Hosea 2:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

Analysis

I will betroth thee unto me for ever (וְאֶבְרַתְיָךְ לִי לְעוֹלָם)—Three times God declares 'I will betroth' using the verb אָרַשׁ (aras), the formal engagement that created legally binding marriage. **In righteousness, and in judgment** (בְּצִדִּיק וּבִמְשָׁפֵט)—the dowry God pays is not silver but His own character attributes. **Lovingkindness** (חֶסֶד, hesed) is covenant loyalty; **mercies** (רַחֲמִים, rachamim) is womb-love, maternal compassion. This new betrothal, unlike Israel's broken covenant, is eternal—accomplished through Christ who paid the bride-price with His blood, securing the church as His spotless bride forever.

Historical Context

This promise of eternal betrothal was delivered during Israel's darkest period of covenant infidelity, when the nation had prostituted itself to Baal worship and foreign alliances. Hosea prophesied around 755-715 BC, witnessing Israel's spiritual adultery firsthand through his marriage to Gomer. The betrothal language ('I will betroth thee unto me forever... in righteousness, judgment, lovingkindness, and mercies') reverses the divorce imagery of chapter 2, promising restoration beyond the impending Assyrian judgment. This prophecy looked past the 722 BC destruction to ultimate redemption in Christ, where God would establish an eternal covenant with His people based not on their faithfulness but His own righteous character.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Hosea 2:19 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

וְאֶרְשָׁתִּי יְיָ	לִי	לְעוֹלָם	וְאֶרְשָׁתִּי יְיָ	לִי
And I will betroth	H0	thee unto me for ever	And I will betroth	H0
H781		H5769	H781	
בְּצִדִּיק	וּבְמִשְׁפָּט	וּבְחֶסֶד	וּבְרַחֲמִים:	
thee unto me in righteousness	and in judgment	and in lovingkindness	and in mercies	
H6664	H4941	H2617	H7356	

Additional Cross-References

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.

Revelation 21:2 (Parallel theme): And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Isaiah 54:14 (Righteousness): In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

Psalms 85:10 (Righteousness): Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Romans 7:4 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Isaiah 54:5 (Parallel theme): 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.

Isaiah 1:27 (Righteousness): Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

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.

Ezekiel 39:29 (Parallel theme): Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

Joel 3:20 (Parallel theme): But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation.