

STUDIES IN THE MINOR PROPHETS

HOSEA

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

I. Israel's Adultery, Chapters 1-3.

- . Hosea and Gomer - God and Israel: Israel the adulteress and her children, 1:2 - 2:1.
 - 1. The prophet's marriage to Gomer by divine command, and the three children who are given prophetic names, 1:2-9.
 - a. Hosea charged to take a wife of "whoredom," verses 2,3.
 - b. Jezreel symbolizing the overthrow of Jehu's dynasty, verses 4,5.
 - c. Lo-ruhamah - God will not more have mercy upon Israel, verses 6,7.
 - d. Lo-ammi - the utter rejection of Israel, verses 8,9.
 - 2. Restoration of children of Judah and Israel, 1:10 - 2:1.
- . Chastisement of idolatrous Israel, conversion, and final restoration, 2:2-23.
 - 1. The threat of punishment, verses 2-13.
 - a. Condemnation of sinful conduct, verses 2-7.
 - b. Punishment more fully developed, verses 8-13.
 - 2. Conversion and final restoration, verses 14-23.
 - a. The promise of their conversion, verses 14-17.
 - b. The renewal of a covenant and mercies, verses 18-23.
- . The prophet's second symbolic marriage, Chapter 3.
 - 1. The symbolic action of the prophet, verses 1-3.
 - 2. The application to Israel, verses 4,5.

II. Prophetic Discourses: The ungodliness of Israel and its inevitable punishment, chapters 4-13.

- . God's controversy with Israel, Chapters 4-6.
 - 1. The controversy: over the national guilt, Chapter 4.
 - a. Moral corruption in everyday life, verses 1-5.
 - b. Lack of knowledge - failure of the priests, verses 6-10.
 - c. Immoral religious practices, verses 11-14.
 - d. Ephraim joined to his idols - but let Judah be warned, verses 15-19.
 - 2. Corruption in all phases of life, Chapter 5.
 - a. Guilt of priests, people, and princes, verses 1-7.
 - b. Judgment must follow - all to suffer the consequences; destruction slow, but sure, verses 8-15.
 - 3. Insincerity - an abomination before God, Chapter 6.
 - a. Israel's return, but without heartfelt repentance, verses 1-3.
 - b. God is not deceived - there is no sorrow for sin on Israel's part, verses 4-11.
- . Israel's corrupt political condition and consequence, Chapters 7,8.
 - 1. The national government internally - moral degradation and anarchy, 7:1-7.
 - 2. The nation's corrupt foreign policy - her appeal to foreign nations is to end in destruction, 7:8-16.
 - 3. Judgment - national corruption and its consequences, Chapter 8.
 - a. Judgment has become inevitable - idolatry is an abomination: as have sown, so shall reap, verses 1-7.
 - b. Appeals to the nations will not save Israel, verses 8-10.

- c. Multiplied idolatry - its harvest: condemnation and judgment, verses 11-14.
 - . Israel's religious and moral apostasy - its punishment, exile and destruction, Chapters 9-11.
 - 1. The degeneracy of Israel and ruin of its kingdom, Chapter 9.
 - a. The apostasy and its punishment: exile, verses 1-9.
 - b. As God found Israel and as they became, verses 10-17.
 - 2. Guilt in rebellion against God, Chapter 10.
 - a. The guilt and the imminent destruction, verses 1-8.
 - (1) Puppet kings and puppet gods, verses 1-3.
 - (2) Their righteousness now becomes poison, verses 4,5.
 - (3) Assyria is now named, the instrument of judgment, verses 6,7.
 - (4) The terror of the judgment, verse 8.
 - b. Israel's persistence in rebellion, verses 9-15.
 - 3. God's love for prodigal Israel, versus Israel's ingratitude, Chapter 11.
 - a. Israel's ingratitude (back to Israel's history a third time, see 9:10; 10:9; 11:1), verses 1-7.
 - (1) Love vs. ingratitude, verses 1-4.
 - (2) Ingratitude demands punishment, verses 5-7.
 - b. Deserved utter destruction - but love of God tempers judgment with mercy, verses 8-11.
 - . Israel's apostasy and God's fidelity, Chapters 12,13.
 - 1. Israel's degeneracy into Canaanitish ways, 11:12 - 12:14.
 - a. Worldliness - Ephraim deceitful; Judah un-steadfast, 11:12 - 12:6.
 - (1) Faithlessness of Ephraim brings punishment on all posterity, 11:12 - 12:2.
 - (2) Example of forefathers should have led to faithfulness, verses 3-6.
 - b. But Israel has become Canaan, 12:7-14.
 - 2. Israel's deep fall, Chapter 13.
 - a. Idolatry, the basis of Israel's destruction, verses 1-8.
 - (1) Idolatry, the curse, verses 1-3.
 - (2) God, their benefactor and judge, verses 4-8.
 - b. Distrust in God - this was the destruction of Israel, verses 9-16.
- III. Israel's conversion and pardon, Chapter 14.
- . God's grace once more to those who turn to Him, verses 1-8.
 - 1. Call to repentance, verses 1-3.
 - 2. The promise of healing, verses 4-8.
 - . Epilogue, verse 9.
Israel cries to God; He hears their cry and responds by an outpouring of rich blessings.

QUESTIONS ON THE BOOK OF HOSEA

1. When Hosea prophesied, who was King of Judah and who was King of Israel? _____

2. Where does Hosea say he got the words which delivered to the people? 1:1 _____

- I. Israel's Adultery, Chapters 1-3.

- . Hosea and Gomer - God and Israel: Israel the adulteress and her children, 1:2 - 2:1.
 - 1. The prophet's marriage to Gomer by divine command, and the three children who are given prophetic names, 1:2-9.
 - a. Hosea charged to take a wife of "whoredom," verses 2,3,3.
 - 3. What did the Lord command Hosea to do? 1:2 _____

 - 4. Does this mean that she was such a person when Hosea married her? _____

 - 5. His wife's name was _____. (1:3)
 - b. Jezreel symbolizing the overthrow of Jehu's dynasty, verses 4,5.
 - 6. What is the significance of the name the Lord gave to Hosea's first son? 1:4,5 _____

 - 7. What is the significance of the name the Lord gave to Hosea's next child? 1:6,7 _____

 - 8. What is the significance of the name the Lord gave to the second son? 1:8,9 _____

 - 9. Three men received a promise from God concerning their descendants being like the sand of the seashore. Who were they? (See Genesis 22:17; 32:12; Jeremiah 33:22) _____

 - 10. What does this mean in 1:10? 1:10 - 2:1 _____

 - . Chastisement of idolatrous Israel, conversion, and final restoration, 2:2-23.
 - 1. The threat of punishment, verses 2-13.
 - a. Condemnation of sinful conduct, verses 2-7.

11. Who is speaking here, and to whom is it addressed? 2:2,13 _____

12. Identify the "mother" against whom charges are to be brought {or with whom they are to plead}, and what are the charges? 2:2 _____

13. What does the speaker threaten to do to the "mother" here? 2:3 _____

14. In what way are the children, "children of harlotry?" 2:4 _____

15. To whom did this "harlot" give credit for her provisions? 2:5 _____

16. How was the speaker going to handle this "harlot?" 2:6 _____

17. What would be the final outcome of this situation? 2:7 _____

b. Punishment more fully developed, verses 8-13.

18. Who did she give credit for her provisions, and what would God do about this? 2:8,9 _____

19. Explain the significance of uncovering the lewdness of Israel, and who are the "lovers" to whom He refers? 2:10 _____

20. What would He cause to come to an end for this harlot? 2:11 _____

21. What will He cause to happen to her vines and fig trees? 2:12 _____

22. In the "days of the Baals," what had the harlot done? 2:13 _____

2. Conversion and final restoration, verses 14-23.

a. The promise of their conversion, verses 14-17.

23. In what way would the conversion of Israel be like the deliverance of Israel from Egypt and what does God intend to do to bring them to this point? 2:14 _____

24. What is the Valley of Achor, and how does this relate to the conversion of Israel? 2:15 _____

25. Explain the significance of the way in which they would refer to their husband in their conversion. 2:16,17 _____

- b. The renewal of a covenant and mercies, verses 18-23.
26. What would be the principal characteristic of the new covenant which God would make with His people? 2:18 _____

27. Discuss the significance of each of the following terms as they relate to the new relationship which God would enjoy with His people (2:19,20):
- RIGHTEOUSNESS -** _____

- JUSTICE-** _____

- LOVINGKINDNESS-** _____

- MERCY-** _____

- FAITHFULNESS-** _____

28. Since Paul quotes from this context in Romans 9:25,26 and Peter quotes from it in 1 Peter 2:10, how may we understand the meaning of 2:21-23? _____

- . The prophet's second symbolic marriage, Chapter 3.
1. The symbolic action of the prophet, verses 1-3.
29. Who is the "friend" or "lover" and the "woman" in the instruction given in 3:1? _____

30. What is Hosea instructed to do with regard to this "woman?" 3:2 _____

31. How would the relationship be different from the way it was before? 3:3 _____

2. The application to Israel, verses 4,5.
32. What would Israel be without for many days, and what is the significance of these things? 3:4 _____

33. Who is the "David" that Israel would seek in the "latter days?" 3:5 _____

- II. Prophetic Discourses: The ungodliness of Israel and its inevitable punishment, chapters 4-13.
- . God's controversy with Israel, Chapters 4-6.
1. The controversy: over the national guilt, Chapter 4.
a. Moral corruption in everyday life, verses 1-5.
34. Through the prophet, God is bringing legal charges against the nation. What specific laws are enumerated, and what punishment do they carry? 4:1,2; Exodus 20:1-17; 21:12; Leviticus 20:10-12

35. Besides the people, what else would be affected by God's punishment upon them? 4:3 _____

36. What is the significance of "striving (or contending) with the priests, and what does the prophet say about it? 4:4 _____

37. Who would stumble as a result of God's punishment? 4:5 _____

- b. Lack of knowledge - failure of the priests, verses 6-10.
38. Upon whom did God place the blame for the lack of knowledge among His people? 4:6 _____

39. What does God say the priests were guilty of, and what will He do to them? 4:7,8 _____

40. An axiomatic truth emerges once again in 4:9. What is it? _____

41. What is the root of the problem with Israel according to 4:10? _____

- c. Immoral religious practices, verses 11-14.
42. How are wine and harlotry related in this context? 4:11,12 _____

43. Why does God say that He would not punish the daughters and brides for their immoral behaviour? 4:13,14 _____

d. Ephraim joined to his idols - but let Judah be warned, verses 15-19.

44. Who is given warning here, and what are they told *NOT* to do? 4:15 _____

45. Explain the significance of the heifer or calf and the lamb. 4:16 _____

46. How does God express the hopeless condition of Israel in 4:17? _____

47. The King James Version says "their drink is sour." What does this mean, and how does the latter part of 4:18 relate to Proverbs 16:12? 4:18 _____

48. Explain the picture painted by the prophet in 4:19. _____

2. Corruption in all phases of life, Chapter 5.
a. Guilt of priests, people, and princes, verses 1-7.

49. What two groups of people among Israel are singled out as being traps or snares to the people, and what does this mean? 5:1 _____

50. In what way were they involved in "slaughter?" 5:2 _____

51. Who is blamed for leading Israel into harlotry, and what should they have done? 5:3,4 _____

52. What is meant by "the pride of Israel" here and what does this "pride" do? 5:5 _____

53. When they try to "find" the Lord, what will they discover? 5:6 _____

54. Discuss the significance of the "new moon" and what it would bring to them. 5:7 _____

55. b. Judgment must follow - all to suffer the consequences; destruction slow, but sure, verses 8-15.
Where were the alarms to be sounded, and what is the significance of each of these places? 5:8 _____

56. What would happen to Ephraim in the "day of rebuke?" 5:9 _____

57. Discuss the significance of removing a landmark, and who was accused of being like those who removed them. 5:10 _____

58. What basic fallacy is cited in the downfall of Ephraim in 5:11? _____

59. In what way would God be as a moth and rottenness to Ephraim and Judah? 5:12 _____

60. When Ephraim realized his wounded condition, to whom did he go - and to whom *SHOULD* he have gone? 5:13 _____

61. How does God describe Himself and what He will do to Israel and Judah in 5:14? _____

62. When will they finally seek God again? 5:15 _____

3. Insincerity - an abomination before God, Chapter 6.
a. Israel's return, but without heartfelt repentance, verses 1-3.
63. What clue is there in verse three of chapter six that indicates this is *not* true repentance on the part of Israel? 6:1-3 _____

- b. God is not deceived - there is no sorrow for sin on Israel's part, verses 4-11.
64. In what terms does God describe the faithfulness of Ephraim and Judah, and what does it mean? 6:4

65. What was God's response to their lack of faithfulness to Him? 6:5 _____

66. What does God's prefer over sacrifices? 6:6 _____

67. In 6:7 the American Standard Version of 1901 says: "But they like Adam have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me." Many believe this to be the preferred reading here. What is the meaning in this context? _____

68. Gilead was not actually a city, as such, but a region known as a haven for evil men. How does this relate to Israel and her condition? 6:8 _____

69. What was the significance of Shechem, and what is the accusation against the priests here? 6:9; Numbers 35:9-15; Joshua 20:7 _____

70. How does God describe the condition of Israel, and upon whom does He place the blame? 6:10 _____

71. Whom does God mention and what does He say about them? 6:11 _____

- . Israel's corrupt political condition and consequence, Chapters 7,8.
1. The national government internally - moral degradation and anarchy, 7:1-7.
72. What is God saying about the hopeless condition of Israel in 7:1? _____

73. There is an important fact brought out in 7:2 which we should remember today. What is it, and how does it effect us? _____

74. Who is in league with the wicked of Samaria according to 7:3? _____

75. Verses 4-7 seem to pose problems for nearly all Bible scholars. Within this context, what do you perceive the prophet is saying? 7:4-7 _____

2. The nation's corrupt foreign policy - her appeal to foreign nations is to end in destruction, 7:8-16.

76. Explain the way in which Ephraim was "a cake unturned." 7:8 _____

77. What has happened to Ephraim, and how does he feel about it? 7:9 _____

78. In what way is "the pride of Israel" used here, and what does it do? 7:10 _____

79. To what does God liken Ephraim, and what will happen to him? 7:11,12 _____

80. Enumerate and discuss the three things Israel did to God, and the three things God would do to Israel in 7:13. _____

81. Why and to whom did they cry, according to 7:14? _____

82. What **two** things had God done for them, and how did they respond? 7:15 _____

83. How does the return and the deceitful bow fit into the picture of Israel? 7:16 _____

3. Judgment - national corruption and its consequences, Chapter 8.
a. Judgment has become inevitable - idolatry is an abomination: as have sown, so shall reap, verses 1-7.
84. Why would the time come when the trumpet of war would sound, and the Assyrian army swoop down on them like an eagle? 8:1 _____

85. In what way is the statement which God says Israel will make inconsistent with their actions? 8:2

86. God says through the prophet that Israel had "cast off the good." Surely this refers back to the previous verse. But it also connects with the next verse. What are some of the specific things which God says they had appropriated to themselves instead of "the good?" 8:4 _____

87. A specific item is mentioned in 8:5,6. What is it, and what is to be its fate? _____

88. Explain the symbology used in 8:7 with regard to the destruction of Israel. _____

b. Appeals to the nations will not save Israel, verses 8-10.

89. What is the meaning of "swallowed up" here, and what kind of a "vessel" had they become? 8:8 _____

90. Explain the significance of the "wild donkey alone" and the hiring of lovers. 8:9 _____

91. In spite of what Israel did, what does God say He will do? 8:10 _____

c. Multiplied idolatry - its harvest: condemnation and judgment, verses 11-14.

92. For what purpose had Israel erected many altars; and what does God say they have become to them instead? 8:11 _____

93. What excuse does God say they cannot use for their disobedience? 8:12 _____

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94. Seeing that they had rejected God's Law, what did God reject and what would He do to them? 8:13

95. Whom had Israel forgotten, and what does God say He will do to Judah? 8:14 _____

. Israel's religious and moral apostasy - its punishment, exile and destruction, Chapters 9-11.

1. The degeneracy of Israel and ruin of its kingdom, Chapter 9.
a. The apostasy and its punishment: exile, verses 1-9.

96. Israel had no cause for joy, seeing they have played the harlot against God. In what way had they done this? 9:1 _____

97. How does God say He will punish Israel for this sin? 9:2,3 _____

98. What is the significance of the "bread of mourners" and what does this say about their sacrifices? 9:4 _____

99. Why is the question posed about the appointed day and the day of the feast of the Lord? 9:5 _____

100. What is to become of them and their possessions? 9:6 _____

101. The prophets referred to here had prophesied something that proved them to be fools. In context, what does it seem to have been? 9:7 _____

102. There are several different ideas on the relationship between Ephraim and the term watchman. What is the sense of this verse? 9:8 _____

103. What are the "days of Gibeah," and how do they relate to this context? 9:9 _____

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b. As God found Israel and as they became, verses 10-17.

104. In 9:10, how does God say He found Israel, and what did they become? _____

105. What would be the cause of woe to Ephraim? 9:11,12 _____

106. To whom does God liken Ephraim, and what will happen to them? 9:13,14 _____

107. What does God declare concerning Ephraim and what is the significance of Gilgal? 9:15 _____

108. In what way does the "dried up root" tell us about the future of Ephraim? 9:16 _____

109. The prophet gives the REASON why God would cast them off, and what would happen to them. What are they? 9:17 _____

2. Guilt in rebellion against God, Chapter 10.

- a. The guilt and the imminent destruction, verses 1-8.
(1) Puppet kings and puppet gods, verses 1-3.

110. Hosea pictures Israel as a lush vine. What should this vine have done, and what did it do instead?
10:1 _____

111. What is the meaning of the word "divided" in 10:2, and how is it used in this text? _____

112. Who was supposed to be their king, and what was their condition? 10:3 _____

- (2) Their righteousness now becomes poison, verses 4,5.
113. In the Law of Moses, there was a precept which the prophet says they had violated. What was it? 10:4 _____

114. What was to be taken away from the calf and what would be the reaction? 10:5 _____

- (3) Assyria is now named, the instrument of judgment, verses 6,7.
115. Where was the idol to be carried to, and what would be the result for Israel and Ephraim? 10:6 _____

116. Explain the picture of the king of Samaria in 10:7. _____

- (4) The terror of the judgment, verse 8.
117. What is to become of the places of worship used by Israel? 10:8 _____

- b. Israel's persistence in rebellion, verses 9-15.
118. To whom does the prophet liken them again, and what does this mean? 10:9 _____

119. What do we learn about God from the first clause of 10:10? _____

120. What advantage does the cow who threshes the grain have, and how would this be changed in the carrying out of God's wrath against Ephraim, Judah, and Jacob? 10:11 _____

121. There are **three** things which God says they must do. What are they, and what is meant by each? 10:12 _____

122. They had been "plowing," "reaping," and "trusting," all to their own detriment. What is meant by each of these? 10:13 _____

123. What does Hosea say will happen to Ephraim, and what of the possibility of a future king of Israel? 10:14,15 _____

3. God's love for prodigal Israel, versus Israel's ingratitude, Chapter 11.
 - a. Israel's ingratitude (back to Israel's history a third time, see 9:10; 10:9; 11:1), verses 1-7.
 - (1) Love vs. ingratitude, verses 1-4.

124. To what does the prophet refer in 11:1? _____

125. Please explain the first clause in 11:2. _____

126. In what way is God picturing Ephraim in 11:3? _____

127. What are the "cords" spoken of in 11:4, and what did God do for Ephraim? _____

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- (2) Ingratitude demands punishment, verses 5-7.
128. Contrast 8:13; 9:3,6 with 11:5 - please explain. _____

129. What would be the *cause* of their destruction according to 11:6? _____

130. Of what were the people guilty, and how had they treated God? 11:7 _____

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- b. Deserved utter destruction - but love of God tempers judgment with mercy, verses 8-11.
131. What are the cities of Admah and Zeboiim, and what does this say about the way God feels about Ephraim? 11:8 _____

132. Explain what God means by "I will not execute the fierceness of My anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim..." in 11:9 _____

133. Of what period of time does God speak through the prophet in 11:10,11? _____

- . Israel's apostasy and God's fidelity, Chapters 12,13.
1. Israel's degeneracy into Canaanitish ways, 11:12 - 12:14.
a. Worldliness - Ephraim deceitful; Judah un-steadfast, 11:12 - 12:6.
(1) Faithlessness of Ephraim brings punishment on all posterity, 11:12 - 12:2.
133. What two groups of people are mentioned in 11:12 and how do they compare in God's eyes? _____

134. Of what is Ephraim accused in 12:1? _____

135. What is the difference here between Judah and Jacob? 12:2 _____

- (2) Example of forefathers should have led to faithfulness, verses 3-6.
136. To whom does the prophet point the people and what are they to learn from this? 12:2-6 _____

- _____
- b. But Israel has become Canaan, 12:7-14.
137. What had Israel become and what was his boast? 12:7,8 _____

- _____
138. What did God threaten to do to them in 12:9? _____

- _____
139. Explain what God had done and why according to 12:10. _____

- _____
140. What does God say about idolatry and the altars erected unto the idols? 12:11 _____

- _____
141. What are the events referred to in 12:12? _____

- _____
142. What events are considered in 12:13? _____

- _____
143. In what way is the blood left upon Ephraim, and what are the results? 12:14 _____

2. Israel's deep fall, Chapter 13.
 - a. Idolatry, the basis of Israel's destruction, verses 1-8.
 - (1) Idolatry, the curse, verses 1-3.

144. Who did the trembling in 13:1, and what is it that caused Ephraim to "die?" _____

145. What had they done more and more of, and to what does the Lord liken their fate? 13:2,3 _____

(2) God, their benefactor and judge, verses 4-8.

146. To what great document does God refer in 13:4? _____

147. How did Israel react to all of the good things which God provided for them? 13:5,6 _____

148. To what animals does the Lord liken Himself, and how do these describe what would happen to Ephraim? 13:7,8 _____

b. Distrust in God - this was the destruction of Israel, verses 9-16.

149. Who was responsible for destroying Israel? 13:9 _____

150. Relate the facts concerning the king which Israel had and Who their REAL King should be. 13:10,11 _____

151. Please explain the meaning of 13:12. _____

152. In what way is the son "unwise" in 13:13, and what does this mean with regard to Israel? _____

153. The preferred reading of 13:14 seems to be in the American Standard Version: "I will ransom them from the power of Sheol; I will redeem them from death: O death, where are thy plagues? O Sheol, where is thy destruction? repentance shall be hid from mine eyes." Considering this rendering, what single word would describe what God is going to do for them? _____

154. Define the name Ephraim, and relate it to what God says will happen to Ephraim in 13:15. _____

155. What does God say would happen to Samaria, and what was the reason for this? 13:16 _____

III. Israel's conversion and pardon, Chapter 14.

- . God's grace once more to those who turn to Him, verses 1-8.
 - 1. Call to repentance, verses 1-3.

156. What is Israel called to do, and what type of attitude should they have when they do it? 14:1,2 _____

157. In what ways would their repentance be demonstrated? 14:3 _____

- 2. The promise of healing, verses 4-8.

158. Explain the term "heal their backsliding." 14:4 _____

159. List and explain each item used by God to describe what would happen to the remnant of Israel who returned to God. 14:5-7 _____

160. What is Ephraim pictured as changing his attitude with respect to in 14:8? _____

- . Epilogue, verse 9.
Israel cries to God; He hears their cry and responds by an outpouring of rich blessings.

161. Contained in the last verse of this book is a profound statement that rings true in all of God's dealings with man. Be prepared to discuss them in class. 14:9 _____