



## Minor Prophets

### Lesson 5

#### Hosea Chapters 11-14

*Hosea's critical message to the nation of Israel is one of judgment for spiritual adultery. They have abandoned their first love and exchanged Him for gods of wood and stone. Those wood and stone idols were visual images of the Baals (El, Dagon, Asherah etc. were cohorts or sometimes other names used for Baal). Though these idols came in many forms and for many purposes, Baal himself was known as the god of nature and fertility. He controlled the rains and the ability to produce new life. In a desert*

*region with few natural streams and inconsistent rainfall, it became very important to receive his blessing. Due to the nature of this god, eroticism, gross sensuality and immorality were the major expressions of their worship. This also led to cult prostitution and child sacrifice. Hosea, and all the other prophets, warned the people of God's swift, harsh judgment and discipline of those who continued to pursue these false deities.*

#### READ HOSEA 11

1. *How does God compare His relationship to Israel to that of a mother and her child?*
  
2. *Identify how Hosea 11:1 relates to Mathew 2:13-15?*
  
3. *What characteristic of God do you see in Hosea 11:8-9?*

## READ HOSEA 12

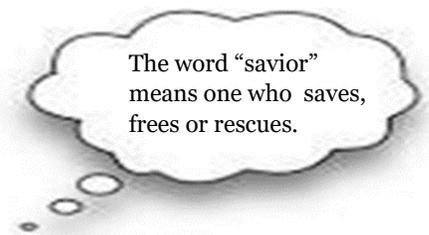


*During the ministry of Hosea, Assyria is putting military pressure on Israel in the north. To avoid having to face that strong nation alone, they attempt to make alliances with Egypt to help them militarily. Hosea warns them to not look to other nations to save them but only to God.*

4. *In Chapter 12:1-5 and 9-10, what does God remind them about who He has been to them as a nation throughout their history, and what is their response to that truth in verse 8?*
  
5. *Whose sin does God refer to in Hosea 12:4-6 to identify Israel's current state of sin? Read Genesis 27:18-23, 32:24-30 and 35:1-7. What was Jacob's sin, and what events revealed his return to the Lord as God is imploring the nation now to return?*

## READ HOSEA 13

6. *What does God remind them of in verse 4? See also Isaiah 45:21-22.*



7. *Who was Israel looking to save them (see note above), and why is that a paradox to what God is saying is going to happen to them?*

8. *Give the Hebrew definitions of the words “ransom” and “redeem” in 13:14 from a concordance, interlinear Bible, or a Hebrew dictionary.*
9. *What has always been God’s purpose in ransoming and redeeming His people? Galatians 4:4-5 .and Titus 2:14*

READ HOSEA 14

10. *Give several phrases from verses 4-7 that reveal God’s unfailing love for these rebellious people?*
11. *In verse 9, Hosea says those who are “wise” and “prudent” (discerning NAS) will understand God’s declarations. Look up those words and explain what you think it means to be wise and prudent.*
12. *In what two ways does Hosea say we can respond to God’s truth?*

***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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