

MINOR PROPHETS, MAJOR LESSONS

The Minor Prophets Series #3

November 1st, 2026

TEXT: Hosea 14:9

CONSIDER THIS: True wisdom is extremely valuable and we all urgently need it. Godly wisdom can keep us from making terrible mistakes and it can guide us back to the right path when we have foolishly strayed. Wisdom opens the door to blessings we would miss without it. If you want wisdom, study Hosea. It is a MINOR PROPHET WITH MAJOR LESSONS.

I. A KINGDOM VANISHES

- A) Israel (the northern kingdom consisting of 10 tribes) willingly plunged into the most perverse forms of idolatry and refused to heed the warnings God sent to them through the prophets (Hosea 4:1-3, 12-14; 7:11-13).
- B) Israel had become a “vassle state” under the thumb of the mighty Assyrian empire. This meant Israel was allowed some self-government, but the Assyrians made all the decisions about foreign policy. Israel foolishly thought they could make an alliance with Egypt (Egypt!) as a way of breaking Assyria’s grip. AT NO TIME DID THEY HUMBLE THEMSELVES BEFORE THE LORD AND REPENT AND TURN TO HIM. And so...

II Kings 17:1-23

II. LESSONS FOR US!

- A) The opening words of Hosea 1:1, *“The word of the LORD that came to Hosea...”* remind us that God wants us to know Him. A personal relationship with the Holy God who spoke an entire universe into existence? Amazing!
- B) God wants us to learn how to live wisely so that we might enjoy Him. Notice the bookends of 1:1 and 14:9. *Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.* (14:9)

NOTE: LORD is the personal name of the covenant (promise) making and covenant (promise) keeping God.

C) In I Corinthians 10:1-6 Paul told the largely Gentile church that they needed to learn lessons from Old Testament Israel's failures.

D) For Israel, God was a faithful, loving Father who brought discipline/correction (Hosea 8:11-14). The same was true for the Christians in Corinth (I Corinthians 11:29-32).

III. THE LORD RESTORES (eschatology)

A) A huge portion of Hosea deals with Israel's future restoration. Although much has happened since 722 BC, including stunning developments in 1948 AD, ultimate restoration of Israel as a kingdom under God has not happened yet (Acts 1:6).

NOTE: Just as the northern kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians in 722 BC, so the southern kingdom of Judah fell to the Babylonians in 607 BC. The difference is that after a 70 year captivity Judah (and Jerusalem) were restored to the Land. Israel never came back, and by the time of Jesus's day the Samaritans occupied much of their land which is why the Jews hated the Samaritans (John 4:7-9).

B) Hosea knew God's judgement against Israel (the northern kingdom) was just around the corner, and he lived long enough to see it (II Kings 17). But he also was given a message of hope, because the LORD is the God who restores what we break (Hosea 1:10-11; 2:16-23; 14:4-8).

C) The glorious promises of Israel's restoration will be fulfilled when THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS returns (Revelation 19:11-16).

Christian, when you sin or make a mess of things, remember that you are faithfully loved by the God who forgives, restores, and rebuilds. While Israel's restoration will be sometime still in the future, you can be fully restored to the Lord right now, the moment you sincerely return to Him. You will find that He never left you!

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NEXT WEEK: JOEL