

Title: The Beauty Of Restraining Grace Part 2

Text: Hosea 2:14-15

Main Idea: God mercifully exercises restraining grace to bring His chosen ones to Himself.

Division Statements:

1. In His mercy God brings brokenness (vv. 14-15).

After the judgments and gracious afflictions of verses 1-13 of chapter 2, we see God's end, to bring His beloved into the wilderness and "speak comfort to her." Indeed, as we see in verse 15, He aims to bring her into the "valley of Achor" and then use that valley as a "door of hope." What is the "valley of Achor"? This phrase literally means "the valley of trouble."

Consider the spiritual importance of brokenness and consider the implications and applications for the congregation from the following texts. What do we learn about this from the following verses: Psalm 34:18, Matthew 5:3, Isaiah 57:15, Psalm 51:17, Isaiah 6:1-9.

2. In Brokenness He brings:

a. New Desire (v. 14a).

God says that He will "allure her" in verse 14. Allure means that God will change her affections, so that she will be drawn away by a new desire, a new desire not for sin and worldliness, but a new desire for Himself. According to 2 Cor. 5:27, what does salvation involve? How does this impact a person's desire? (1 John 2:15).

b. Comfort (v. 14b)

Comfort is the Hebrew word לִבָּב (lēbāb), and it has a fascinating meaning. The most basic meaning is to "ravish the heart" or "to make one's heart beat faster" with renewed hope or encouragement. It is a mighty comfort indeed that can take a "valley of trouble" and turn it into the rapid heartbeat captivated thrill of an engagement or wedding day to the love of your life.

c. Hope (v. 15b).

This verse says that God gives the valley of trouble as "a door of hope." Hope translates the Hebrew word תִּקְוָה (tiqvah), which means "expectation" and "longing." In other words it's a very much wanted and

desired expectation, something longed for, like a child longs for Christmas, or even more strongly, like a quadriplegic longs for the cure that will allow him to move again.

d. Joy (v. 15a&c).

Verse 15 begins, “I will give her her vineyards from there” ... and adds, “she shall sing there.” These are two common Scriptural pictures of overflowing joy and satisfaction. What is the ultimate object of the believer’s joy (Gen. 15:1)? How is this object implicated in the two pictures God gives: vineyards and singing (Ps. 80:1-19; Ps. 28:7; 45:1)?

e. Renewal (v. 15d).

Verse 15 ends, “As in the days of her youth, as in the day with she came up from the land of Egypt.” This refers to Exodus 15:1-21). Bring this home to the congregation. What event does this recall in the life of every believer? Discuss the promises of renewal God give His people (e.g. Joel 2:25-27; 1 Cor. 15:53-57; Rev. 21:5).

Bridging From Text To Sermon

Textual Idea: God reveals how He will mercifully bring restraining grace to bear on the nation of Israel so that it will repent and return to Him.

Sermon Proposition: God mercifully exercises restraining grace to bring His chosen ones to Himself.

Interrogative: How does God bring restraining grace to bear.

Transition: The text reveals two more actions that God takes in exercising His restraining grace.

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