

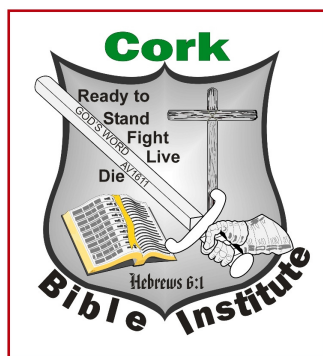
The Bible Companion Series

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# The Minor Prophets

A Bible-Believing Study Guide

AV 1611 Bible Companion



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## Textbook

Only the Bible will be used as our textbook this Semester.

## Class Requirements

1. Read through the Minor Prophets TWICE. There are 67 chapters in these twelve small-ish books of the Old Testament. They will need to be read from Hosea through Malachi, TWICE by the end of the Semester. This semester has 15 weeks in it, so that means you need to read 1 to 2 chapters a weekday.
2. Write a two page summary of the LIFE of one of the Minor Prophets: i.e., his background, his burden, the way people responded to his preaching, what God asked of him, etc.
3. Complete the entire class notebook by filling in all the class notes.
4. Attend 80% of the classes (that means at least 12 of the class days). You must have permission to miss any more than 4 days of class.
5. Pass the Final Exam (Greater than 70% to pass).

## *Introduction to the Minor Prophets*

### A. Their Importance and Significance

1. Twelve short books from Hosea to Malachi
2. Called 'Minor' Prophets not because of less importance than other prophetic books, but smaller in size. Containing just 67 chapters, they make up just 4% of the Old Testament.
3. Represent some of the most neglected books in the Bible.
4. Are primarily prophetic – foretelling the future, both of coming judgement upon the northern Ten Tribes of Israel, upon Judah, and upon the surrounding nations, as well as future blessings upon the restored nation of Israel.
5. These books, along with Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel all were exciting to the Jewish readers because they focused on how God was working to bring Israel back right through the coming judgment of the mighty Messiah!

### B. Their Placement in the Bible

1. \_\_\_\_\_, right at the end of the Old Testament. Not chronologically. Why?
  - a. They deal with end times and with coming judgment
  - b. They generally skip over the coming of the Saviour from sin, and focus mainly on the coming Messiah and His judgment of sin – which occurs during the Tribulation time period
2. Grouped together, just like several other books are grouped:
  - a. Pentateuch (Gen, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deut) called, "The Books of Moses" (Luke 16:29)
  - b. Poetical books (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon)
  - c. Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
  - d. Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus)
  - e. Major and Minor Prophets - called, "The Prophets" (Luke 24:27)

| <b>BOOKS OF THE BIBLE</b>  |  |  |   |  |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>OLD TESTAMENT - 39 Books</b>  |  |  | <b>NEW TESTAMENT - 27 Books</b>   |  |  |
| <b>LAW - 5</b>   | <b>POETRY - 5</b>  | <b>MAJOR PROPHETS - 5</b>  | <b>GOSPELS - 4</b>  | <b>PAUL'S LETTERS TO FRIENDS - 4</b>   |  |
| GENESIS<br>EXODUS<br>LEVITICUS<br>NUMBERS<br>DEUTERONOMY   | JOB<br>PSALMS<br>PROVERBS<br>ECCLESIASTES<br>SONG OF SOLOMON | ISAIAH<br>JEREMIAH<br>LAMENTATIONS<br>EZEKIEL<br>DANIEL  | MATTHEW<br>MARK<br>LUKE<br>JOHN   | 1 TIMOTHY<br>2 TIMOTHY<br>TITUS<br>PHILEMON  |  |
| <b>HISTORY - 12</b>  |  | <b>MINOR PROPHETS - 12</b>   | <b>HISTORY - 1</b>  |  |  |
| JOSHUA<br>JUDGES<br>RUTH<br>1 SAMUEL<br>2 SAMUEL<br>1 KINGS<br>2 KINGS<br>1 CHRONICLES<br>2 CHRONICLES<br>EZRA<br>NEHEMIAH<br>ESTHER |  | HOSEA<br>JOEL<br>AMOS<br>OBADIAH<br>JONAH<br>MICAH<br>NAHUM<br>HABAKKUK<br>ZEPHANIAH<br>HAGGAI<br>ZECHARIAH<br>MALACHI | ACTS  |  |  |
|  |  |  | <b>PAUL'S LETTERS TO CHURCHES - 9</b>   | <b>GENERAL LETTERS - 9</b>   |  |
|  |  |  | ROMANS<br>1 CORINTHIANS<br>2 CORINTHIANS<br>GALATIANS<br>EPHESIANS<br>PHILIPPIANS<br>COLOSSIANS<br>1 THESSALONIANS<br>2 THESSALONIANS | HEBREWS<br>JAMES<br>1 PETER<br>2 PETER<br>1 JOHN<br>2 JOHN<br>3 JOHN<br>JUDE<br>REVELATION |  |

### C. Time of their writing: 8<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C.

1. Span both the Old Testament and the New Testament – not only an Old Testament office
2. There are seven prophetic periods of prophets in the Bible:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ to Abraham
    - 1) Enoch (Jude 14,15)
    - 2) Noah prophesied of the coming flood (Heb 11:7)
  - b. Abraham to \_\_\_\_\_ – the time of the Patriarchs
    - 1) Abraham was a prophet (Gen 20:7)
    - 2) Job
    - 3) Jacob
    - 4) Joseph (Gen 49)
  - c. Moses to \_\_\_\_\_ – the time of the Judges
    - 1) Moses (Dt 34:10)
    - 2) Aaron (Ex 7:1)
    - 3) Baalam
    - 4) A Donkey (2Pet 2:16)
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ to Hosea (1Sam 3:1) – the time of the Kings of Israel
    - 1) Samuel (1Sam 3:20)
    - 2) King Saul (briefly, 1Sam 10:11,12)
    - 3) King David (Act 2:30)
    - 4) Gad (1Sam 22:5)
    - 5) Nathan (2Sam 7:2)
    - 6) Ahijah (1Kgs 11:29)
    - 7) Jehu (1Kgs 16:7)
    - 8) Oded (2Chr 15:8)
    - 9) Elijah (1Kgs 18:22)
    - 10) Elisha (1Kgs 19:16)
    - 11) Micaiah (1Kgs 22:13)
    - 12) Isaiah (1Kgs 19:2)
  - e. Hosea to \_\_\_\_\_
    - 1) Daniel (Matt 24:15)
    - 2) As well as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel
    - 3) All of the twelve Minor Prophets
    - 4) Then it went quiet for 400 years
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_ Silent Years
  - g. John the Baptist to Acts 1
    - 1) John the Baptist (Mt 11:9)
    - 2) Jesus (John 4:19)
    - 3) John (Revelation)
  - h. Acts 1 to the completion of the Bible – the foundation of the Church
    - 1) With the Holy Spirit showing us "things to come" John 16:13
    - 2) Paul, Barnabas (Acts 13:1)
    - 3) Judas and Silas (Acts 15:32)

- 4) Agabus (Acts 21:10)
  - 5) See 1Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11
  - 6) This period ends with the completion of the Scriptures (1Cor 13:10)
- i. The Rapture, Through the Tribulation, and into the Millennium (Joel 2:28,29)
    - 1) The 144,000 witnesses with Moses and Elijah in the Tribulation (Mal 4:5)
    - 2) Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy
    - 3) Your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:
    - 4) Upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.
  - j. NOTE: After the Tribulation, there will not be any more prophets (Zech 13:2-f). They will not be needed anymore! All will know the Lord (Heb 8:11)!
3. Different titles of prophets:
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Sam 9:9)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Sam 9:8)
4. Their Role (Luke 24:25-27, 44)
- a. To prepare people for the coming Messiah (Acts 3:18)
  - b. To explain that God would restore all things (Acts 3:21)
  - c. To WARN God's people of God's coming judgment (Acts 3:23)! They are not primarily called to BLESS!
  - d. To get people to believe on the Messiah, Jesus (Acts 26:27)
  - e. To be an example of suffering and patience (James 5:10)
  - f. To be thoroughly examined, and if true, then obeyed (1Jn 4:1)

**E. A Summary of the Themes of the Minor Prophets**

1. Hosea - Israel's Unfaithfulness Towards God
2. Amos - When The Lord Roars From Zion
3. Jonah - It's Hard To Love Your Enemies
4. Joel - The Day of the Lord is at Hand
5. Obadiah - Pride Goeth Before Destruction
6. Micah - Gloom Before Glory
7. Nahum - Righteous Revenge
8. Habakkuk - Run Sinner, Run! Flee from the Wrath to Come!
9. Zephaniah - A Consuming Fire
10. Haggai - Finish What You Start Out To Do
11. Zechariah - The Lord Remembers
12. Malachi - When God Doesn't Bless

**F. What To Look For in the Minor Prophets**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of prophecies - at the First as well as the Second Advent.
2. The absence of the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The long-term \_\_\_\_\_ of God through history: not just the short-term judgements and condemnations.

## *The Book of HOSEA*

Israel's Unfaithful Love Towards God!

**Key Verse:** Deut 6:5

### I. Introduction to the Book of Hosea

- A. Author: Hosea under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Date of writing: 781-711 B.C. He lived during the reign of 4 kings of Judah
- C. Theme: The nation of Israel (Northern Ten Tribes) had walked out on God, and had fallen in love with all the gods of the nations surrounding them. God compared it to committing adultery, and invited them over and over to return to God or suffer the consequences of being an adulterer, which was divorce and the judgment of God.
- D. The significance of the name 'Hosea':
  1. Means \_\_\_\_\_! Or \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Hosea is another Old Testament name for Jesus. As was Joshua, and Oshea (Num 13:8,16)
- E. The placement of the Book of Hosea:
  1. FIRST of the Minor Prophets.
  2. Note chapter 1:2, "*The beginning of the word of the Lord...*"
- F. Hosea's audience - primarily the 10 Northern tribes of Israel: (Israel, Samaria, and Ephraim). Every now and then a warning goes out to Judah as well.
- G. New Testament Scriptures that emphasize what Hosea preached:
  1. James 4:4
  2. Matt 12:39
  3. Mark 8:38
  4. Acts 2:40
- H. Quotations of Hosea in the New Testament:
  1. Matt 2:15 (Hos 11:1)
  2. Matt 9:13; 12:7 (Hos 6:6)
  3. Rom 9:25,26 (Hos 1:1,2; 2:23) "Not beloved"
  4. 1 Cor 15:55 (Hos 13:14)
  5. 1 Pet 2:5,10 (Hos 1:9,10; 2:23) "nor having obtained mercy."
- I. At the bottom of every page of this study, I would like you to write out TWO things you learned from the materials on that page.

### II. Lesson – “Israel’s Unfaithful Love Towards God!”

- A. **Marry a** \_\_\_\_\_ (1:2-2:23) “Take a whore as your wife”
  1. God had called to this nation in Abraham like a young man calls a woman to be his bride
  2. Abraham had responded with faith – loved God, and followed Him, obeying Him
  3. God’s call to Abraham was AWAY from false gods – away from the world
  4. But 1,000 years later, the nation had stepped out on God, and was not looking back
  5. They had become an \_\_\_\_\_ – a whore
    - a. A Whore, an Harlot – a woman who by nature was unfaithful
    - b. A Harlot is a love of many, yet a lover of none
    - c. God wanted to restore her to a lover of just ONE – of Him!

## Study In The Minor Prophets

## The Book of HOSEA

6. But something has happened to the relationship between God and His wife Israel. God was upset with Israel's unfaithfulness to Him.
7. So, God commanded Hosea to go find a harlot and marry her – KNOWING she would be unfaithful to him.
  - a. Someone with a "track-record" of being unfaithful!
  - b. Yet love her with "perfect love" like Christ will love the church (Eph 5:25), because in the long-run, Israel will become faithful (3:5)
  - c. Prophets do all sorts of crazy things to get people's attention:
    - 1) Preach on the street out in front of bus stops
    - 2) Eat locusts out in the desert (John the Baptist)
    - 3) Run around naked for 3 years (Isa 20:2-4)!
8. So, now God must not only picture ISRAEL'S unfaithfulness, but His own righteous judgments against their unfaithfulness
9. Pictured by Gomer having three children:
  - a. Jezreel (1:4) - means " \_\_\_\_\_ " – that was what was coming!
  - b. Lo-ruhamah (1:6) - " \_\_\_\_\_ "
  - c. Lo-ammi (1:9) - " \_\_\_\_\_ "
10. These three names prophesy of the coming judgment on Israel

### B. The Promise of a Restored Future Israel (1:10,11)

1. Israel will one day exceed numbering – just like promised to \_\_\_\_\_
2. Even though disowned and divorced by God.
3. Even though \_\_\_\_\_ the people of God, one day, they will become again the people of God!
  - a. THROUGH the new birth!!!
  - b. But they must become as children (Mt 18:1-3)
4. Will become a unified nation – gathered together into one
5. Shall appoint/choose one head/shepherd
6. Shall come up out of the land – \_\_\_\_\_
7. All will happen in the great day of \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_ (or at least at the time of Armageddon, which is the Tribulation).

### C. The Call Back to God (2:1-13)

1. God pleads
  - a. Be "my people" again
  - b. Come and obtain mercy
  - c. Be my wife again
    - 1) Israel was no longer God's wife – not anymore.
    - 2) Adultery is grounds for divorce – the dissolution of the bond of marriage
    - 3) God has not been allowed to be Israel's husband
  - d. Put away whoredoms out of your sight
    - 1) Completely away from you – you should not have anything around that reminds you of previous lovers
    - 2) Idols, riches – anything that you may covet – covetousness is idolatry

2. Or Else, God (\_\_\_\_\_ ) will have to Judge
  - a. Publically strip you down
  - b. Make naked
  - c. An overgrown wilderness
  - d. Barren – no successes, no fruitfulness
  - e. Thirsty
  - f. No mercy for your children
  - g. God will hedge you in – box you in, like cattle are penned in (2:6)
  - h. God will make it hard/impossible to love idols – you will not be able to keep up with the world

3. Even if you come back...
  - a. It will usually be only because you are hungry (Cf Jn 6:25,26)
  - b. So God will take away what she has taken for granted – all that Israel had actually came from her Husband, and not from her “lovers” (idols)
  - c. God will expose just how stupid she has been
  - d. God will stop all joyous occasions
  - e. God will visit/bring upon her all His wrath

**D. What God Would \_\_\_\_\_ Do (2:14-23). In that Day, God would rather...**

1. “In that day...”
2. Be sweet to Israel
3. Allure her, draw her near to Himself
4. Speak comfortable – not harshly
5. Give her gifts – a door of hope
6. Hear her sing – just as the day when they were first married (2:15)
7. Hear her call Him “my husband” – ishi – and no longer just see Him as an evil “lord” baali
8. No more memory of all the previous lovers
9. Make a covenant of peace with nature
10. Break warfare
11. Start all over again with Israel – remarry her (2:19-23)
12. All of this applies to the nation of Israel – marries again Jehovah (Zech 13:9)
13. But also applies to the Gentiles (1Pet 2:9,10)

**E. How An Adulterous Woman/Nation Gets Restored (3:1-5)**

1. Through \_\_\_\_\_ Love - Love \_\_\_\_\_ an Adulterous Woman (3:1-2)
  - a. Sanctioned by God – even commanded to love her (Eph 5)
  - b. Love her the same way that God loves Israel, and as Christ loves the church
    - 1) Even while the people were away from God
    - 2) And while she longingly loved other gods
    - 3) And while she loved alcohol
  - c. Gomer is gone – with her children
  - d. The only way to love Gomer, or a new wife, after she has left:
    - 1) \_\_\_\_\_ and damages that she has incurred while away from him
    - 2) Have a time of separation
      - a) From her lovers
      - b) And even from him



- c) To see if she is pregnant
  - d) To see if she will stay
- 3) No \_\_\_\_\_ – or bitterness on his or her part is allowed
- 2. Through a Time of \_\_\_\_\_ (3:3,4). This is how you deal with adultery, if you don't want to kill the offender
  - a. A renewal of the marriage covenant/contract - agreement
  - b. Separate from old lovers – “put her away” (Cf Matt 1:19)
  - c. Separate unto Jehovah – Hosea would be FOR her – on her side, protecting her from the judgment she deserved
  - d. No longer playing with sin
  - e. Do \_\_\_\_\_ everything they as a nation thought that was needed:
    - 1) A king – from 616 BC on. They had so demanded a king at first, and it had ruined them
    - 2) A sacrifice (from 70 AD)
    - 3) An image – pagan idols
    - 4) An ephod – high priesthood
    - 5) A “\_\_\_\_\_” – family idols
    - 6) Just nothing, but God's word
- 3. Then Afterwards (3:5)
  - a. Israel shall return – Peter and Paul had hoped this would occur win their lifetime (Rom 10)
  - b. Israel shall seek the Lord their God – shall be saved
  - c. Shall submit to \_\_\_\_\_ their king – resurrected
  - d. Shall fear the Lord
  - e. Shall enjoy His goodness
  - f. All in the “\_\_\_\_\_”
- F. **God Right Now is Upset** (4:1-19) A controversy
  - 1. Three things were missing among the people
    - a. No \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. No \_\_\_\_\_
    - c. No \_\_\_\_\_ of God – theology 4:6
  - 2. How to get into a controversy with God (4:1-6)
    - a. Remove truth out of the land (4:1) Cf Isa 59:12-15
    - b. Forget \_\_\_\_\_ in your dealings with each other (4:2-5)
    - c. Cover-up and restrict knowledge (4:6)
  - 3. Therefore, the opposite ruled (took over) 4:2
    - a. Swearing
    - b. Lying
    - c. Killing
    - d. Stealing
    - e. Committing Adultery
    - f. Murder to the place where blood touches blood (multiple murders)
    - g. The land Mourns – Farming and livelihood suffers 4:3
    - h. Unity (wrong) – Everyone like everyone else 4:4,5,9
    - i. Discontentment – never happy never satisfied 4:10,11

4. Prosperity revived them 4:6-8,11
  - a. Forgotten the law
  - b. The more prosperity, the more they sinned
  - c. God gives prosperity and blessings. But Israel, like a whore, ignores the giver
  - d. Therefore God will ruin their success James 5:1-3
  - e. They once loved labor, it was the blessing
  - f. They now love iniquity 4:8
  - g. Woman and wine and even new wine distract them from loving God
  
5. Seeing blessing from wrong gods, from other religions 4:12
  - a. Prayed to \_\_\_\_\_ See Isaiah 44:18-20
  - b. Listened to \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Servant of whoredom – Demonic pornography! – Lust in the heart
  - d. No longer UNDER their Gods rule – but \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Worshiping where it is pleasant
    - 1) The right shadow! That was all that mattered
    - 2) The best hilltop
    - 3) The best oak or popular elm trees
    - 4) The Bibles instruction did not matter 2 Tim 4:2-4
  
6. Therefore... God's Judgment (4:13 – 19)
  - a. What you do physically, becomes you're life physically
  - b. Out of the heart proceeded all wrong/sinful actions
  - c. You cannot fix it by correcting it from the outside
    - 1) You're daughters will become whores
    - 2) You're wives and husbands will commit adultery
    - 3) AGAINST YOU! Like you did against GOD! 4:13
  - d. God will leave you all alone – worst thing
    - 1) Hell is \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2) And you will fail. Israel will fail – past the point of no return
    - 3) But not Judah - Needed to take a lesson
    - 4) And fear God doing the same to them
      - a) Stay away from Gilgal
      - b) Bethaven
      - c) No more promises or swearing
    - 5) Those are places Israel Backslid
    - 6) Ephraim is joined/married to idols
    - 7) Stay away from them
  - e. The wine is sour, not sweet – Love is supposed to be sweet 4:18
    - 1) Continual whoredom
    - 2) Love taking and getting, no matter where they get it.

**G. More Judgment Against Israel (5:1-15)**

1. They made places into traps of sin. Like pubs and cults
2. Rebellious people love to make sacrifices there

3. Even though God rebuked them all
4. God knows Ephraim and Israel completely
5. They will not frame/limit/conform their actions to turn back to God/repent
6. Because of the demonic spirit of the whoredoms 5:4
7. And because they have not known Jehovah! 5:4
8. And because of pride
9. Therefore shall Israel
  - a. Fail
  - b. Judah will fail with them
  - c. Tries to seek the Lord, but will not find him. He has left!! Withdrawn himself
  - d. Be devoured in a month
  - e. Be attacked 5:8
  - f. Become desolate
10. Judah is in trouble too 5:10
  - a. Removed Gods line of boundary/separation
  - b. So they were with Israel in all their sins
11. Eaten up like a moth eaten garment.
12. Incurable by the other nations
13. The Assyrians – type of the \_\_\_\_\_
14. God will destroy Israel like a lion
15. No one will rescue you
16. God will go away until they acknowledge their sin and seek Gods face
17. It only happens when in trouble/ affliction 5:15

**H. A Call to Turn Back to the Lord (6:1-3)**

1. Preached by Hosea
2. The judgment is past – has torn plus smitten
3. God will heal us, bind up our wounds
4. 3 days God will \_\_\_\_\_ to live in his sight
5. “In Christ” all this happens at resurrection
6. Then will we know God, If we continue to know/ Learn – the test
7. And God will come to us and bless us like the latter and forever rains

**I. Until Then, What can God do to Israel and Judah? (6:4-11)**

1. Their goodness only lasts like a vapour
2. SO they are defeated by the prophets and Word of God
3. He wants to have mercy toward us, not over sacrifices and empty worship
4. He wants us to focus on knowing him than offering our best burnt offerings
5. Yet they deal treacherously
  - a. Gilead is full of murder
  - b. Troops of robbers
  - c. Priests are accomplices by consent
  - d. They are \_\_\_\_\_ – Driven by lust
  - e. They are like the worst of society
6. An horrible judgment is coming on both Israel and Judah (6:10-11)

**J. Israel’s Wicked Government (7:1-7)**

1. God can’t forgive or even hear until \_\_\_\_\_ sins are revealed

- a. They were encouraging lies on the inside, and thievery on the outside
- b. Leaders often forget that God knows our hearts
2. Their own doings, and selfish ways, thrill them
3. They (leaders who should have been Godly examples) were all adulterers – isn't that true today???
4. Their hearts are as burnt bread from an oven
  - a. Thoroughly leavened – totally wicked
  - b. Hardened – not soft and light and doey
  - c. Over-cooked, and burnt
5. All judges have been removed – back to Judges 21:25
6. No one calls on God for help or wisdom or forgiveness

**K. Ignorant of Their Sin (7:8-11)**

1. The entire nation is ignorant of just how wicked they are
2. Mixed with pagan nations
3. Imbalanced – like a cake not flipped
4. \_\_\_\_\_ have
  - a. Stolen their strength and glory
  - b. Aged the nation
  - c. And no one is aware that it has happened
5. Sin will always age you faster than normal (Rom 6:23)
6. Pride points to Ephraim's face
7. Pride keeps the people from repenting and seeking God
8. They are like a silly dove, with no heart, no concern – a flittering fool – not thinking at all of the consequences
  - a. Calling to Egypt and Assyria – enemies of God and of Israel
  - b. Calling to them as if they are friends and “lovers”!

**L. God's Coming Judgment on Israel – the Northern Ten Tribes (7:12-16)**

1. When Israel runs to Assyria for “\_\_\_\_\_”
  - a. That is when God will capture and enslave them
  - b. And that is when God will begin to chasten them by their captivity
2. Woe unto Israel because...
  - a. They ran FROM God, to other gods
  - b. They sinned against God
  - c. Lied against God
  - d. Have not repented with their heart
  - e. Ignored God as the Giver of \_\_\_\_\_ their blessings and the good things in their lives
  - f. Imagined mischief against God!
  - g. They often “return” and act sweet and nice... but not towards God.
  - h. It is like when a couple is in a fight, but can instantly be nice to other people, and can pretend to bow and honour when they really want to run away from each other.
3. All the princes and rulers shall die because they rage against God – furious at Him – like a fighting woman in a home

- a. Notice the problem is with the WIFE
- b. Signalled by her anger and attitude
- c. They shall be held in derisive mockery by the people in Egypt who will not help them!

**M. Sound the Alarm – the \_\_\_\_\_ is Coming! (8:1-14)**

1. HE shall come
2. Because... here are more reasons for God’s judgments (God keeps great records against us)
  - a. Israel broke God’s marriage covenant – committed adultery
  - b. Ignored God’s rules, and laws
  - c. Have set up kings and princes and entire governments without God
  - d. Made idols out of God’s blessings!
3. Israel will try and cry unto God (8:2,3) but to no avail
4. But Samaria’s \_\_\_\_\_ will turn against them (8:5,6)
5. Israel will reap \_\_\_\_\_ than they planted
6. Nothing they do now will be productive or successful – everything is now cursed
  - a. They as a nation will be swallowed up – among the Gentiles – not a people anymore!
  - b. They are going to Assyria as captives (8:9-10)
    - 1) Not like an army
    - 2) But like a captured wild donkey, alone
    - 3) No matter how many lovers they have PAID to help them
7. Because...
  - a. Of false worship (8:11)
  - b. They rejected God’s law – won’t endure sound doctrine
  - c. Wrong sacrifices – God won’t accept them like he wouldn’t accept Cain’s
8. Headed \_\_\_\_\_ into slavery, but this time, into Assyria
  - a. All because Israel FORGOT their Maker
  - b. And because Judah relies on fenced cities (self defence) instead of on God
  - c. And it is no matter, because all of their “protections” will be burned by the Assyrian (8:14)

**N. No More \_\_\_\_\_ – The Results of Captivity (9:1-17)**

1. This is all because Israel went whoring away from God
2. No mores!
  - a. No more Harvest
  - b. No more dwelling in “\_\_\_\_\_ land” – what a name! Headed for e new home – slavery in Assyria
  - c. No more good diets – you will eat only awful, unclean, sinful foods and creatures
  - d. No more Sacrifices (9:4)
  - e. No more worship days, or fest days (9:5)
  - f. No more freedom – Assyria and Memphis (Egypt) will own everything now
  - g. No more godly Prophets or Spiritual Men
    - 1) They will only be fools and madmen
    - 2) The watchmen (warners) were good
    - 3) But the prophets were traps- full of hatred
    - 4) They had deeply defiled and corrupted themselves
    - 5) Israel did NOT start out this way

- a) They had been good grapes back in the wilderness
- b) Now they were bad fruit – abominable – not to be touched
- c) To the same degree of their love for their idols (9:10)
  
- h. No more children (9:11-14,16)
  - 1) Bereaved of the children that they have – split up
  - 2) You have given them to the murderous Assyrians
  - 3) Miscarriages
  - 4) Starvation
  
- i. No more love – they will only know the HATRED of God (9:15) who will simply throw them away as a nation (9:17)!

**O. Further Description of Israel's Coming Captivity (10:1-8)**

1. Because...
  - a. Israel is an empty vine – no fruit (Cf Luke 13:7; Mt 21:19), only full of idols and images and statues, but no spiritual reality
  - b. They are confused about what to do
2. The Assyrian will destroy what Israel has worshipped
3. A king won't help defeat them
4. Swearing by God won't help them – it will be a false swearing
5. Condemnation will spring against them like weeds (10:4)
6. Samaria will watch as their \_\_\_\_\_ gods are stolen and taken to Jareb. It's "glory" (false as it is) will depart!
7. High places will be destroyed – only to be replaced with thorns and thistles
8. And everyone will want to die, just like in the Tribulation (Cf Rev 6:16).

**P. More Reasons For God's Judgment (10:9-15)**

1. Israel has been this way a long time – since the Benjaminites of Gibeah (Judg 19,20)
  - a. Showed no kindness (Judg 19:14,15)
  - b. Unsafe streets
  - c. Sodomites – pagan baalites – killers (Judg 19:22; 20:5)
  - d. Gang rapists
  - e. No justice – protected the murderous rapists (20:13)
  - f. Chose to fight against God's people out of pride
  - g. This same attitude and wickedness spread throughout the Northern ten Tribes of Israel
2. Israel never defeated the sin of Gibeah – it only SPREAD
3. So, God has had to constantly chastise
4. But now has to enslave Israel and Judah even (10:11)
5. God begs Israel and Judah to
  - a. Start sowing righteousness (Rom 10:2-10), because you will always reap mercy
  - b. Break up your hard hearts – fallow ground
  - c. Seek the Lord – "it is TIME to seek the Lord"
6. Yet, Israel always responds the same way
  - a. Ploughs sin, and reaps worse sin (10:13)
  - b. Trust in their own way and in their own might
7. Therefore, utter destruction is coming (10:14,15)!!!

**Q. Persistent Adultery – Whoredom – rebellion (11:1-7)**

1. God drew Israel to Himself
  - a. Not just like a groom calls his bride
  - b. But as a father calls his \_\_\_\_\_ – referring to Israel being called
  - c. But this is a \_\_\_\_\_ prophecy (Mt 2:15; Ex 4:23)
  - d. God talks as if He has a son (Cf Prov 30:4; Isa 9:6,7)
2. Yet, when “they” (the other nations) called, Israel abandoned their covenant (wedding vows, marriage covenant)
3. God had taught Ephraim, but they were just blind to God’s help
4. God loved them and drew them gently, freeing them from slavery in Egypt – but the Assyrian will become their king now (THE Assyrian is a reference to a type of the antichrist).
5. All because they refuse to humble themselves, repent, and return to God (their Husband) (11:5)
6. So, all cities will be conquered.

**R. God Does Not Judgment (11:8-12)**

1. God asks, How can He let Israel go???
2. He struggles in His heart – repenting back and forth! THAT IS WHAT LOVE WILL DO TO YOU. \_\_\_\_\_ had the SAME DILEMMA in Matthew 2!
3. God will not utterly destroy Israel
  - a. He sure could have and even should have
  - b. But thankfully, He is \_\_\_\_\_ and NOT man
4. Israel shall, one day, follow the Lord
5. But right now, Israel is in trouble with God (11:12)!
6. And at that moment, Judah was staying faithful

**S. Israel needs to Know Some Things (12:1-14)**

1. Realize that you are feeding on Assyria’s affection
2. Remember that your base sin is selfishness. Okay. Be selfish enough to seek GOD again! For your own benefit!
  - a. Jacob wrestled with God and WON! He got power with God, and prevailed, and heard God speak to him
  - b. Therefore, turn back to God yourselves!
3. You are like a greedy merchant
  - a. You think that you are rich – like the \_\_\_\_\_ Christians (Rev 3)
  - b. Think you have no sin – like the \_\_\_\_\_
4. But God will bring you back – it is a vow – a promise (12:9,10)
5. Unfortunately there is sin everywhere; In Gilead (Hos 6:8), and in Gilgal
6. Israel has forgotten just how good God has been to them, providing for them, preserving them, and protecting them
7. You had better know that God’s bitter wrath is coming against you!

**T. Israel's Falling Away (13:1,2)**

1. Israel used to tremble, and be soft – that was how king Saul started. It is how most Christians start. The key is to \_\_\_\_\_ that way too!
2. God exalted you
3. But when Israel as a nation turned to Baal, he died spiritually
4. And it didn't stop there
  - a. Sin feeds on itself – only grows
  - b. They made great and delicate images by craftsmen – put out their best efforts
  - c. Even \_\_\_\_\_ the calves - \_\_\_\_\_

**U. Therefore, God's Judgment is Right (13:3-9)**

1. Israel, as a nation will disappear like a \_\_\_\_\_
2. Because \_\_\_\_\_ is the Lord and not Baal
3. "I am the same God that delivered you from Egypt's dominion
4. You will NOT know any love, or any other god but Jehovah's!
5. There is NO other \_\_\_\_\_ but me (Isa 43:3,11; 45:21)
6. God took good care of Israel while they journeyed I the wilderness
7. Yet, they still \_\_\_\_\_ God (13:6)
8. So, God will become as a \_\_\_\_\_ and will devour (13:7,8)
9. And it is all because of Israel – it is not God's will (13:9a; Cf 2 Pet 3:9)

**V. If Only Israel Would Let God Save Them (13:9-16)**

1. God asks, "Let me be your king"
  - a. "I gave you what you wanted" King Saul
  - b. "Saul didn't work out did he?"
  - c. "Let me lead and govern you"
  - d. "Quit trying to be a controlling woman" trying to make what you want to happen, happen! You don't belong in the delivery room!
2. It is GOD who will fight for you and deliver you – always has been that way
3. IF you will just let Him
4. He can and will deliver from:
  - a. The power of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. From the absolute power of \_\_\_\_\_
5. God is determined to do this
6. But since you won't allow Him to fight for you, God's judgment is coming from Assyria – from the EAST (13:165,16)

**W. Israel's Future Restoration (14:1-8)**

1. If you would only listen and learn
2. If you would only talk with GOD! And ask Him
  - a. Take away all our iniquity – \_\_\_\_\_ can be taken away, not bit by bit
  - b. Receive us by \_\_\_\_\_
3. And the commit to doing the following:
  - a. We will sacrifice with our LIPS
  - b. We will accept that Assyria will not be good for us
  - c. We won't look to horses for help



- d. We will no longer worship idols and the works of our hands
- e. We will commit to those things because YOU are MERCIFUL

4. God makes several good promises

- a. To heal their backsliding
- b. Love them freely – starting all over again
- c. No more anger
- d. Give blessings once again on Israel
- e. Expand Israel
- f. Return the people to their land
- g. Revive the nation
- h. Ephraim will one day become sick of their idolatry and will fall back in love with their God, Jehovah (14:8)

**X. If Only SOMEONE was Smart Enough to Read and Understand This Prophecy and Turn Back to God (14:9)!**

- 1. Because God is RIGHT in what He does to Israel and to all people who turn away from Him
- 2. Because the godly shall live by these words
- 3. But the rebellious shall be ruined!
- 4. SO! This is a GOSPEL TRACT written to get Israel to repent before it is too late!

**III. Brief Summary**

- A. First, your own review – write out what you think you learned from this Book (go back and see the two things from each page that you wrote down): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. The Book of Hosea is a prophetic accounting of God’s relentless love for His children. Since the beginning of time God’s ungrateful and undeserving creation has been accepting God’s love, grace, and mercy but unable to refrain from its wickedness. Hosea takes this act of unfaithfulness personally as he takes a prostitute in marriage.
- C. Hosea shows how God’s love is once again restored to His children and the sins of His children are forgotten with a repentant heart of His followers. The prophetic message of Hosea foretells the coming of Israel’s Messiah 700 years in the future and Hosea is quoted often in the New Testament.

**IV. Practical Application:**

- A. The Book of Hosea assures us of God’s amazing love for mankind. But it is also a picture of how God is dishonoured and hurt by the actions of His people. How can a wife who is given an abundance of love, mercy, and grace treat her lover with so much disrespect? Yet, we have done just that for centuries. As we look at how the Israelites turned their backs on God we need to look no further than the mirror in front of us to see a reflection of those same Israelites.
- B. Only by remembering how much God has done for each us will we be able to avoid hurting the One who can give us eternal life in Glory instead of the Hell we deserve. It is essential that we learn to fully reverence our Creator. When we do make a mistake Hosea has shown us that if we have a sorrowful heart and a promise of repentance then God will again show His never-ending love to us.