



Minor Prophets

Lesson 4

Hosea Chapters 1-10

The prophet Hosea was a contemporary of Amos, but his message focused on a different aspect of the moral and spiritual breakdown of Israel. While Amos spoke about the nation's deterioration in the area of social justice, Hosea message highlighted their spiritual adultery through idol worship. The corruption within their society expressed in their lack of compassion for the poor and overindulgence of the rich was simply a symptom of a deeper, more deadly disease. Lusting after the gods of the pagan nations led them away from their Creator and deliverer. As the kings and priests of the nation became more and more corrupt, the people gladly surrendered to the humanistic lifestyles that gave them a false sense of security and prosperity. In the first three chapters of the

book, God's redeeming love is mirrored in the life of Hosea. Though the details are sometimes choppy and difficult to follow chronologically, Hosea's story of heartbreak and desperation within his marriage to Gomer reveals the faithful love of God for His wayward people. Chapters 4-14 carry God's message of rebuke and punishment due to their failure to respond to His love for them. The gods they look to for relief cannot save them nor can the surrounding nations protect them from the coming disaster. Only one thing can..."Who is wise? He will realize these things. Who is discerning? He will understand them. The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them." 14:9

READ HOSEA 1-2

1. *What kings were reigning in both Israel and Judah during Hosea's ministry? Hosea 1:1*



Although Hosea is the first of the 12 minor prophets listed in the Hebrew Bible, he is one of the last prophets before Israel was invaded and was active during the time of Isaiah and Micah.

2. *Fill in the chart using the information of Hosea's children in 1:2-9.*

	<i>Name of the child</i>	<i>Meaning of the name</i>	<i>Symbolic meaning</i>
1.			
2.			
3.			

3. *Read 1 Kings 21. What did Ahab and Jezebel do in Jezreel that brought the prophetic judgment in Hosea 1:4-5?*

4. *What promise does God give along with these curses? Hosea 1:10-11*

5. *What warnings does God give Israel as the adulterous wife in 2:2-13, and what promises of redemption does He give in 2:14-23?*

READ HOSEA 3-4

6. *From Hosea 3:1-2, how is God's redemptive process started?*

7. *What charges are brought against Israel in chapter 4, and what warning does He give to Judah in verse 15?*



Because Ephraim was the largest tribe of Israel, when referring to the northern kingdom the name Ephraim is sometimes used for Israel.

READ HOSEA 5-7

8. *What keeps Israel from true repentance? 5:4*
9. *In chapter 6, it appears that some of the people of Israel repens. What is the Lord's response to that repentance in 6:4-6?*
10. *Where is Israel going for help or rescue instead of God? Amos 7:11 What is God's response to that? Amos 7:13-16*

READ HOSEA 8-10

11. *In chapter 8:8-14, what are some of the specific behaviors Hosea identifies how Israel defies God using their own methods to solve their issues. In what ways today do we go to the wrong sources for solutions to our problems?*
12. *What did God prophesy in Hosea 9:3 that would be one of the specific curses the Israelites would experience when they were captives, and what does God tell Ezekiel to do in Ezekiel 4:9-15 to give a literal picture of this? Why does that make what Daniel and his friends did in Daniel 1:8-16 so significant?*
13. *In 10:12, what does God encourage them to do to be restored? How does Paul state this same basic concept in Philippians 4:8-9?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
