

# Biblical Notes — Hosea 2:19

**19 — I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In lovingkindness and in compassion.**

כָּאָנָּדְשָׁפֵיךְ לְיִלְעָלָם וְאָרְשָׁפֵיךְ לִי בְּאָזְקָה וּבְמִשְׁפָּט וּבְתִּחְדָּשׁ וּבְרָקְעִים

Hosea 2:19 becomes utterly meaningless, if Hosea 2:2 doesn't mean Yahweh divorces Israel. Israel was clearly divorced because she wasn't acting like a wife. That's that's whole point. That's why the text says that she is divorced, because of her behaviour, and harlotry.

"These views are of course incorrect, because the new marriage that appears under the triple betrothal in Hosea 2:19ff absolutely presupposes that the first had been broken utterly. Practically all of the popular commentators of the present day are very reluctant to allow that God did actually cast off the old Israel, a fact which Paul definitely stated in Romans 11, only with the exception that "not all of them" were so divorced, the faithful remnant who accepted Christ, of course, being exempted. Due to the widespread error on this question, a little further notice will be given here."

— James Burton, Coffman Commentaries, Commentary on Hosea 2:2.

"for she is not my wife, neither am I her husband; for though there had been such a relation between them, yet it was now dissolved; she had broken the marriage covenant and contract, and God had given her a bill of divorce, Jeremiah 31:32 or, however, as she behaved not as a wife towards him, showing love and affection, honour and reverence, and performing duty, and yielding obedience; so he would not carry it as a husband towards her, nourishing and cherishing her, providing for her, and protecting and defending her; but leave her to shift for herself, and to the insults and abuses of others; having been guilty of idolatry, which is spiritual adultery, as the Israelites before the captivity were; and as the Jews in Christ's time were guilty of rejecting the word of God, and preferring their own traditions to it: hence it follows"

— John Gill, Exposition of the Entire Bible, Commentary on Hosea 2:2.

"That Israel is the wife of Jehovah Hosea 2:16-23, now disowned but yet to be restored, is the clear teaching of the passages."

— C.I. Scofield, Reference Notes, Commentary on Hosea 2:2.

"For she is not my wife] For I have put her away by a bill of divorcement, Isaiah 50:1, with a Habe tibi quae tua sunt (which was the form of divorce among the Romans). Take thine own things and be gone. Now, the Jewish synagogue had nothing she could properly call her own, but sin and misery: when God first took her, she had not a rag to her back, Ezekiel 16:10, nor any kind of comeliness, but what he was pleased to put upon her, Ezekiel 16:14. But she (foolish woman and unwise, Deuteronomy 32:6), trusting in her borrowed beauty, played the harlot, and poured out her fornication on every one that passed by: his it was, Ezekiel 16:15."

— John Trapp, John Trapp Complete Commentary, Commentary on Hosea 2:2.

"She is not my wife; in point of right she is not, for by her adulteries she hath dissolved the marriage covenant, and so abolished the relation, though in point of fact she is not cast off utterly; I have not sued out the divorce, nor turned her out of doors. but yet for all that she is no wife, nor hath any right to the honour, maintenance, or love of a wife."

— Matthew Poole, Matthew Poole's English Annotations on the Holy Bible, Commentary on Hosea 2:2.