

The Minor Prophets - Hosea

- Introduction
 - Hosea (הוֹשֵׁעַ ho-shey-ah) means “salvation”
 - There are five men in the O.T. with this name.
 - Hoshea, son of Nun, renamed to Joshua by Moses [Num 13:8, 16, Deut 32:44].
 - Hoshea, son of Elah, assassin of King Pekah and the final king of Israel [2 Kgs 15:30; 17:1-6; 18:9-11].
 - Hoshea, son of Azaziah [1 Chr 27:20].
 - Hoshea, a leader of the people [1 Chr 27:20].
 - Hosea, son of Beerai, minor prophet [Hos 1:1-2].
 - The first verse sets the dating of the book during the days of...
 - King Uzziah of Judah (810-758 B.C.).
 - King Jotham of Judah (758-742 B.C.).
 - King Ahaz of Judah (742-726 B.C.).
 - King Hezekiah of Judah (726-697 B.C.).
 - King Jeroboam II of Israel (824-784 B.C.).
 - Five other kings of Israel could have been mentioned, including Hoshea the final king.
- Observations from the Text
 - God used Hosea’s life as an illustration so his message would be even more powerful.
 - His wife and children of harlotry would illustrate Israel’s spiritual harlotry [1:2-3].
 - Gomer was not necessarily a prostitute as the language describes someone who has engaged in sex outside of marriage [Deut 22:20-21].
 - Each of her three children’s names has significant meaning [1:4-9].
 - Her first son was named Jezreel because God was going to end the house of Jehu due to the slaughter in the valley of Jezreel [1:4-5].
 - Her first daughter was named Lo-ruhamah (not loved) because God would cut off His love from Israel for a while [1:6-7].
 - Her second son was named Lo-Ammi (not my people) because Israel had shunned God [1:8-9].
 - After the birth of his third child, Hosea gives a promising prophecy [1:10-2:1].
 - Under the Abrahamic Covenant, Israel cannot be forever destroyed [1:10a; Gen 22:17].
 - The divided kingdoms will be reunited and Ammi and Ruhamah will be restored [1:11-2:1].
 - Before this reunion can take place, Israel must be brought to repentance and restored to their place of sonship before God [1:10b].

- The Jews must deal with their faithless mother as their faithful Father woos her [2:2-3:5].
 - Their mother (not His wife) must put away her harlotries [2:2-13].
 - The Father will woo her until the Baals are completely gone and Yahweh is once again Ishi (her husband) [2:14-23].
 - This Father's wooing of faithless Israel is pictured by Hosea's reunion with his harlot wife [3:1-5].
- Hosea 4:1 outlines the rest of the book – no knowledge of God [4:2-5:15], no kindness [6:4-11:11], no faithfulness [11:12-14:9].
- No knowledge of God [4:2-5:15].
 - The priests/prophets have no knowledge [4:4-10].
 - Where there is no knowledge of God, the gods of the world are worshipped [4:11-19].
 - Assyria cannot heal Israel [5:13-15] – healing will come with a return to the Lord [6:1-3].
- No kindness [6:4-11:11].
 - Israel's lack of kindness is the spiritual condition that results in external depravity [6:4-11:7].
 - The prophets delivered a tough message [6:5].
 - God wants our hearts, not religiosity [6:6].
 - God is ready to heal them, but Israel turns to everything but God [7:2, 7, 10, 16; 11:2, 7].
 - Yet the Lord remains ready to restore Israel in His compassion [11:8-11].
- No faithfulness [11:12-14:9].
 - Israel's faithlessness spits in the face of their heritage and stores up judgment [11:12-13:16].
 - They lied, deceived and rejected God [11:12-12:6].
 - Their faithlessness affected all areas of life [12:7-11] as they did not learn from their past [12:12-14].
 - They rejected the One who would help them [13:9].
 - Yet the wise and discerning may return to the ways of the Lord [14:1-9].
- Applications for Today
 - Marital and family problems should not spoil our spiritual walk [Deut 33:9; Matt 10:34-37].
 - Things which will ensnare our hearts must be noticed and avoided [Pr 6:32; 7:6-23; 9:4-6, 16-18; 20:1; 23:27-35].
 - External religiosity is worthless [Isa 1:1-10; Amos 5:21-22; Mal 1:10; Matt 9:13].
 - Instead, God desires for us to come to know Him [Mic 6:6-8; Phil 3:8-14].
 - Genuine repentance yields the fruit of righteousness [Ps 32:3-5; Pr 28:13; Jonah 3:10; Matt 3:8; Acts 26:19-20].
 - In terms of our works, we reap according to what we sow [Pr 22:8; 2 Cor 9:6; Gal 6:7-8].