

FROM DEFICIT TO RETURN IN HOSEA 2.

The word **"NOT" or "WITHOUT"** (Hebrew: "Lo") appears 15 times in Hosea 2... indicating the great deficit that the people brought upon themselves by turning their backs on Yahweh – prophetic background: daughter (Lo-Ruchamah) and son (Lo-Ammi), born to the promiscuous wife, Gomer (whose name means: "end of the road").

NOT MARRIED. Hos 2:2 She (you all) is not my wife, and I am not her husband; let her remove her harlotry and take away her adultery from her breasts.

NOT CLOTHED. Hos 2:3 Otherwise, I will strip her naked and expose her as on the day of her birth, and make her like a wilderness.

NOT UNDER COMPASSION. Hos 2:4 And I will have no compassion on her children, for they are children born of harlotry.

NOT FINDING HER PATHS. Hos 2:6 Therefore, behold, I will hedge up your way with thorns and build a wall around her, so that she will not find her paths.

NOT FINDING HER LOVERS. Hos 2:7a And she will chase after her lovers but not overtake them; and she will seek them but not find them.

NOT PROSPEROUS. Hos 2:7b Then she will say: I will go and return to my first husband, for it was better for me then than now.

NOT ACKNOWLEDGING. Hos 2:8 She did not acknowledge that I gave her the grain, the new wine, and the oil, and multiplied her silver and gold.

NOT RESCUED. Hos 2:10 And now I will uncover her lewdness before the eyes of her lovers, and no one will rescue her out of My hand.

NOT CELEBRATING (NO JOY). Hos 2:11 And I will put an end to all her joy, her feasts, her New Moons, and her Sabbaths, yes, all her appointed feasts.

NOT REMEMBERING. Hos 2:13 She burned incense to the Baals, adorned herself fashionably, and chased after her lovers; but Me she forgot, says Yahweh.

14–23 TURNING POINT...Yahweh speaks to her heart, and then: material provision (vineyards, v. 15); door of hope (15); devotion as in earlier times (youth 15); Yahweh as husband (16); safety and rest (17); threefold betrothal (righteousness, lovingkindness, eternity, 19 – LONG-TERM); new level of knowing Yahweh (20); threefold answering re places (heaven, earth, Jezreel, 21–22); threefold answering re products (grain, new wine, oil 21–22 – PRAYER!); threefold blessing (sow, have compassion, say – thus: LIFE!)

There are **only two "NOTs"** after the turning point: (1) She will NOT call Yahweh her Baal anymore, (2) The names of the Baals will NOT be heard from her mouth anymore... Lo-Ammi and Lo-Ruhamah become Ammi and Ruhamah!! The deficit, which looked like the end of the road for Yisrael, turned into a return, and the beginning of a completely new path!