

Series "Fixed On 66"
"Hosea"
Book-28

Key Passage – Hosea 4:6; 6:1; 11:1

Introduction To The Minor Prophets, Hosea – Malachi: When you compare the Minor Prophets with the Major Prophets, such as **Isaiah, Jeremiah,** and **Ezekiel,** the **Minor Prophets** are "minor" only in size.

The Lord Jesus admonishes us

Luke 24:25 "to believe all that the prophets have spoken,"
and that includes the Minor Prophets.

**"Hosea describes God's jealous love" and
"Joel pictures God's glorious kingdom."**

Jonah and **Nahum** - both deal with the wicked city of Nineveh and amaze us with God's gracious long-suffering.

Habakkuk - watches the enemy approaching and invites us to be amazed at God's righteous judgment.

Malachi - amazes us with his revelation of God's disrespectful people, weary of serving the Lord.

Jeremiah's message was to Judah's last hours, so the message of **Hosea was to Israel in her last hours.**

These 12 Minor Prophets are, in a sense, in chronological order.

The earlier is at the beginning, and the latter is at the end. The order is not strict. **Joel** and **Jonah** are probably the oldest of the twelve.

Tradition says that Ezra, Nehemiah, and Malachi had much to do in forming the canon of the Minor Prophets.

The Minor Prophets cover a period of 400 years.

1. **Hosea, Amos,** and **Micah** speak of the fall of Israel (Samaria) and the overthrow that already threatened Judah.
2. **Obadiah, Jonah,** and **Nahum** who prophesy against certain Gentile nations, mainly Edom and Nineveh.
3. **Haggai, Zechariah,** and **Malachi** were post-captivity prophets. The first two dealt with the restored exiles, and **Malachi** bore witness to the failure of the people and the coming of the Messiah and His forerunner.
4. **Joel, Habakkuk,** and **Zephaniah,** who have a peculiar character, such as marks them off from the rest. They speak of the end, the closing scenes, the great crisis toward which the world is fast hastening.

In each of these books, you will usually find a three-fold lesson:

- (1) Historical**—each of the prophets preached and wrote to meet an immediate need in the lives of the people;
- (2) Prophetic**—each prophet illustrates or announces something about Israel's future, in judgment or restoration;
- (3) Practical**—the sins of the nations in that day are with us today, and there are many practical lessons for us to learn from these books.

The Author – Hosea is the author. **Hosea 1:1**

His personal suffering brought out in him compassion for God's grief and pain for the sinfulness of Israel.

When Written – Hosea in His Time **1 Kings 12; 2 Chronicles 26-32**

Hosea ministered in the Northern Kingdom from about 760 to 720 B.C.

Where it was Written – The Northern Kingdom of Israel.
Samaria, Bethel, and the far North, which is Dan, or Tel-Dan.

Purpose – Hosea's personal tragedy becomes an intense illustration of Israel's national tragedy. A story of one-sided love and faithfulness between a prophet and his faithless wife (Hosea and Gomer) and Jehovah and his faithless people. Just as Gomer is married to Hosea, Israel is betrothed to God. In both cases, the bride plays the harlot.

Theme – "*Loyal Love Of God*" Unconditional love

Devotion to the Lord is like faithfulness in marriage. Idolatry is like adultery.

Key Words – **65 times "People," 58 times "Lord,"**
27 times "People of Israel" and 22 times "My People,"

Key Chapter – **Hosea 4** The nation of Israel has left the knowledge of the truth and followed the idolatress ways of the pagans. **Hosea 4:6**

Key Passage – **Hosea 4:6; 6:1; 11:1**

Outline –

- 1. Hosea 1-3 Israel's Unfaithfulness Described:**
- 2. Hosea 4-7 Israel's Sins Denounced:**
- 3. Hosea 8-10 Israel's Judgment Determined:**
- 4. Hosea 11-14 Israel's Restoration Declared:**

1. Hosea 1-3 Israel's Unfaithfulness Described:

Hosea 1:1-11 God commanded Hosea to marry a woman who would be unfaithful to him:

Hosea 1:1 With Assyria and Syria temporarily weak, the 40-year reign of Jeroboam was marked by military and economic resurgence in Israel.

Yet spiritually, Israel's worship was corrupt, sprinkled with pagan practices. Society itself was corrupt, as the moral boundary stones, too, had been moved. Later Hosea cried. **Hosea 4:2**

**In many ways, America stands at the same crossroad.
Too many of our society's moral boundary stones have been moved.**

Hosea 1:2

Christians today are to mimic: at least one aspect of Hosea's life. We are to model the way we live with others in the same way that God relates to us.

Hosea 1:3-4 Jezreel - "Jezreel" was the city where Jehu had slaughtered the family of King Ahab and symbolized a similar destruction about to come on all Israel.

Hosea 1:5-8 Lo-Ruhamah - means "*not loved,*" or "*not an object of compassion.*"

Hosea 1:9 Lo-Ammi - means "*not My people.*"

The nation which had rejected God would soon be rejected itself. God would withdraw, not Himself, but His protection.

Jezreel is always just around the corner for those who practice sin.

Hosea 2:1-13 Israel has Been Unfaithful to God: Hosea 2:8-11

**Prosperity still insulates many people from spiritual realities.
And it may be a blessing if all our "good things" are taken away.**

Hosea 2:14-23 Restoration Will Come To Israel: Hosea 2:19-20

If you've ever felt too guilty or ashamed to approach God, remember this verse.

Hosea 3:1-5 God Is Love: Showing genuine love for his wife, Hosea found her and brought her back, even as God will one day restore exiled Israel.

Hosea 3:1

And to remember what God told him. **"Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress,** And then the Lord added, **"Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites."**

Hosea 3:2-5

2. Hosea 4-7 Israel's Sins Denounced:

Hosea 4:1-11 Ignorance: Hosea 4:1-4 (Victims Versus Sinners)

Hosea 4:5-11 Hosea Detailed The Sins of Priests: Hosea 4:6

Israel had the truth, the Scriptures, but had not turned from their sin. They were choosing the world of sin instead of God and His ways.

Hosea 4:12-5:15 Idolatry: Hosea 4:13-14

They chased after idols and permitted their daughters to become cult prostitutes. Their very worship was corrupt.

Hosea 6:1-7:16 Insincerity:

Theirs was only superficial repentance (6:1-3).

Hosea 6:1-3

Deuteronomy 28, with the "curses" for disobedience. Reading this helps us realize that God had done everything possible to avoid its necessity.

Hosea 7:1-3 National character is reflected in national leadership. In Samaria, the capital of Israel, the kings delighted in the wickedness of others—and became their victims.

3. Hosea 8-10 Israel's Judgment Determined:

Hosea 8:2-3

A person who truly acknowledges God will not reject what is good. Morality and a genuine faith go hand in hand and can never be separated.

Hosea 8:4-7

Humanistic religion always bears this same mark. Revelation is ignored, and God's express commands are pushed aside to be replaced by the notions of men.

Hosea 9 The Nation Scattered:

Hosea 9:7 The Prophet Is Considered A Fool: Hosea 9:7

Rejection of God's message and ridicule of His messengers, is an indication of hostility toward God Himself

Hosea 10 Reaping What They Have Sown: Hosea 10:12-13

“Some people sow wild oats during the week and then slip into church on Sunday to pray for crop failure.”

4. Hosea 11-14 Israel’s Restoration Declared:

Hosea 11 God’s Past Mercies: Hosea 11:1-3

Hosea now pictured God’s relationship with Israel as that of a parent with a toddler. The child runs off, is brought back, and runs off again!

Hosea 11:12–12:14 According To His Ways: Hosea 12:3-6

In Hosea’s time or our own, to win the blessing of God, we must “return to your God; maintain love and justice and wait for your God always.”

Hosea 12-13 God’s Present Disciplines: Hosea 13:4-9

Rather than struggle to obtain God’s blessing, the people of Israel had thrown themselves eagerly into the pursuit of sin.

Hosea 14 God’s Future Promises: Hosea 14:1-4

Hosea 14:9 Hosea closes with three important truths.

1. Whoever is wise! He will understand these things.
2. Whoever is discerning! Let him know them.
3. The ways of the Lord are right! the righteous will walk in them, but the rebellious will stumble in them.”

Application:

1. Unconditional love keeps seeking even though rejected. Hosea buys his wife back from slavery:
2. Devotion to the Lord is like faithfulness in marriage. Idolatry is like adultery. Today as throughout Old Testament times, the Book of Hosea testifies to the unshakable love of God for His own.
3. Hosea was called by God to act out on earth, the realities of heaven. Just so, you and I are to respond to others, not as they deserve, but as God in grace has responded to us.