**Knowing God through the Minor Prophets**

**Hosea**

**Introduction**

In the English Bible the last twelve books of the Old Testament are known as the Minor Prophets because of their shortness in length. In the Hebrew Old Testament these twelve prophetic books are considered one; and the compilation is called; The Book of the Twelve.

Hosea – “Salvation” – The Lord loves Israel despite her sin

Joel – “Yahweh is God” – Judgment comes before Israel’s future spiritual revival

Amos – “Burdened”- God is just and must judge sin

Obadiah – “Servant of the Lord”- Retribution must overtake merciless pride

Jonah – “Dove” – God’s grace is universal

Micah – “Who is like the Lord” – The Messiah will come & deliver

Nahum – “Comfort”- Doom for Nineveh is certain

Habakkuk – “Embrace” – Justification by faith is God’s way of salvation

Zephaniah – “Yahweh has hidden” – The Day of the Lord will precede kingdom blessings

Haggai – “Feast of Yahweh”- The Lord’s temple comes first

Zechariah – “Yahweh remembers” – The Lord will remember His people Israel

Malachi – “My Messenger” – Certain judgment is coming for the wicked

The Focus of Prophecy is the Lord Jesus Christ

Lk. 24: 27 – Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

1 Pet. 1:10 – 12 as to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were no serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven – things into which angels long to look.

Reading the Minor Prophets with understanding

Rom. 15:4 – For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through the perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

2 Tim. 3:16 – All Scripture is inspired of God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

**Hosea – God Saves! – Hos. 1 - 3**

Hosea was a prophet to the Northern kingdom of Israel – His ministry was during the reign of four kings: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah – also during the reign of Jeroboam 2 in Judah

He refers to Israel as Ephraim which was the first of the twelve tribes to backslide from God

New Testament references in Hosea

Hosea 11:1 – Matt. 2:15

Hosea 6:6 – Matt. 9:13

Hosea 10:8 – Luke 23:30

Hosea 2:23 – Romans 9:25

Hosea 13:14 – 1 Cor. 15:55

The faithful love of God & judgment for unfaithful people of Israel

* Hosea marries by God’s command Gomer a prostitute & adulteress after their marriage

 1: 2 – Go take to yourself a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry, for the land commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking the Lord – 2:5, 5:3

* Hosea commanded to give his children prophetic names

 1st – child a boy named Jezreel – “to be scattered” 1:4

 Two coming events:

1. The setting aside of the brutal king Jehu who killed many in Jezreel
2. The Assyrian invasion where the entire northern kingdom is scattered – 1:5

 “In that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel”

* 2nd – child a girl named – Lo-Ruha- Mah – 1:6 “No more mercy”but mercy on Judah – 1:7
* 3rd – child a boy named Lo – Ammi – 1:9 “not my people”

God’s faithful love to unfaithful Israel & the pagan gentile world

1:10 – 11 - Where it is said to them, You are not My people, It will be said to them, You are the sons of the living God – Rom. 9:24 – 26, John 1:12, 1 Pet. 2:10

2: 6-7; 9 -13 – God will in love remove from unfaithful people their satisfaction in their sin & His blessings from them

2:7 – God’s unfaithful people’s false repentance – Ps. 107:4 - 8

2:8 – God’s unfaithful people again forgot that God in love had provided for them

2:14 – 23 – God’s faithful drawing and tender love for Israel

* 2:14 – Behold I will allure her, bring her into the wilderness and speak kindly to her
* 2:15 – I will give her…“The Valley of Achor as a door of hope” – Josh. 7:26 – The place of the sin of Achan = Achor = The valley of trouble will be the door of hope!
* 2:16 -23 – “in that day” – 2:16, 2:18, 2:21

The Millennial reign of Christ – Isa. 2:4, 11:6-9, 35:9, Ezek. 34:25 -31, Zech. 9:10

* 2:23 – I will say to those who were not My people, You are My people! And they will say You are My God! – 3:4 -5

Daily Use

Praise the Lord for His lovingkindnesses to you in your unfaithfulness & sin toward Him

Praise the Lord for His patience with unfaithful believer’s

Pray and Wait expecting what God will do at the coming of Jesus Christ