

# Relentless

## I will be faithful to you and make you mine

2/13/22

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### Scripture:

*“But now bring charges against Israel—your mother— for she is no longer my wife, and I am no longer her husband. Tell her to remove the prostitute’s makeup from her face and the clothing that exposes her breasts. Otherwise, I will strip her as naked as she was on the day she was born. I will leave her to die of thirst, as in a dry and barren wilderness. And I will not love her children, for they were conceived in prostitution. Their mother is a shameless prostitute and became pregnant in a shameful way. She said, ‘I’ll run after other lovers and sell myself to them for food and water, for clothing of wool and linen, and for olive oil and drinks.’ “For this reason I will fence her in with thornbushes. I will block her path with a wall to make her lose her way. When she runs after her lovers, she won’t be able to catch them. She will search for them but not find them. Then she will think, ‘I might as well return to my husband, for I was better off with him than I am now.’ She doesn’t realize it was I who gave her everything she has— the grain, the new wine, the olive oil; I even gave her silver and gold. But she gave all my gifts to Baal. “But now I will take back the ripened grain and new wine I generously provided each harvest season. I will take away the wool and linen clothing I gave her to cover her nakedness. I will strip her naked in public, while all her lovers look on. No one will be able to rescue her from my hands. I will put an end to her annual festivals, her new moon celebrations, and her Sabbath days— all her appointed festivals. I will destroy her grapevines and fig trees, things she claims her lovers gave her. I will let them grow into tangled thickets, where only wild animals will eat the fruit. I will punish her for all those times when she burned incense to her images of Baal, when she put on her earrings and jewels and went out to look for her lovers but forgot all about me,” says the Lord.*

—Hosea 2:2-13

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## Notes:

Hosea:

- Written during second half of 8th century BC
- Contemporary of Amos, Isaiah, Micah
- Kings mentioned are found in 2 Kings 14-20, 2 Chronicles 26-32
- Israel's primary sin is prideful independence
- Literal marriage relationship
- Symbolic of a literal covenant relationship
- Picture of a modern spiritual relationship

Key Verse

*I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion. I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as the Lord.*

—Hosea 2:19-20

PEOPLE'S SIN

- Redirected affection (2:2-5a)
- Redirected appreciation (2:5b-9)
- Redirected celebration (2:10-13)

REDIRECTED WORSHIP

GOD'S CORRECTION

- A gracious petition (2:2)
- A gracious admonition (2:3-4)
- A gracious accusation (2:5,10)
- A gracious restriction (2:6-7, 12)
- A gracious provision (2:8)
- A gracious repossession (2:9)
- A gracious cancellation (2:11)

A GRACIOUS CORRECTION

- God's punishment for sin is severe so that His people may see the severity of their sin.
- God rebukes His people so that His people remember Him...

*But then I will win her back once again. —Hosea 2:14*