

MINOR PROPHETS

HOSEA

The man

- His name means salvation, deliverance, or help.
- It is believed that he was of the 10 northern tribes, possibly from Samaria. He seems to speak as a native and not as an outsider. He has keen insight into the religious, social, and political conditions of his day, indicates that he knew in an intimate way the things of which he spoke. His tender love for Israel argues for his being a citizen of the nation whom he addressed.
- He was directed by God to marry a "woman of whoredom". Because of this experience, Hosea was able to understand, by first hand experience the feelings of God for Israel.

Comparison of Hosea and Amos-both men were prophesying around the same time to the same people. Hosea just after the prophesies of Amos.

Differences-

-**Amos** was a man of stern character. He saw Jehovah as the God of justice, he must punish Israel for their sins. As a shepherd, he was set apart from the people to whom he prophesied.

- **Hosea** was a man of much sympathy, lovingkindness. As a part of these people, he could sympathize with them....he knew what they were going through, he saw it every day.....he was among these people.

Similarities

- Both realized the justice of God's righteous judgment upon the people. They deserved what God was about to do to them.
- Both held an exalted view of Jehovah
- Both realized, that Israel although separated from Judah, were still a part of God's people.
- Both realized that punishment and destruction of the nation were inevitable. It was going to happen.

Date-

- During the reign of Jeroboam II. About the yr. 750 B.C.
- Amos prophesied around 760-750 B.C.

Background

- As in the time of Amos, the nation was truly in a state of decay, Religiously, morally and socially.
- Politically, the nation was in much upheaval during the time of Hosea. After the death of Jeroboam II, his son Zechariah reigned for only a period of 6 mos. He was slain by a man named Shallum. He only reigned for the period of one month, before he was slain as well by Menahem. This man ruled for a period of 10 yrs. During much of his reign, Israel was a basically a slave to Assyria, although not taken captive at this time. As long as Israel paid the heavy tribute to Assyria, things were fine. However, after his death things began to steadily decline even further. More treason and murder amongst the rulers etc.....finally Tiglath-Pileser (King of Assyria) had had enough, and began to march against Israel, and finally to take her prisoner, and carry it's citizens captive to Assyria.

Message

- God is love. God loved his people and had demonstrated this love time and time again....but they refused to repent. God loved them as a father loves his wayward child.
- Doom of the nation is inevitable. It will happen. The nation had sunk to a level of such degradation that it could not survive, it could not dig itself out no matter how hard they tried, if they even tried. Judgment is coming.

(This information was taken from the book "A commentary on the Minor Prophets", by Homer Hailey)

Hosea
Chapter one

1. Where did Hosea get his message from?

2. What time period did he prophesy? Who were kings at this time? Can you find out anything about these kings who reigned?

3. Before he began to preach to the people, what did God tell Hosea to do? What kind of woman was she? Did he obey God?

4. How was the marriage of Hosea and Gomer a reflection of the relationship between Jehovah and Israel?

5. How many children did they have? What were their names? What is the significance of their names?

6. Despite this message of doom and gloom, what was to be the final outcome of this nation? Vv10-2:1

7. How did the apostles use these verses (10,11) to teach people in their time? See 1 Pet. 1:1; 2:10; Rom. 9:26

(OVER)

Hosea
Chapter Two

Vv2-7

8. Who is speaking here, Jehovah or Hosea? How can you tell?

9. What is he saying here?

10. What will God do to her children? Or not do?

11. Who was Israel trusting for their sustenance, the things they needed to survive?

12. What would God do to her? Vv6,7 What good would this do ?

Vv8-13

13. What didn't Israel know?

14. What was God going to do because of this?

Vv14-20

15. What would God eventually do with Israel?

16. How would this relationship be different than before? When would this happen?

Vv21-23

17. How are the heavens and the earth, linked to the request of God's people (Jezreel) for wine and grain and oil?

Chapter three

18. Again, what is the comparison between Hosea and his wife and Jehovah and Israel?

19. Hosea takes Gomer back, but under what conditions?

20. After the children of Israel would be without a king, or prince....or able to worship as they had wanted for a period of time.....who would they return to ???

21. Would King David be resurrected from the dead to now serve as king again? Please explain.

Hosea
Chaps. 4-9

In these next chapters Hosea will prophecy that their “judgment day” was not very far off. Despite the fact that they were in their “golden yrs.”.....things were going fine up to this point.....they were prospering materially (Ivory palaces, silken couches etc.).....strong military strength....yet a careful examination on the inside of the nation.....what was going on “within its gates”, tells quite a different story. In these next chapters we need to take the time to look intently at:

- What was Israel really like, in the period just before its collapse?
- What is God like? What characteristics of God are seen in Hosea?

CHAPTER FOUR

Vv1-5 Israel’s collapse

1. What was life like in Israel at this time?

Vv6-10

2. What would you say was the main reason why the nation had gotten so bad? V1,6
3. Whose responsibility was it to teach the “Knowledge of God” to the people? Mal. 2:7 Why didn’t they do their job? 1 Kings 12:25-31

Vv11-14- Their immoral worship

4. Describe their immoral worship at this time. What effect did such immoral worship have on Family life?
5. What happens when to the morals of people when you abandon religion? When you take God out of the picture? Cite examples.

Vv15-19

6. What animal does Hosea compare them to? V16 Why them?
7. What would be Israel’s future?

