

ABATT
Hosea
 Christian Life Assembly
 Jim Hoffman

1

| The Minor Prophets | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Prophet | Date of Writing | Prophesied to: |
| Obadiah | 845-750 | Israel/Edom |
| Joel | 835-796 | Judah |
| Jonah | 793-753 | Niniveh |
| Hosea | 753-715 | Israel |
| Amos | 760-755 | Israel/Judah |
| Micah | 770-710 | Israel/Judah |
| Nahum | 663-612 | Niniveh |
| Zepheniah | 635-625 | Judah/Assyria/Nations |
| Habbakuk | 610-605 | Judah/Nations |
| Haggai | 520 | Judah |
| Zechariah | 520-470 | Judah |
| Malachi | 460-410 | Judah |

2

| Writing and Speaking Prophets | |
|--|---|
| Writing Prophets | Speaking Prophets |
| Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Amos, and so on. | Nathan, Elijah, Elisha, Samuel and a few more. |

3

The Minor Prophets

- Let's begin by stating there is nothing "minor" about what we commonly call "the Minor Prophets".
- The total number of chapters in the Minor Prophet books is 67 - Isaiah has 66 chapters. There are a total of 1,050 verses in the Minor Prophets and 1,291 in Isaiah.
- Put them together and you have a rather king-sized book of the Bible. 😊

4

4

The Minor Prophets

- Some perspective on the prophetic books, both the major and the minor ones – we will see words like, "the word of the Lord came to me", or "in my vision I saw".
- The usual progression was for the prophets to speak what God gave them and then write it down later.
- Their prophecies were spoken to the people of their day, and then preserved in writing for the people of the future.

5

5

Hosea

6

6

Hosea

- Some prophets preach, some predict, and some demonstrate.
- Hosea was mostly a demonstrator of God’s love for his people by marrying a wife who would be like God’s wife Israel - unfaithful.
- For Hosea to fully demonstrate what God was experiencing he would have to forgive his wife and receive her back multiple times. (who does that!)

7

7

Hosea

- Hosea’s **Marriage** illustrates Israel’s unfaithfulness, rejection, and restoration. (1:2-3:5)
 - Like Hosea’s wife strayed from him and broke his heart, so Israel was unfaithful through idolatry and grieved the heart of God.
- Hosea’s **Message** describes Israel’s unfaithfulness, rejection, and restoration. (4:1-14:9)
 - A key message we have seen before, when we are unfaithful, God remains faithful and if you belong to him, he will pursue and woo you back to himself.

8

8

Hosea

Israel was habitually unfaithful and running from God, but he is ever faithful and pursues them still!

1st Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God’s power are **being guarded** through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ESV

9

9

Hosea

- Hosea was a faithful husband just as God was faithful to Israel despite the infidelity of their love objects.
- Hosea’s prophecy reminds us that while God is a God of love, mercy, and great patience, there are limits to his patience.
- As two of Gomer’s children’s names suggest – while God will never stop loving us, he may stop showing his love for us in ways that may be painful.

10

10

Hosea

- Hosea 1:1 The word of the Lord that came to Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel. ESV
- The Book of Hosea was likely written between 755 and 725 B.C.
- The book is a graphic illustration of a faithful husband’s unbending love for an unfaithful wife – analogous to God and Israel.

11

11

Hosea

- Hosea 1:2 When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord.” 3 So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. ESV
- If you marry an unfaithful woman (or man) the results of such a choice are likely to be unfaithfulness and heartache.
- Hosea was asked to do what God already did!

12

12

Hosea

When God asked Abraham to offer his only son, Isaac, he was not asking for something that God, himself had not already done.

13

13

Hosea

- God is setting a stage for a very serious drama to play out – that of his relationship with Israel, the ones he chose to work through to redeem mankind.
- In the drama, Hosea will play the part of our ever-faithful God and Gomer will play the part of fickle Israel.
- By God putting Hosea in the place of pain that he did, he would be able to speak to Israel with credibility.

14

14

Hosea

- We look at what God asked Hosea to do, and we probably think, “why would God set Hosea up for such pain?”.
- If making Hosea uncomfortable is what will make him see how Israel was treating God, then so be it if that is what it takes for him to passionately prophesy to Israel.
- Israel is right there in that time where the Assyrians are at the gate, so God wants a voice that knows how to plead for the return of an unfaithful wife.

15

15

Hosea

How many times have we prayed, "God please fill me and use me" and while we mean what we say, we seldom consider how painful his use of us may be?

16

16

Hosea

- The first 3 chapters of Hosea detail for us what it is like to be married to an unfaithful spouse.
- It is a vivid description of the relationship Israel had with God – He was ever-faithful, and she (Israel) was constantly running after other gods.
- Given what he know about infidelity in the natural, we should have an even greater appreciation for the love of God as he chases down sinners.

17

17

Hosea

- Hosea 1:3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. 4 And the Lord said to him, "Name him **Jezreel**; for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. NASB
- Hosea 1:6 Then she conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. And the Lord said to him, "Name her **Lo-ruhamah**, for I will no longer take pity on the house of Israel, that I would ever forgive them. NASB
- Hosea 1:8 When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and gave birth to a son. 9 And the Lord said, "Name him **Lo-ammi**, because you are not My people, and I am not your God." NASB

18

18

Hosea

- Jezreel means **God scatters** and we know from history that the Assyrians would do just that to the Northern Kingdom.
- Around 740 B.C. the Assyrians sent the first of 3 waves of assaults on the Northern Kingdom and by 720 B.C. Assyria would "own" the Northern Kingdom.
- The Assyrians in their "acquisitions" would remove and scatter the peoples they conquered - then replace them with other conquered peoples to destroy the national identities of both.

19

19

Hosea

- You can imagine what went through the minds of the people of Israel when the barbarians were finally at their gates.
- No longer is this some theoretical threat of judgment from God that some of their fellow Jews actually believed was coming.
- What must it be like to know that your world is about to collapse in a very violent fashion, and you could have stopped it, but didn't?

20

20

Hosea

Today's church in America seems to think in terms of "when will revival come?" when perhaps we should first be thinking "when will judgment come?".

21

21

Hosea

- Remember the name of Hosea’s 2nd child, his daughter “Lo-ruhamah” which literally means, “No mercy”.
- The Assyrians were invading them, men were being killed, women raped, children enslaved and the Assyrians were intent on destroying their land.
- It was happening and would not be miraculously stopped by God – not this time, this time there would be no rescue and no mercy.

22

22

Hosea

- Remember the name of Hosea’s 3rd child, his son “Lo-Ammi” which literally means, “Not my child”.
- They were going to be scattered (Jezreel), they would receive no mercy (Lo-ruhamah), and God would allow them to be treated as though they are not his children (Lo-Ammi).
- Surely the words, “if only we had repented” were repeated millions of times in Israel as the Assyrians came destroying their villages and towns.

23

23

Hosea

- There is a story of judgment and restoration to be told from the names of Hosea’s children.
 - Jezreel – **God scatters** is the negative use of the name and **God sows** is the positive use of the name.
 - Lo-ruhamah – “**No mercy**”, but the time will come when the “Lo” (no) is removed and **mercy will be extended** again.
 - Lo-ammi – “**not my people**”, but the time will come when the “Lo” (not) is removed and Israel **will again be called God’s people**.

24

24

Hosea

- Hosea 2:19 I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion. 20 I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as the Lord. ESV
- It sure sounds like God wants a relationship with his people – his words here are very much like one would say at a wedding.
- Something to ponder – God treats us as he does because he discounts what we are and knows our end!

25

25

Hosea

- Hosea 3:1 And the Lord said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.” 2 So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley. 3 And I said to her, “You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you.” 4 For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods. 5 Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the Lord and to his goodness in the latter days. ESV

26

26

Hosea

- Chapter 3 speaks of an indefinite time when Israel will be without a king – at this point (today) its been about 2,500 years.
- Hosea 3:4 This shows that Israel will go a long time without a king or prince, and without sacrifices, sacred pillars, priests, or even idols!
- Their next king will be Jesus.

27

27

Hosea

- Hosea 8:7 For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. ESV
- There is a law of sowing and reaping – according to Paul it works every time. (Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.)
- We usually reap far more than we sow – so make sure the seed you sow is “good” seed.

28

28

Hosea

- Israel’s history was one of turning from God to idols.
- Hosea 11:1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. 2 The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols. ESV
- But why? There can be just one answer – because the appeal of sin to the flesh is more powerful than we want to admit. (sin is exceedingly sinful)

29

29

Hosea

- Israel had a propensity to chase sin and place their hope in the wrong places .
- Hosea 12:1 Ephraim feeds on the wind and pursues the east wind all day long; they multiply falsehood and violence; they make a covenant with Assyria, and oil is carried to Egypt. ESV
- Sin always turns out to be an empty, well adorned, package that offers pleasure and delivers pain.

30

30

Hosea

- Israel's future is one of restoration – just as surely as they chased after sin, God will chase after them to heal them and love them.
- God will use the wicked Assyrians to bring judgment upon his people – hardly a people one would call good.
- Bear in mind that by comparison Israel was better behaved than the nations that God used to judge them, but relatively righteous is not righteous enough.

31

31

Hosea

- Hosea 14:4 I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. ESV
- What we see in verse #14 must be realized in the millennial kingdom because God will not heal their apostasy until they repent.
- History and prophecy tells us that Israel will not come to know Christ as a body of people until they see him return in his glory. (Zach 12:10)

32

32

Questions?

33

33
