



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

What we can learn from the Minor Prophets

- Each wrote under inspiration of God.
- The messages of the 12 Minor Prophets are applicable for all people in all ages.
- Christian principles abound in all the prophets' writings.
- Events in history are there for our instruction today.

What we can learn from the Minor Prophets

- The Minor Prophets give us a greater awareness of God's presence in history.
 - They provide inspiring examples of people of faith during very difficult times.
 - They give an understanding of cause and effect in human events.
- They provide deeper insight into God's judgments and mercy.
 - They teach the lesson of duality in Bible history.

- Every book in the Bible is preserved under **direct inspiration from God**
- And contains information that every person **in every age and time** can profit from.

- The apostle Paul wrote in

2 Timothy 3:16:

“All Scripture

***is given by inspiration of
God, and is profitable for
doctrine, for reproof,
for correction,
for instruction
in righteousness.”***

- Paul was referring to the Hebrew Scriptures that Timothy **had known from childhood.**
- Which comprised the **39** books that we find today in the Old Testament.
- **In three major divisions:**
 - The Law,
 - The Prophets
 - The History.

- **Who** were these prophets who wrote so many books in the Old Testament?
- **Who** were they writing to?
 - **What** were they writing about?

- Is anything they wrote relevant for us today, and if so, how much?
 - What can we learn from these ancient prophets?

- Hosea

is the first book in
the sections of
Minor Prophets.

- They are called **Minor Prophets**

not because their material is less important or insignificant,

- But because of the size of the book they wrote was **shorter in length.**

- The prophet Hosea wrote it at approximately **715 B.C.**
- It records the events from **753-715 B.C.** including the fall of the **Northern Kingdom** **in 721-722.**

- The prophet's name means "salvation," likely a reference to Hosea's position in Israel as a beacon of hope to those who would repent and turn to God because of his message.

- Following the command of God, Hosea married Gomer, a bride God described as “a wife of harlotry” (**Hosea 1:2**).

- **To whom was the prophet sent?**
 - To none other than the **Ten Tribes of Israel.**
 - Having torn themselves **from the house of David,**
 - Separating themselves from the **true worship of God,**
 - And exposing themselves **to worldly wickedness**
- **And all manner of abominations.**

- In the year 721 B.C.
the Northern Kingdom fell.
- Falling into the hands
of the Assyrian army.
- Its people were taken to
a foreign land as captives.
- Later some escaped and went
into the north countries.
- They are often referred to as
the lost ten tribes.

- Hosea, Elijah,
Elisha, Amos and
Jonah
were all from the
Northern
Kingdom.

- Hosea's message is to the nation of Israel, exposing their sins
- And warning them of coming judgment.
- There is also a message of hope for the future.

- During this time,
they are active in
oppressing the poor
and
worshiping idols.

- Hosea illustrates the spiritual adultery of Israel and God's boundless love for His sinful people.

- **But the unique thing**

about

Hosea's message

is that:

- **He had to live it**

before he could

preach it.

- The prophet had to experience deep agony in his own marriage because of the sins of his wife,
 - All of this was a divinely sent object lesson to him and his people.

- One of the enduring **images/pictures** that God uses to help us understand **our relationship to Him,**
- And the strength of **His commitment,**
- And the depth of **His love for us**
- Is the picture of **a marriage.**

- The key personalities are
 - Hosea,
 - Gomer,
 - and their children.

- **Hosea 1:1**

*The word of the LORD
that came unto Hosea...*

- **Let it be noted:**

- Hosea
did not go to
the Word of the Lord,

- But the Word
came to him.

- **God's word fulfills two functions:**

- **It is reveals**
- **And instructs.**

- Whenever one studies the book of Hosea, one is fascinated by the events related to his marriage to Gomer.

- Gomer bore Hosea three children, two sons and a daughter (**Hosea 1:4, 6, 9**).
- God used the names of Hosea's children, along with his wife's unfaithfulness, to send specific messages to the people of Israel.

- The names of the children **were a life-long admonition** of God's intervening judgments.

- Since Israel refused to hear God's words,

He made the

prophet's sons names

walking sermons.

- He depicted in them and in their names

what was to be.

- We can trace the history of Israel in the names of the **three children:**

- (1) **Jezreel** means “**scattered,**” (Hosea 1:4)

- Referring to the time when God would **scatter Israel** among the nations.

- (2) Lo-ruhamah
means
“unpitied,”
(Hosea 1:6)

- Meaning that
God would lift His mercy
from the nation
and permit her
to suffer for her sins.

- (3) Lo-ammi

means

“not my people,”

(Hosea 1:9)

- Indicating that Israel is

out of fellowship

with God

- And its people are not His people as once they were.

- Many have difficulties with the thought that a holy God should have required servants to marry a woman who was a prostitute.

- Some want to see this expressed in a

parable only.

- It may be that Gomer was leading an immoral life already **before getting married**
- As this would be understandable considering the decline of the people.
- There is yet another example in the O.T. of an Israelite's relationship with a prostitute:
Salmon begat Boaz of Rahab
the prostitute
(**Ruth 4:21; Matthew 1:5**).

- Another possibility would be that the word

- "prostitute"

or

"wife of whoredom"

(Hosea 1:2)

indicates anticipating what Gomer would do

after her marriage.

- **Hosea 1:2**

***Jehovah said unto Hosea,
Go, take unto thee
a wife of whoredom
and children of whoredom;
for the land doth commit
great whoredom,
in departing from Jehovah.***
(Hosea 1:2 ASV).

- Imagine how Hosea's heart was broken over her sin.

- Our Lord Lamented over Jerusalem

- Matthew 23:37 (NET)

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you!

• How often I have longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would have none of it!

- Then God commanded the prophet to go find his wayward wife.
 - He discovered her being sold in the slave market!
(**Hosea 3:1-2**)
- He had to buy his own wife back, bring her home, and assure her of his forgiveness and love.

- 1 John 2:2

And he is the

propitiation

for our sins:

and not for ours only,
but also for *the sins of*
the whole world.

- A term meaning that

Jesus paid the price for our sins.

- Like Gomer we too were

on the auction block.

- “*There is none righteous, no no one.*”⁸

- All of this pictured **Israel's unfaithfulness** to the Lord.

- The nation was **married to the Lord**

(Exo_34:14-16; Deu_32:16; Isa_62:5; Jer_3:14)

and should have **remained faithful to Him.**

- But Israel **lusted after false gods** of other nations.
- Thus, committing **“spiritual adultery”** by forsaking the true God and worshiping the idols of her enemies.

- Like Gomer,
Israel would
go into slavery
(captivity)
because of her sins.
- But that is
not
the end of the story.

- Just as Hosea sought out his wife and bought her back,
 - So the Lord would seek out His people, set them free, and restore them to His love and blessing.

- **Matthew 11:28**

*Come unto me, all ye that labour
and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.*

- **11:29** *Take my yoke upon you, and
learn of me; for I am meek and
lowly in heart: and ye shall find
rest unto your souls.*

- **11:30** *For my yoke is easy,
and my burden is light.*

- **But for his own sorrow,**

Hosea never could have **understood God's grief.**

- Do we ever understand **the grief we cause God?**

- ***And grieve not
the holy Spirit of God,
whereby ye are sealed
unto the day of
redemption.***

(Ephesians 4:30)

- It is an astounding fact that the Holy Spirit may be grieved.
 - And that due to His holy character.
 - Thereby, vexed with our unholiness.
 - When we turn our back upon Him.
 - And turn to the world for company,
 - To feed greedily upon the empty “husks” like the Prodigal.
- (**Luke 15**)

- God,
because of His grace,
sent another opportunity
for **Israel** to repent
and turn to Him.

- Shortly thereafter,
the Northern Kingdom
went into
permanent captivity.

- In chapters 1-3,
God gives Hosea
instructions to marry
an unfaithful woman
and he obeys.
- His unfaithful wife Gomer
leaves him and finds
another man.

- Hosea is faithful;
he finds her,
redeems her

and brings her back home to him.

- ***“Then I said to her,
‘You shall stay with me
for many days.
You shall not play the harlot, nor
shall you have a man; so I will
also be toward you’
(Hosea 3:3).***

- Chapters **4-14**

Hosea describes how Israel **has been unfaithful to God.**

- God wants Israel **to repent and turn** from their wickedness.

- He wants to restore Israel however, **they continue to disobey** and follow their own ways.

- *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.*
- *Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you ...*
(Hosea 4:6).

- This great prophet of the Northern Kingdom had a message to the people of Israel that that is **still relevant for today's** modern day society in which we live.

- **Jeremiah 19:3**

**Hear ye the
word of the LORD,
O kings of Judah, and
inhabitants of Jerusalem;
Thus saith the LORD of hosts,
the God of Israel; Behold, I will
bring evil upon this place, the
which whosoever heareth,
his ears shall tingle.**

- It was precisely the shocking nature of Hosea's action which caused his prophecies to be remembered and preserved.

- Hosea's marriage is a cycle of:
 - Repentance,
 - Redemption,
 - Restoration
- and remains intimately connected to our lives.

- This sequence plays itself out in the lives of real people,
 - Reminding us that the Scriptures are far from a mere collection of abstract statements with no relation to real life.

- The scriptures work their way into our day-to-day existence, commenting on issues that impact all our actions and relationships.

- Structured around five cycles of judgment and restoration,
- The book of Hosea makes clear its repetitious theme:
 - Though God will bring judgment on sin,
 - His willingness to forgive and restore is His nature.

- **Hosea 14:4**

***The LORD says,
"I will bring my people
back to me.***

***I will love them with
all my heart;***

***no longer am I
angry with them.***

- **Micah 7:18**

Who is a God like you?

- ***You forgive sin and overlook the rebellion of your faithful people.***
- ***You will not be angry forever, because you would rather show mercy.***

- **Micah 7:19**

He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

- The book of Hosea illustrates that no one is beyond the offer of forgiveness because no one sits outside God's offer of forgiveness.

**Doors of the church
are open.**

**Spirit & Bride Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17

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