

MINOR PROPHETS, MAJOR LESSONS

The Minor Prophets Series #1

October 18th, 2026

TEXT: Hosea 1:1-9

CONSIDER THIS: Have you ever studied the minor prophets (the last 12 Old Testament books) in depth? They have much to teach us about God and about ourselves. They may be called minor prophets, but they offer us **MAJOR LESSONS**.

I. WHY WE SHOULD LOVE THE MINOR PROPHETS (Hosea 1:1)

A) *The word of the LORD that came to Hosea...* (1:1A)

The God who knows us wants us to know Him so He reveals Himself through His word. The very fact that there is a “word of God” to hear and receive testifies of His interest in you. Amazing!

Have you ever thought about someone who admired you or wanted to spend time with you, “If they really knew me, they wouldn’t want to be near me.” God knows everything about you and still wants a relationship with you. Amazing!

B) *the LORD ... This is the personal name of the promise making, promise keeping God of the covenant relationship. This is the God who wants you to know Him.*

C) *came to Hosea...* God is gracious and that grace initiates relationship with sinners

KEY: See Psalm 95:6-8... *Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts..* These verses are quoted extensively in the New Testament book of Hebrews chapters 3-4. Christian, don’t ever harden your heart to the word of God!

D) The early Christians loved to learn from the minor prophets because it helped them learn more about Jesus. See Luke 24:25-27; II Timothy 3:14-15

Jesus is in the minor prophets contained,
Jesus is in the New Testament explained.
You will see this when you study Hosea.

II. THEY WEREN’T “MINOR”

A) The ancient Jews called the last 12 Old Testament books the “minor prophets.” This only refers to their short length (they could fit on one scroll) and not to their importance.

B) King Saul r. 1030-1010 B.C.; David r. 1010-970 B.C.; Solomon r. 970-930 B.C.; then came the near civil war and the division of Israel into two kingdoms. The northern kingdom consisted of ten tribes and kept the name **Israel**. The southern kingdom was the tribe of **Judah** and Benjamin, and they kept Jerusalem as their capital.

C) The northern kingdom of Israel was continuously idolatrous, and they were conquered by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. Judah’s first king was Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, and Israel’s first king

was Jeroboam. Four of Israel's kings came to power by assassination of their predecessors. What a mess!

The southern kingdom of Judah had some positive times of repentance and faithfulness to God, but eventually they too became idolatrous and fell to the Babylonians in 607 B.C., beginning the 70 year captivity.

The minor prophets spoke the word of the LORD at various times to both kingdoms. Their message came from God and included warnings, calls to repentance, prophecies about the future and information about the Messiah. The minor prophets are rich in lessons for us.

III. HOSEA: The Husband With A Broken Heart

NOTE: Hosea ministered from approximately 750 to 710 B.C. (see Hosea 1:1) and although he spoke to both kingdoms (Israel and Judah) he was probably from the northern kingdom. In his lifetime he saw Israel conquered and destroyed by the Assyrians in 722 B.C.. Israel was sometimes called "Ephraim", which was Israel's largest tribe.

- A) When Hosea began his prophetic ministry Israel was prospering politically and economically, yet Israel was a corrupt nation, filled with idolatry and immorality. Their hearts were far from the LORD, so...
- B) ...God commanded Hosea to marry a young woman named Gomer. See 1:2-3. **WOW!! WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?**

KEY: Hosea and Gomer were real people and this was a real marriage. God announced that Hosea's marriage to an unfaithful woman would become a picture to the nation of Israel that they were unfaithful to Him. Their spiritual idolatry was the highest form of disloyalty... and according to the Law, the person caught in adultery was put to death (Leviticus 20:10)

- C) This marriage would produce 3 children and God assigned them names that functioned as prophecy.
 - 1. A son, *Jezreel* ("God sows judgement" 1:4)
 - 2. A daughter, *Lo-Ruhamah* ("Unpitied, No Mercy" 1:6)
 - 3. A son, *Lo-Ammi* ("Not My People" 1:8-9)

The names of Hosea's children served as a commentary on how God viewed Israel and the judgement that was about to come upon them. Things were about to get very dark. Israel would face Assyria without the protection of God.

IV. CHRISTIAN, IS YOUR HEART LOYAL TO GOD?

The prophecies of Hosea announced coming judgement of God's unfaithful "wife," the nation of Israel, a nation that had been blessed by God but still clung to idols.

BUT

This "husband" is a merciful God with a stubborn love. See Hosea 2:19-23

NEXT WEEK: The rest of the story! **MINOR PROPHETS, MAJOR LESSONS**