

The Minor Prophets

Hosea – God’s Grace and His Redeeming Love

Lesson 2

Please pray and ask the Lord to teach you through His Holy Spirit before you begin.

Read Hosea Chapters 4 and 5.

Chapter 4 – A National Indictment

1. In verse 1 of chapter 4 we see that God is bringing a ‘legal complaint’ against the Israelites. He is the plaintiff and the Israelites are the defendants. Read verses 1-3 along with Proverbs 9:10; Romans 1:28; Isaiah 24:5; and Isaiah 59:2-8.

a. What do you learn from these verses?

b. What is the connection with no knowledge of God and a lack of mercy or truth and the actions you see in verses 2 and 3?

2. Read verses 4-8. What does this passage say? (Matthew 7:3-6; Jeremiah 14:15-16; Matthew 21:41-45 and Romans 16:18 will help with your answer.)

3. Read verses 9 and 10 along with Jeremiah 5:31; Matthew 15:14 and Proverbs 13:25. What is the plain meaning of these verses?

4. Read verses 11-14.

a. What does God consider Israel’s idolatry to be?

b. Why is He not going to punish the women who are committing adultery?

5. Why is God warning people of Judah not to travel to Gilgal or Beth Aven (literally ‘House of Wickedness’)? 1 Corinthians 15:33 may help you answer. Can you think of how this might apply to us?

6. Verses 16-19 summarize Israel’s offenses. Why is it a dangerous thing for us to be a ‘lamb in open country’? See Luke 22: 31,32.

Chapter 5 – Judgment is Coming

Ephraim was the largest tribe in Israel so the prophets often used the name Ephraim in place of Israel.

7. Read verses 1-3.

- a. Who is being addressed in verse 1? Why do you think this is?
- b. Explain the meaning of verses 2 & 3. (Jeremiah 5:3 will help you)

8. Read verses 4-9.

- a. What is at the center of Israel's rebellion?
- b. Why are the people unable to find God when they seek Him?
- c. What is to be the consequence of their rebellion? (Amos 7:9)

9. Read verses 10-13.

- a. While the princes of Judah may not have been removing physical landmarks, what boundaries were they guilty of moving?
- b. Why is it wrong for Israel, or us, to live by human precepts?

10. Read verses 14 & 15. What is God's goal in His judgment of Israel and Judah?

11. Do you see parallels to the state Israel was in during this time and the state our nation is in today?

"If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14