

Amos and Hosea
Class 3 — Texts

A Tract for the Times
(Hosea 1:2-9)

2 When Yahweh first spoke to Hosea,

then Yahweh said to Hosea:

“Go, take for yourself
a whorish wife
and whorish children;
For the land is utterly prostituted,
away from Yahweh.”

3 So he went and took Gomer, daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

4 *And Yahweh said to him:*

“Call his name Jezreel,
for yet a little while
And I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel
upon the house of Jehu.”

6 Then she conceived again and bore a daughter.

And he said to him:

“Call her name Not-Pitied,
for I will never again
Have pity on the House of Israel
to show them any favor at all.”

8 When she had weaned Not-Pitied she conceived and bore a son.

And he said:

“Call his name Not-My-People
for you are not my people,
and I am not your “I AM.”

An Allegory of Covenantal History
(Hosea 2:2-23)

I

- 2 Plead with your mother, plead
— for she is not my wife,
and I am not her husband —
So that she may remove her harlotries from her face
and her adulteries from between her breasts;
- 3 Lest I strip her naked,
expose her as when she was newborn,
Make her like the wilderness,
leave her like parched ground,
and slay her with thirst.
- 4 And her children I'll not pity,
for whorish children are they;
- 5 For their mother played the harlot;
shamefully she conceived them.
For she said,
“Let me hurry after my lovers,
Who give me my bread and my water,
my wool and my flax,
my oil and my drink.”
- 6 Therefore, behold, I am hedging in
her way with thorns
And bricking up a wall against her,
so that she cannot find her paths.
- 7 She will chase her lovers
but never catch them
seek them but never find them.
And then she will say,
“Let me go back to my former husband,
for I was better off then than now.”

II

- 8 She knew not
that it was I who gave her
the grain, new wine, and oil,
And lavished silver upon her,
and gold that they fashioned for Baal.

- 9 Therefore, I will take back
 my grain in its time
 and my wine in its season.
 And I will seize my wool and my flax
 which cover her nakedness.
- 10 Now will I expose her bare loins
 in the sight of her lovers,
 and no man will save her from my hand.
- 11 I will put a stop to her festival gaiety:
 new moon, and sabbath, and every special feast.
- 12 I will lay waste her vines and her fig trees:
 “These are my wages,” said she,
 “My lovers gave them to me.”
 But I will make them a thicket;
 beasts of the field will devour them.
- 13 And I will punish her for the festivals of the Baals,
 when she burned offerings to them,
 and displayed her rings and bracelets.
 Lovers she chased,
 but me she forgot.
- 14 Therefore, behold, I am abducting her,
 and I will take her to the wilderness,
 and speak to her heart.
- 15 And there I will give her her vineyards,
 and make the Valley of Achor a gateway of hope.
 And there she will respond as she did in her youth,
 at the time she came up from the land of Egypt.
- 16 And in that day,
 She will call me “My husband”;
 and never again will she call me “My Baal.”
- 17 And I will remove from her lips the names of the Baals,
 and their names will be remembered no more.

III

- 18 I will make a covenant for them in that day,
 with the beasts of the field,
 with the birds of the air,
 and the reptiles of the ground.
 And bows, and swords, and warfare
 I will abolish from the land,
 and I will make them dwell in safety.

- 19 And I will betroth you to me forever,
in righteousness and justice
in love and compassion.
- 20 I will betroth you to me in faithfulness,
and you shall know Yahweh.
- 21 And in that day,
I will answer the heavens,
and they will answer the earth.
- 22 And the earth will answer
the grain, the wine, and the oil;
and they will answer Jezreel;
- 23 And I will plant her for myself in the land;
and I will pity Not-Pitied,
And to Not-My-People I will say, "You are my people";
and he shall say, "My God."