

I. God Addresses the Unfaithful Distance (Hosea 2:5-7)

"{Gomer has} said, 'I will go after my lovers, who give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.' 6 Therefore I will hedge up her way with thorns, and I will build a wall against her, so that she cannot find her paths. 7 She shall pursue her lovers but not overtake them, and she shall seek them but shall not find them. Then she shall say, 'I will go and return to my first husband, for it was better for me then than now.'"

II. God Allows His People to Get What They Want

"Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone." - Hosea 4:17

"Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. For the spirit of whoredom is within them, and they know not the LORD." - Hosea 5:4

"Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgment, because he was determined to go after filth." - Hosea 5:11

III. God Places the Responsibility on His People (Hosea 5:15)

"I will return again to My place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face, and in their distress earnestly seek Me." - Hosea 5:15

IV. God Gives Grace to All Who Turn Back to Him (Hosea 2:19-20)

"And I will betroth you to Me forever. I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. 20 I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD."