

"THE ALLUREMENT OF GOD'S LOVE."      Hosea 2:14

I. To Whom this Gracious Purpose is Directed

A. Faithless Israel, see 2:2,5,8

B. Certainly not because of this, but in spite of this,  
God still loves.

C. A type of God's gracious love toward undeserving  
sinners.

II. Other Means Have Failed, 2:1-13

A. Sharp Afflictions, "I will hedge up thy way with  
thorns" v.6.

B. Insurmountable Difficulties: "and make a wall"  
The Lord of love often blocks the road of those  
to whom He is speaking"

C. Blind Perplexities: "She shall not find her paths"

D. Utter Failures, "she shall follow after,  
but not overtake"

E. Bitter Disappointments, "She shall seek them,  
but shall not find them"

F. Withdrawal of Blessings, vs. 9 & 12.

G. Absolute Unhappiness, "I will cause all her mirth  
to cease" vs. 11

III. A Parenthesis of Mercy in a Passage of Judgment.

A. "I Will Allure Her" - vs. 14

1. As Satan had enticed her soul to sin, so would God,  
by holy enticements & persuasiveness,  
allure her to Himself.

2. God would show her something of His Beauty,  
and make her taste of His love, and give her such a  
glimpse of the joy of His good pleasure,  
that would thrill her for the rest of her life.

B. "Bring her into the wilderness"

1. God had brought Israel out of Egypt's sinful self-indulgencies, abominations, and idolatries ---  
and into the wilderness, away from the evil example  
and influences of other nations, and gave her His  
law & taught her his worship, and brought her into  
COVENANT relationship with Himself.

2. The 40 years in the wilderness was like a long  
courtship when God Alone was wooing Israel Alone.

C. "I will speak comfortable unto her" vs. 14

1. Lit: "on her heart"

2. Heb. 8:10 & II Cor 3:3, God writes his laws in the heart, not with ink, but with the Spirit of God.  
3. God usually speaks to the soul in solitude and in silence, not in a noisy multitude.

v.15

D. "I will give her the Valley of Achor for a door of hope

1. Achor means "trouble" or "troubling".

2. Israel early learned through the transgression and punishment of Achan to stand in awe of God.

3. When they separated from the accursed thing their sorrow was turned into joy, and despair into hope.

4. To each one the lowliness of repentance becomes a door of forgiveness.

E. "I will Betroth thee unto Me" vs. 19,20

1. He blots out all memory of the past and speaks only of the future, of the new betrothal, as if it were the first engagement.

2. This betrothal implies & involves a New Covenant, (Jer. 31:31,32)

3. The marriage-dowry or bridal gifts:

a. Righteousness - straightness, right doing, right relation to God.

b. Judgement - Justice, right

c. Loving-kindness - devoted love

d. Mercies - "Rahamim" cf. "Lo Ruhamah"

e. Faithfulness - steadfastness, moral trustworthiness, fidelity, cf and integrity of character, loyalty

#### IV. THE CHURCH AS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

A. CHRIST IS THE BRIDEGROOM OF THE CHURCH, JN. 3:29

B. THE CHURCH IS THE WIFE OF THE LAMB IN REV. 21:9

C. IN II COR 11:2 THE CHURCH IS REFERRED TO AS ESPoused, AS A CHASTE VIRGIN, TO CHRIST.

1. THEREFORE ANY UNFAITHFULNESS TO CHRIST IS SPIRITUAL ADULTERY

2. WHEN YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN YOU ARE TRULY UNITED WITH THE LORD, AS IN MARRIAGE THE TWO ARE NO MORE TWAIN BUT ONE.

To "allure" means "to entice by charm or attraction". It is the opposite of "to repel". attachment = fascination or charm.

1. THE CHURCH AS THE BRIDGE OF GRACE  
2. WHEN YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN YOU ARE TRULY UNITED WITH THE WORD, AS IN MARRIAGE THE TWO ARE NO MORE DIVIDED BUT ONE.  
3. WHERE THEREFORE ANY UNFAVORABLES TO CHRIST IS SPLITTING MORTALITY  
4. IN 11 COR 11:3 THE CHURCH IS RECOMMENDED TO USE DISCOURSES  
5. THE CHURCH IS THE LIFE OF THE BODY IN HEAVEN, 1 COR 11:3  
6. A CHRISTIAN IS THE BRIDGEBORN OF THE CHURCH, 1 COR 11:3  
7. THE CHURCH AS THE BRIDGE OF GRACE

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