STUDIES IN THE MINOR PROPHETS

HOSEA

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

I. Israel's Adultery, Chapters 1-3.
   
      
      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. Chastisement of idolatrous Israel, conversion, and final restoration, 2:2-23.
      
         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.
   
   3. 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.

   1. 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.
         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.

   2. Israel's corrupt political condition and consequence, Chapters 7,8.
      
      2. The nation's corrupt foreign policy - her appeal to foreign nations is to end in destruction, 7:8-16.
         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.

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.
   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.
      (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.

  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? (1:3)

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
   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.

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.

      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? ________________

1. 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.

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

b. Judgment must follow - all to suffer the consequences; destruction slow, but sure, verses 8-15.

55. 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.


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

   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

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

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.
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
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 ________________

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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? ________________

(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 __________________

______________________________

- 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.
 (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.

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