

The Minor Prophets

Hosea – God’s Grace and His Redeeming Love

Lesson 1

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

Hosea’s name means “salvation” or “deliverer” in Hebrew, as does the name “Joshua” (Moses’ successor), in the Greek form it is equivalent to “Jesus”. He was born in Israel, the North Kingdom, and was a contemporary of Amos who also prophesied in Israel, and Isaiah and Micah, who prophesied in the southern kingdom of Judah. He warned Israel of imminent judgment and exile that was fulfilled in his lifetime. Hosea was quoted directly and indirectly over 30 times in the New Testament.

Read chapters 1-3 for the tragic personal story of Hosea’s marriage to Gomer.

Chapter 1 – The Family of Hosea

1. Read Hosea 1:2, then Isaiah 20:2,3 and Jeremiah 13:1-11. What is God’s reason for these strange commands to His prophets? Who was the audience and was it effective?

2. There are differences of opinion as to whether Gomer was already a prostitute when Hosea married her or if she became unfaithful to him later. Prostitution has been called the world’s oldest profession. Many of the pagan religions used prostitutes in their rituals. It’s been said that it is a “victimless crime”. What do you think about that statement?

3. The names that God told Hosea to give his children are a significant part of the message God was speaking to Israel.

A. Jezreel the first son – “God will scatter” picturing the judgment to come on the house of Jehu for the blood he shed at Jezreel. This was fulfilled in 2 Kings 15:8-12.

B. Lo-ruhamah the second child, a daughter – “No Mercy” for Israel for her spiritual idolatry.

C. Loammi the third child another son – “Not my people” because Israel did not consider God to be their God.

4. Read verses 10 and 11 of chapter 1 along with Romans 9:25-28 and Romans 11:25,26. What do you see there?

Chapter 2 – God’s Unfaithful People and His Mercy on Them

5. In verse 1 we see a name change. Look at Jeremiah 31:33 and 1 Peter 2:10. What do you learn from these verses?

6. Read verses 2-13 and make a list of Gomer’s (Israel’s) wrongdoings.

7. Now make a list of the punishments God intends to chastise her with and His reasons for doing so.

8. Read verses 14-23 and write out the ways God will show mercy to Israel.

Chapter 3 – A Picture of God’s Love and Grace

9. As you look at chapter 3 notice there are analogies in it. Pick out a verse (or verses) and explain the plain meaning of the text also the analogy that you see.

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” 1 John 3:1,2