

Study Guide



*ADULT BIBLE STUDY
IN BASIC ENGLISH*

**AMOS, HOSEA,
MICAHA**

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BAPTISTWAY

Dallas, Texas

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN BASIC ENGLISH
STUDY GUIDE
Amos, Hosea, Micah

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Amos, Hosea, Micah

Amos, Hosea and Micah were preachers (prophets) who spoke for God. They are sometimes called minor prophets because their writings are shorter in length than the major prophets. They lived in the eighth century before Christ when the nation of God's people had been divided into the northern kingdom, Israel, and the southern kingdom, Judah.

Amos was a shepherd from Tekoa. This prophet's name means "burden bearer." His message to Israel was again one of judgment, first to countries around Israel and then to Israel. Amos was the contemporary of Hosea, as well as Joel and Isaiah. Though he lived in the southern part of Judah, he was called to go to the northern kingdom. The northern kingdom about this time had won a war and had lots of money.

Hosea preached in the kingdom of Israel, shortly before that nation was carried off into captivity. He preached at about the same time as Amos, Joel and Isaiah. He spoke of judgment, but he also spoke of salvation to come. His name means "salvation."

Micah's name mean "Who is like Yahweh?" Micah preached about sin, the judgment of God and God's loving-pity to those who will turn back to Him. He preached between about 750 BC and 700 BC. He preached mainly in Jerusalem, but he spoke to both Israel and Judah.

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Amos, Hosea, Micah



Adult Bible Study in Basic English

**UNIT 1:
AMOS: THE GOD
WHO WILL BE
HEARD**

Lesson 1

**A Message for You
Amos 2:4-16**

**Lesson 2
Judgment on
Wrongdoing**

**Amos 3:9—4:3; 5:10-15;
6:4-7; 8:4-6**

**Lesson 3
Judgment on Pretend
Worship**

Amos 4:4-5; 5:18-24

**Lesson 4
Israel Will Not Listen
to God**

Amos 7:7-17

**Lesson 5
Certain Judgment**

**—and Hope
Amos 9:1-15**

UNIT 1

AMOS: THE GOD WHO WILL BE HEARD

Amos was a prophet from the South. He was not afraid to take God's message to the people in the North. King Solomon died in 922 BC. At that time, the Hebrew nation divided into two kingdoms. The southern kingdom was called Judah. The northern kingdom was called Israel.

Amos told the people they were greedy and selfish. He said they did not care for the poor. He said they wanted more and more power. They spent money on themselves. However, they did not take care of others. God was unhappy with the way the people treated the poor and powerless. Israel had disobeyed Him, and the end was coming. God would not be quiet about these things. Amos left his sheep to go and tell God's people to change.

- Lesson 1: Amos preaches a great sermon.
- Lesson 2: God judges for doing wrong to poor people.
- Lesson 3: God wants right living, not pretend worship.
- Lesson 4: The religious leaders reject God's message.
- Lesson 5: God offers certain judgment and the hope of restoration.

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Adult Bible Study in
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A Message for You

Amos was from the small town of Tekoa. Tekoa is about ten miles south of Jerusalem. It is in the southern kingdom of Judah. He took care of sheep and **fig trees**. He was from the South, but he took God's message to Israel. Israel is the northern kingdom.

Amos went to a people who did not want to hear him. Amos began preaching around 760 BC. King Jeroboam II reigned at this time (786-746 BC). King Uzziah was king in the southern kingdom in Jerusalem.

Amos had a message for Israel from God. The people of Israel were rich. They thought this showed God's blessings on them. Amos said this was untrue. The people of Israel worshipped God. Amos said their worship was not real because they also worshipped idols. Israel only saw the sins of others. They were surprised to learn that they had any sins.

Seven Sermons About Seven Sinful Nations (Amos 1:3—2:5)

Amos began preaching about the small nations which were around Israel. Aram was northeast of Israel. Philistia was southwest of Israel. Tyre was northwest of Israel. Edom was southeast of Israel.

Try to imagine how each of these sermons sounded to Israel. The words against other nations pleased them. Each time Amos began by saying, "The Lord says . . ." (v. 3). Next came sure judgment. "For three sins...and for four, I will not hold back punishment." (v. 3). Then God told Amos the wrong things each nation had done. Amos told them the punishment would be fire. Often in the Bible fire is used to show judgment.

The order of the sermons is interesting. Amos started with the countries which Israel liked least. He finished these sermons with Israel itself. Syria, Philistia, and Tyre were foreign countries.

Bible Text

Amos 2:4-16

Memory Verse

"...I will not hold back punishment. They turned away from the Law of the Lord..."

—Amos 2:4

Word List

fig tree: tree with small fruit

Nazirites: men who brought God's message and promised not to drink wine, not to cut their hair, and not to touch any dead bodies.

**Things To
Think About**

1. Why do you think it is easier to think about the sins of others and not our own?
2. How do we mistreat the poor and needy without thinking?
3. Why did Amos say the same words to Israel that he had used for the other seven countries? Why did he speak to Israel last?
4. What might Amos say if he were speaking to America today?

Edom, Ammon, and Moab were blood relatives of the Israelites. Judah was the sister kingdom of Israel.

Amos spoke in the same way to each country. Amos spoke of Judah in Amos 2:4-5. He began with “The Lord says...” (v. 4). Then he told of God’s sure judgment against His people. Judah was guilty because she had broken the law that God gave them. This country had not obeyed the Ten Commandments. They had not obeyed the laws in the first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy).

Fire was the punishment for the nations around Israel. Fire was also the punishment for God’s own people. Judah had broken God’s laws. They would be treated the same as the foreign nations.

The Sermon Against God’s Sinful People (Amos 2:6-8)

Israel was happy to listen when Amos talked about their enemies. When Amos brought a message against the people of Judah, they liked it. They heard these seven sermons of Amos and thought that was the end.

In the Bible, the number seven is special. It almost always means a complete number. Amos always said, “For three sins ...and for four.” These numbers add together to equal seven sins. Israel had heard seven sermons. They thought there would be no more messages from God. Israel did not really believe that they had any sins. They did not think Amos would need to talk about them.

There was great surprise when Amos began to preach sermon number eight. He began the way he always did, “The Lord says...” (v.6). Then Amos said the word they never expected to hear: *Israel*. Those things that made God unhappy came next. Israel knew that they would be punished.

Israel had done many wrong things:

They sold people for money. The poor were sold for the price of a pair of sandals. These cost very little. Israel had forgotten when they were slaves in Egypt.

They crushed the poor in the dust. They wanted more land. They even wanted the dust that was on the heads of poor people.

A man and his father did sex sins with the same girl. God was not pleased.

When money was borrowed, a coat was left as a trust. At the end of the day it became very cold. However, they did not give the coats back at the end of the day. Instead, the coats were used as carpets at the altar of a false religion. God said return the coats.

They even poured wine down the throats of the **Nazirites**. The **Nazirites** had promised God they would never to drink.

Israel told God's preachers not to speak. They did not want to hear.

God's Goodness to Israel (Amos 2:9-12)

Israel was hurting people who were poor. They had forgotten how God had always helped them. Now they would not help others. Amos reminded them of all that God had done for them.

God made Israel a nation. God gave them land and took out the Amorites. The

Amorites were as "tall as the cedar trees and as strong as the oaks" (v. 9).

God brought the people out of Egypt to freedom. God took care of His people in the wilderness for forty years.

God gave them great leaders. He gave them preachers to bring His message to them. He sent Nazirites who lived for God. What did Israel do? They made the Nazirites drink wine and break their promises. They made the preachers stop preaching.

What God Would Do (Amos 2:13-16)

Israel thought God would not judge them. They believed that they were special. They thought God would only judge their enemies and Judah.

God planned to judge Israel for their wrong deeds. They could not escape God's punishment. Fast runners would not be fast enough. Strong men would not be able to stand when God judged them. They would learn that God meant what He said.

What We Can Learn

The people of Israel were busy looking at the sins of other nations. They could not see what they were doing to poor people. Maybe we do not look at our own sin. Maybe we only look at the sins of

others.

God is God of all the nations. He made all of the world. All people will be judged. All people need to know of God's love and salvation.

We must stop looking only at the sins of others. We must look at our own greed and wrong deeds. If not, we will be judged the way Israel was.

We can learn to take care of the poor and needy. We can give God's love to everyone. We can learn that God's love goes to all nations.

Amos 2:4-16

4: The Lord says, "For three sins of Judah and for four, I will not hold back punishment. They turned away from the Law of the Lord. They have not obeyed His Laws. They have gone the wrong way, following the lies of their fathers.

5: So I will send fire upon Judah, and it will destroy the strong-places of Jerusalem.

6: The Lord says, "For three sins of Israel and for four, I will not hold back punishment. They sell those who are right and good for money. To get shoes, they sell people who are in need.

7: They crush those who are poor in the dust of the earth with their feet. They push the poor out of the way. A man and his father go to the same girl and sin against My holy name.

8: They lie down beside every altar on clothing taken as trust for promises. And in the house of their God they drink the wine which was paid by those who have done wrong.

9: "I destroyed the Amorite before them, who was as tall as the cedar trees and as strong as the oaks. I destroyed his fruit above and his root below.

10: I brought you up from the land of Egypt and led you in the desert for forty years to give you the land of the Amorite.

11: Then I raised up some of your sons to speak for Me, and some of your young men to be Nazirites. Is this not true, you sons of Israel?" says the Lord.

12: But you made the Nazirites drink wine. And you told the men who speak for Me not to speak.

13: Now I will crush you down like a wagon is crushed under a heavy load of grain.

14: Even the fast man will not get away. The strong man will not keep his strength. And the powerful man will not save his life.

15: He who uses the bow will not stand. The fast runner will not get away. The horseman will not save his life.

16: Even the strongest of heart among the men of war will run away without clothes on that day," says the Lord.



Adult Bible Study in
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Bible Text

Amos 3:9—4:3;
5:10-15; 6:4-7; 8:4-6

Memory Verse

“Look for good and not sin, that you may live. Then the Lord God of All will be with you, just as you have said.”

—Amos 5:14

Word List

altar: the place of worship where gifts were offered to God, often burnt animals

ivory: made from the elephant tusks, white and beautiful

bribes: money offered to allow someone to do something wrong

Judgment on Wrongdoing

The rich people of Israel were not treating the poor in the right way. The rich kept wanting more. They thought that enough money would make them safe. Amos said that they must face the judgment of God. God is unhappy when those who have much take advantage of those who do not have much.

Feeling Safe for the Wrong Reason (Amos 3:9-4:3)

Israel did not do right. Israel robbed the poor and stored these riches in cities with big walls. Amos said people from other countries would gather and watch the troubles of Israel.

Israel felt sure of its power. But Amos said an enemy would pull down their safe places. He said an enemy would rob their strong cities. He gave a word picture of how they would be punished. He told of a lamb eaten by a lion. All that was left was two legs or a piece of an ear. Amos said the **altars** would fall down. They would have no more summer houses. He would destroy their winter houses and houses made of **ivory**.

Amos said the women of Israel were also guilty of making it hard for the poor. He called them “fat cows” (Amos 4:1). They made it hard for the poor. They asked their husbands to bring them more. They got more by taking from the poor.

Amos warned the people that God would take them from their land. They would keep only the clothes on their backs. They were sleeping on beds made of ivory. Later they would sleep on mats.

Wrongdoing Toward the Poor (Amos 5:10-15)

Some people in Israel had much. But many people had little or nothing. Why? The poor were treated wrongly by the rich.

Business leaders were taking money in secret **bribes**. They said untrue things. They gave money to the judges at the city gates. The rich were charging too much money for others to rent

without being punished

burdening: making things hard or difficult

Things To Think About

1. How can the people who have much better treat those who do not have much?
2. Is it a sin to be rich?
3. Should you always charge the highest price you can? Should you always pay someone as little as you can?
4. The poor have a special place in God's heart. Jesus said that it is "easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into the holy nation of heaven" (Matthew 19: 24). Jesus also said, "Those of you who are poor are happy, because the holy nation of God is yours." (Luke 6:20). Why is this so?

their land. Poor farmers had to give most of their grain to the rich land owners.

Amos gave them a warning from God. The rich should not be so sure of themselves. God would punish those who had taken from the poor. They would not get to live in the great houses they built. They would not drink the juice from their grape fields. They became rich in the wrong way. They were **burdening** the poor. They made the poor pay taxes that were too high.

A Big Difference Between Rich and Poor (Amos 6:4-7)

Amos was a preacher with great courage. He was not afraid to tell Israel what was wrong. He told Israel what God wanted them to hear. He spoke during the time of Jeroboam II. This was the time of the greatest riches of the northern kingdom. The people who were rich thought they were rich because God was pleased with them. They were wrong.

God was not happy with the things they did. The rich slept in the best beds. The poor had no beds. The rich ate the best young cows all the time. The poor ate meat only two or three times a year. The rich laid around making up songs like little kings. They thought they were like King David. The rich had all kinds of oils to put on their bodies. The rich felt their lives could not be any better. Amos knew that they could not be any worse. Their nation was about to break apart.

A Religion That Was Only Pretend (Amos 8:4-6)

God gave laws to make sure that people took care of the poor. He wanted the poor to be given respect. He wanted people to help the poor take care of themselves.

Store owners would not sell things on Saturday because it was against God's laws. However, they were greedy when they opened the stores. They did not use honest weights.

They put bad grass in the wheat to make it heavier. Then they could charge more money for it.

Many poor people owed money. Often, they had to sell themselves into slavery. They were sold for the price of cheap shoes. This was the only way they could make money to pay what they owed.

What We Can Learn

We must learn what Amos taught: never forget the poor. Are there ways we have made ourselves rich while hurting poor people? Do we buy toys for our children made by people in other countries who do not earn enough to feed their own children?

We see that God had a special love for the poor: those who were hurt, the women without husbands, and the children without mothers and fathers.

As in the time of Israel, today there is a big difference between the rich and the poor. This is true in the United States. Heads of companies might make four hundred times more than their workers. This is not so in Japan and Germany. Heads of their companies earn only about twenty times as much as their workers.

When comparing our country to other countries, we can see the difference between rich and poor. The poorest ten

percent of Americans do better than two-thirds of the world's population. Four-fifths of the world's population live below what North America and Europe consider the poverty line. The average American uses five times more things than the average Mexican. The average American uses ten times more than the average Chinese. The average American uses thirty times more than a person from India.

Many Americans would not say they are rich. However, the 102 million families in American use more than all other families in history. Could we say that we are the "cows of Bashan?" (Amos 4:1). God wants us to love and care for all his people.

Amos 3:9-15

9: Say to the people who live in the strong cities of Ashdod and Egypt, "Gather together on the mountains of Samaria. See all the trouble within her and how her people suffer.

10: They do not know how to do what is right," says the Lord. "They store up in their strong cities what they have fought for and robbed."

11: So the Lord God says, "Those who hate you will gather around the land. They will pull down your strong-places and rob your strong cities."

12: The Lord says, "As the shepherd saves from the lion's mouth just two legs or a piece of an ear, so will the people of

Israel living in Samaria be saved, with the corner of a bed and a part of a cover.

13: Hear and speak against the family of Jacob,” says the Lord God, the God of All.

14: “On the day I punish Israel for her sins, I will punish the altars of Bethel. The horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground.

15: I will destroy the winter house together with the summer house. The houses of ivory will be destroyed, and the beautiful houses will come to an end,” says the Lord.

Amos 4:1-3

1: Listen to this, you fat cows of Bashan who are on the mountain of Samaria. You make it hard for the poor. You crush those in need. You say to your husbands, “Bring us something to drink!”

2: As the Lord God is holy, He has promised, “The days are coming when they will take you away with meat hooks. And the last of you will be taken with fish hooks.

3: You will go out through breaks in the walls. Each of you will go straight out. And you will be sent to Harmon,” says the Lord.

Amos 5:10-15

10: They hate him who speaks strong words in the gate. They hate him who speaks the truth.

11: You crush the poor under foot and make them pay taxes with their grain. Because of this, even though you have built houses of cut stone, you will not live in them and even though you have planted beautiful grapefields, you will not drink their wine.

12: For I know that you have done much wrong and your sins are many. You make trouble for those who are right and good, and you take pay in secret for wrong-doing.

You will not be fair to the poor.

13: The wise man keeps quiet at such a time, for it is a sinful time.

14: Look for good and not sin, that you may live. Then the Lord God of All will be with you, just as you have said.

15: Hate sin, and love good. And let what is fair be done at the gate. It may be that the Lord God of All will show kindness to those left of Joseph.

Amos 6:4-7

4: How bad it will be for you who lie on beds of ivory and spread out upon your long seats! You eat lambs from the flock and calves from the cattle-house.

5: You sing songs to the sound of the harp. Like David you write songs for yourselves.

6: You drink wine from the holy dishes, and pour the best oil on yourselves. Yet you are not filled with sorrow because Joseph has been destroyed!

7: You will be among the first to be taken away as prisoners to a strange land, and your happy times of rest will pass away.

Amos 8:4-6

4: Hear this, you who crush under foot those who are in need, to put an end to the poor of the land.

5: You say, “When will the New Moon be over, so that we may buy grain? When will the Day of Rest be over, so that we may open the store and sell grain? Then we will make the basket smaller and the weight bigger, and we will lie about the weight.

6: We will buy the poor for money, and those in need for shoes. And we will sell the part of the grain that is of no worth.



Adult Bible Study in
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Bible Text

Amos 4:4-5; 5:18-24

Memory Verse

“But let what is fair
roll down like waters.
Let what is right and
good flow forever like
a river.”

—Amos 5:24

Word List

sacrifice: to give a
gift to God

tithe: a tenth of what
you get paid offered
as a gift to God

Judgment on Pretend Worship

I once went to teach a class in Nigeria. The room was very hot. I said, “Before we begin, let us open the window.” The person in charge told everyone to bow their heads and pray. I knew right away that he did not understand what I said. Sometimes this same thing happens to us at church. We do not hear what God is saying. This is because we do not worship in the right way. God cannot accept our worship because we are saying words only for ourselves. This happened to the people of Israel.

A Call to Worship (Amos 4:4-5)

Amos said that the people were sinning when they worshipped. God’s people were giving offerings at Bethel and Gilgal. But they loved doing the worship more than they loved God. Usually, the families would bring a **sacrifice** one time each year. However, these people were going each day. Usually, there was a special **tithe** every three years. This was to help the religious workers. The people of Israel were giving this tithe every three days. The worshippers of Israel were giving their offerings so other people would see them. They wanted others to think they were doing something great.

Love for worship is not the same thing as love for God. Israel loved to worship. They went many more times than God had told them. Love for God is different. Love for God changes our lives. Love for God helps us serve one another. The meaning of true worship is to love God and serve others. The people of Israel did not have true worship. Without love for God, it did not matter how many times they worshipped. It did not matter how many sacrifices they gave.

Things To Think About

1. How do we worship?
Are our hands clean and our hearts pure?
2. What is the most important part of music in church: the style or hearts that are pure?
3. How do we treat people all week long?
Do we think about this when we go to church?
4. What can we change to make sure we have real worship and not pretend worship?

A Warning About God's Judgment (Amos 5:18-20)

The day of the Lord was a day Israel was waiting for. They thought this would be a great day when God would judge their enemies. They were God's special people. Some of them thought on that day God would give them special power. They thought He would give them power over all other people. They thought only other people would face God's judgment. They remembered when God sent the plagues on the king of Egypt. They were allowed to leave and escape harm.

Amos said Israel would face God's judgment on the day of the Lord. Israel was not ready for this. Amos said that this day would be a day of darkness. There would be no light. It would not be bright. No one would escape this day. It would be like a person who runs away from a lion and then runs into a bear.

It does not matter how beautiful we make our worship. It does not matter how many times we go to worship. God will still judge each person. The New Testament gives us this good word. God will judge us at the end of time. As believers, we will have God's Son, Jesus, to stand with us. Jesus has taken away our sins. For the believer, it is a day of joy. For the unbeliever, it is a day of fear.

Worship by Israel Not Acceptable (Amos 5:21-23)

Worship is a gift to God. The center of worship is God, not us. Amos gave a list of the kinds of worship Israel did. They worshipped every seventh day to remember God as the one who made the world. The first day of each month was also a worship time. They also had four feasts every year. These included Passover. This was the meal the Jews ate to remember when they left Egypt. In addition, the Day of Atonement was also held each year.

These special days had lost their real meaning at the time of Amos. Amos said that God hated their worship because it was not real. It was more like going to a party. God did not smell the good smell of the sacrifice. He did not hear the beautiful music of the bells, harps, horns, or trumpets. The smell was bad and the sound was ugly because the worship was not real. God does not hear the same way we do. If the ones who do the music do not have a clean and pure heart, the sound is wrong. If the heart is right, then the sound is pleasing.

God did not reject their songs because of the way they were sung. He did not reject their songs because of the music they played. He did not like them because their hearts were not right.

God was not pleased with the feasts, sacrifices, and songs of His people. They were only pretending to worship. God told Amos to tell the people that he hated their worship. God rejected it completely.

The Answer: Do What Is Right (Amos 5:24)

Look at the memory verse on the first page of this lesson. This is the message God gave Amos. God wants us to do what is right and fair and good. God does not accept our worship when we pretend to worship. God does not accept our

worship when we treat others in the wrong way. We will be judged because of our sins.

Justice is that which is right and true. We need to measure up to God's standard. When we have justice in our lives it will be like a river which has water in it all year. In Israel many rivers only had water in them when it rained. It did not rain very much. A river with water in it all year long would be a great blessing. A person who loves God should do what is right and good and fair. He will be a greater blessing than any river.

What We Can Learn

God wants us to have right living. He wants this more than worship that means nothing to us or Him. God wants us to think about Him and not ourselves when we worship. The best offering we can give to God is our lives. Right living makes our lives a living river of blessing to God and others.

Amos 4:4-5

4: “Go to Bethel and sin! Go and sin much more in Gilgal! Bring your gifts in worship every morning. Every three days give a tenth part of what you receive.

5: Give a thank gift of bread made with yeast. And make your free-will gifts known. For this is what you love to do, O people of Israel,” says the Lord God.

Amos 5:18-24

18: It is bad for you who want the day of the Lord to come. For what will the day of the Lord be to you? It will be darkness and not light.

19: It will be as when a man runs away from a lion and is met by a bear. It will be as when a man goes home and rests with his hand against the wall, and gets bitten by a snake.

20: Will not the day of the Lord be darkness instead of light, very dark with nothing bright in it?

21: “I hate your special suppers. I will have nothing to do with them. And I am not pleased with your religious meetings.

22: Even if you give Me burnt gifts and grain gifts in worship, I will not receive them. I will not even look at the peace gifts of your fat animals.

23: Take the noise of your songs away from Me. I will not listen to the sound of your harps.

24: But let what is fair roll down like waters. Let what is right and good flow forever like a river.



Adult Bible Study in
Basic English

Bible Text

Amos 7: 1-17

Memory Verse

“So now hear the
Word of the Lord...”
—Amos 7:16

Word List

insects: bugs, flies,
grasshoppers, etc.

measure up: an idiom
that means to be as
good as, equal, of high
quality

prophet: a preacher
who spoke for God

Israel Will Not Listen to God

I once helped my father build a fence of cement blocks. It was hard work in the hot sun. My father was careful to measure the wall. He used a string and chalk to make sure the wall was straight. He made sure the wall was built right. It is still standing almost fifty years later. Amos told Israel they were like a wall being measured with string. The wall had something wrong with it. Israel had sinned too much. God said His anger would go to their places of worship and to King Jeroboam II.

Never Again (Amos 7:1-9)

King Jeroboam II was king for forty-one years. This was a time of peace with countries around Israel. The Bible says King Jeroboam “did what was evil in the sight of the Lord” (2 Kings 14:24). He was leading his people to worship false gods. The true God showed Amos in three dreams what would happen.

The first dream showed **insects** eating the crops of Israel (vv. 1-3). Amos asked God not to let that happen. God did not destroy Israel with these insects.

The second dream was about fire (vv. 4-6). The land was so dry that water would dry up. The land would burn. Amos prayed, so God did not destroy Israel with fire.

In the third dream, God asked Amos a question. “What do you see?” (v. 8). Amos answered that he saw a string. There was something heavy at the bottom of the string. When it was dropped the string showed a perfect straight line. The builders used it to make straight walls. These walls would last for hundreds of years. God said he was measuring his people in this same way. He wanted to see if they were right. If they were not right, He would punish them. He would not change his mind this time.

Israel did not look straight against the measure of God’s

**Things To
Think About**

1. How can paid preachers make sure they preach what God wants?
2. Why is it important to keep church and state separate?
3. What is the danger of the church receiving money from the leaders of a nation?
4. How does God judge us today?

judgment. They did not **measure up**. God said He would destroy the places of worship on the hills. Idols were worshipped there.

In this vision, Amos does not ask God to save the people. Amos is silent. This time God will not change his mind. God was angry because of the idol worship. He was also angry with the king. God said that King Jeroboam and his family would no longer have power.

People make decisions that can change their lives. Sometimes we make the wrong decisions. Sometimes our decisions can lead to pain and suffering and death. Other times we make the right decisions. Right decisions lead to hope and joy and life. We should pray that we will not make wrong decisions. Wrong decisions lead to hearing God's judgment.

**A Prophet Who Spoke for Country and Not God
(Amos 7:10-17)**

Amaziah was the priest at Bethel. The king gave him money. Amaziah only wanted to say words that would make the king happy. This was dangerous. Amaziah spoke for the king and not for God. Amaziah only spoke the words the king wanted to hear.

Amaziah sent a message to the king. He told the king what Amos said. Amos said the king would die a bad death. Amos said the people of Israel would have to go away to another country. Amaziah did not like that. What Amos said was true. Amos was a **prophet** who spoke for God.

Amos said that the people of Israel were enjoying being rich. They were rich because they were hurting poor people. They were doing things to hurt people who could not help themselves.

Amaziah sent this message to the king so Amos would get

in trouble. After Amaziah sent this message, he told Amos to go back home. He told Amos to go back to the southern kingdom of Judah. He told Amos to go talk to the people where he was from.

Amaziah probably dressed well. Amos probably looked like a poor shepherd. Still Amos was not afraid. He said that he did not choose to speak to Israel. It was God who chose Amos to speak. God called him to speak to Israel, not to his home country of Judah.

Amos knew that he had once been a person who took care of sheep and fig trees. Amos was not a person who got paid for doing God's work. Often in the days of Amos, a son did what his father did. His father was not a person who spoke for God. However, when God tells a person to do something, God helps them to do it. Amos was a brave prophet.

Amaziah gave his own message to Amos. It was not from God. Amos then gave Amaziah a message from God. It was a message for all of his family. His children would be killed. His wife would sell her body for sex. Amaziah would be taken away after the war. Bad things would happen during these times. This would be true for Amaziah's family. It would be true for many other families. This country had turned away from God's laws.

Amaziah did not speak for God. He was paid by the king. He spoke only for himself and for the king. He did not speak the truth.

What We Can Learn

When a preacher says only what the leaders in a country want to hear, there is danger. Thomas Helwys was a preacher in the 1600's in England. He wrote to King James I. He told the king that the church must be separate from the state. He said the king is only a man. He said the king is not God. He said the king has no power over the souls of people. The preacher would not change his mind. He died in prison.

Amaziah was one of the king's workers. He did not feel free to say what was wrong. Amaziah thought he was the leader in Bethel. He did not listen to God. Amos was free to give God's word to the people. Amos did not have to say things that pleased the king. Amos said the things God told him. Amos obeyed God.

Our faith is not just about what we do in church. Our faith is about how we obey God. We need to worship together in church. We must live each day helping others learn about God.

Amos 7:1-17

1: This is what the Lord God showed me: He was making a gathering of locusts when the spring grain began to grow. The spring grain was after the king's share had been cut.

2: When they had finished eating the grass I said, "Lord God, forgive! O that Jacob may stay alive for he is so small."

3: So the Lord changed His mind about this. "It will not be," said the Lord.

4: This is what the Lord God showed me: The Lord God was calling for a punishment by fire. It dried up the deep waters and began to destroy the farm land.

5: Then I said, "Lord God, I beg You to stop! How can Jacob stay alive, for he is so small"?

6: So the Lord changed His mind about this. "This also will not be," said the Lord God.

7: This is what He showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall made straight by a string held in His hand.

8: The Lord said to me, "What do you see, Amos?" And I said, "A string." Then the Lord said, "See, I am about to put a straight string among my people Israel. I will not change My mind again about punishing them.

9: The high places of Isaac will be destroyed. The holy places of Israel will be laid waste. Then I will rise up against the people of Jeroboam with the sword."

10: Then Amaziah, the religious leader of Bethel, sent word to King Jeroboam of

Israel, saying, "Amos has made plans against you among the people of Israel. His words will destroy the land.

11: For this is what Amos is saying: 'Jeroboam will die by the sword, and the people of Israel will be taken away from their own land to a strange land.'"

12: Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Go, you who tell what is going to happen in the future! Run away to the land of Judah! There eat your bread, and there speak your words!

13: But never speak about your special dreams again at Bethel. For it is a holy place of the king, a place where the nation worships."

14: Amos answered Amaziah, "I am not a man who tells what is going to happen in the future, or the son of such a man. I take care of sheep and cattle, and grow fig trees.

15: But the Lord took me from following the flock and said to me, 'Go and speak in My name to My people Israel.'

16: So now hear the Word of the Lord. You are saying, 'Do not speak against Israel or preach against the people of Isaac.'

17: So this is what the Lord says: 'Your wife will sell the use of her body in the city. Your sons and daughters will be killed by the sword. Your land will be divided and given to others. You yourself will die in an unclean land. And Israel will be driven away from this land to a strange country.'"



Adult Bible Study in
Basic English

Bible Text

Amos 9:1-15

Memory Verse

“I will plant My people on their land. And they will never again be pulled up from the land I gave them,’ says the Lord your God.”

—Amos 9:15

Word List

certain: a sure thing

repent: turn from wrongdoing and tell God you are sorry

Certain Judgment—and Hope

As a child, did you ever play a game of hide and seek? One child closes his eyes and counts to one hundred. The other children all find a place to hide. Then the child who counted tries to find the other children. Sometimes he finds them very quickly. Sometimes it takes much longer.

Amos said there would be no place for Israel to hide from the judgment of God. They had not kept their promises to God. They could not ask God to keep His promises to them.

In the study of the Book of Amos we have read the words of Amos in the first six chapters. Then there are the dreams of Amos in Amos 7-9. This last dream is in Amos 9. It shows how God is judging Israel for their sinful ways. God’s people were very sinful. However, He did not leave them without hope.

God’s people needed Amos’ message of judgment to get their attention. They were so happy with the way things were. For eight and a half chapters, Amos told of God’s judgment on His people. Amos showed the people of Israel were far from God. He showed them how they needed to turn from their sins. Then they could ask God to forgive them. Then they could enjoy all of God’s blessings. Throughout the Bible, God is ready to forgive when His people **repent**. When we **repent**, we turn away from our sins.

Certain Judgment (Amos 9:1-8)

In this dream, Amos sees God standing beside the altar. Maybe it is the altar at Bethel. God would not receive their offerings. Instead He sent an earthquake. This altar would be completely broken down. The people would suffer. Another country would come and take over their country. Any people who had escaped would then die.

In Psalm 130, it says there is no place someone can go to escape God’s care. Amos said God is powerful. There is no place

Things To Think About

1. How does it make you feel to think about the judgment of God?
2. Do you ever think that God should bless you even though you do not obey Him?
3. How can God be a God of love and a God of justice?
4. When have you felt God's hope?

a person can go to escape His judgment. Some say, “You can run, but you can’t hide.”

They could not dig deep enough or climb high enough to escape. Read what Paul said about God’s love in Romans 8:38-39. He said that nothing can separate us from God’s love. “Death cannot! Life cannot! Angels cannot! Leaders cannot! Any other power cannot! Hard things now or in the future cannot! The world above or the world below cannot! Any other living thing cannot keep us away from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord” (vv. 38-39). Believers in Christ cannot be separated from the love of God. It is the same for those who will be judged. They cannot hide from God either.

Amos wanted to make sure the people of Israel understood God. He wanted them to know how great and mighty and powerful God is. Amos 9:5-6 is written like a song. Amos writes of God’s power. Amos says God can control the rain. Amos says He can touch the land and it will melt. God is over heaven and earth. There were idol worshippers in Israel. Some had said that the false god Baal made the seeds to grow. Amos said they were wrong. “The Lord is His name” (v.6).

The name of God was very important to the people of this time. Many thought that they could not know the name of any god. They thought that if you knew any god’s name, you had power over him. The name was the same as the person. God told Moses His name in Exodus 3:13-16. This was a very special thing. He said he could be known as “I AM” (Exodus 3:14). Israel was a special people if they could know God’s name. To make God’s name special was to make God special. Amos told Israel that this great God coming to bring judgment.

No Special Treatment (Amos 9:7-10)

God was the God of the nations. This was true even if they did not respect Him. God had moved the people of Israel to Canaan. He had moved the Philistines and the Syrians. The people of Israel were specially chosen by God. However, they could not disobey God without judgment. They had to be even more responsible. God's eyes were on the sinful nation. Their only hope was part of Israel would be saved.

Those who thought no evil could come to them were wrong. Still, the people thought that nothing bad could happen to them. They thought it would be like the times in Egypt. In Egypt, God set them free.

They were happy with their riches. They thought they had everything going their way. God had been so patient. They thought they could continue to sin. They were wrong. God's judgment was sure and they would not escape.

Hope After Bad Times (Amos 9:11-15)

Not everyone would die. A few people would live. The poor and needy were not condemned like the rich and rulers were. A farmer would shake the grain to take away the bad part. In the same way, God would shake His people. He would save those who obeyed Him.

God would bring those few to a wonderful place. The house of David the King would be rebuilt. It would no longer be a small shelter. It would be a great and permanent place.

Earlier Amos warned the people. He said they would build houses they would not live in. He said they would plant grapes they would not eat. Now God promised they will rebuild the cities. They will live in them. They will plant grapes and make gardens. They will eat the food from the gardens. Before they finish gathering the food, they will plant more. It is a promise of plenty.

What We Can Learn

How can we understand the anger of God? How can we understand the love of God? God cannot look on sin. We see on the cross that God allowed His own Son to die. He died to take away our sins. God could not look on those sins. However, He still loved us very much. God let His Son take our sins on Himself for us.

We can trust God. He will do what is right and good. If we listen to Amos, we will learn to obey God. If we love and serve God, we will experience His blessing. We will experience all the good things God wants for us.

Amos 9:1-15

1: I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and He said, “Break the tops of the pillars so that the bases shake! Break them to pieces on the heads of all the people! Then I will kill the rest of them with the sword. Not one of them will get away.

2: Even if they dig into the place of the dead, My hand will take them from there. Even if they go up to heaven, I will bring them down from there.

3: Even if they hid on the top of Mount Carmel, I will find them and take them from there. Even if they hide themselves from My eyes on the bottom of the sea, there I will tell the large sea-snake to bite them.

4: Even if they are taken away to a strange land by those who hate them, there I will have the sword kill them. I will set My eyes against them to hurt them, and not to bring good to them.”

5: The Lord God of All is the One Who touches the land and it melts. All those who live in it are filled with sorrow. All of it rises and falls like the Nile River of Egypt.

6: The Lord builds His upper rooms in the heavens and sets His sky over the earth. He calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the earth. The Lord is His name.

7: Are you not like the Ethiopians to Me, you people of Israel?” says the Lord. “Did I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt, and the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir?

8: See, the eyes of the Lord God are on the sinful nation, and I will destroy it from the earth. But I will not destroy all the people of Jacob,” says the Lord.

9: “I will say what must be done. I will shake the people of Jacob among all the nations, as grain is shaken on a fine net. But not the smallest seed will fall to the ground.

10: All the sinners among My people who say, ‘The trouble will not catch up to us or come to us,’ will die by the sword.

11: “In that day I will build again the tent of David that fell down. Yes, I will build it again from the stones that fell down. I will set it up again as it used to be.

12: And so the people of Israel will own what is left of the land of Edom and all the nations that are called by My name,” says the Lord who does this.

13: “The days are coming,” says the Lord, “when the man who plows will catch up with the man who gathers. The man who crushes the grapes will catch up with the man who plants the seed. The mountains will drip sweet wine, and all the hills will flow with it.

14: And I will return My people Israel to their riches. They will build again the cities that have been destroyed, and live in them. They will plant grape-fields and drink their wine. And they will make gardens and eat their fruit.

15: I will plant My people on their land. And they will never again be pulled up from the land I gave them,” says the Lord your God.

Amos, Hosea, Micah



Adult Bible Study in Basic English

UNIT 2: HOSEA: A GOD WHO JUDGES AND BRINGS BACK TO HIMSELF

Lesson 6 Trouble in the Family Hosea 1:1-9

Lesson 7 Restoring the Relationship Hosea 1:10—2:5,14-23; 3:1-5

Lesson 8 God's Charges Hosea 4:1-12; 8:1-10,14

Lesson 9 God's Yearning Heart Hosea 11:1-11

Lesson 10 Return to the Lord Hosea 14:1-9

UNIT 2

HOSEA: A GOD WHO JUDGES AND BRINGS BACK TO HIMSELF

Hosea is about God's judgment and mercy. God taught Hosea about these things in his own family. Israel did not understand God's judgment. They believed they were as good as everyone else. Hosea said that God did not approve of Israel. God said they were unfaithful. They did not obey the laws. They were bad to the poor. They worshipped idols. They were greedy. They thought they were strong enough to solve all of their problems. This book tells of God's promise to restore His people.

- Lesson 6: Hosea has hard times with his family.
- Lesson 7: God hopes to bring back His people, even when they disobeyed.
- Lesson 8: This is a review of the bad things Israel did.
- Lesson 9: God shows loving concern for Israel and promises to bring them back.
- Lesson 10: God calls for Israel to repent.

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Adult Bible Study in
Basic English

Trouble in the Family

Hosea lived in Israel in the last half of the eighth century. Israel was the northern kingdom of the Hebrew nation. Hosea may have begun his preaching while King Jeroboam II was alive. He may have remained after Jeroboam's death in 748 BC. Isaiah and Amos were also preachers at this time. Hosea may have finished his work in the southern kingdom of Judah. Hosea would have been able to tell them about God's judgment on the northern kingdom. He had lived in the northern kingdom. He had been speaking for God for over forty years.

This part of the Bible is known as the minor prophets. Hosea is the first book in this part. They were called minor prophets because they were not as long as the major prophets. Isaiah was one of the major prophets. Hosea is the story of a man's love for his wife. She was a woman who was not faithful to him. It is more than a story of a man and a woman. It is a story of God's love for His people. God's people also were not faithful to Him. We see how much love God had for His people. We also see how much sin His people had.

Hosea told his story. He also told God's story. It is a story of great sadness and great love. Hosea tells his story with mercy and love. In the first unit of this study, we studied the Book of Amos. Amos told the people about the sins that could be seen. Hosea told about sins of the heart. Hosea wanted the people of God to be faithful to God. He told them what would happen if they were not faithful. The nation of Israel was not good. Families were not good. Religious leaders did not care. The courts were **crooked**. There was much **violence** in the land.

Bible Text

Hosea 1:1-9

Memory Verse

“But I will have loving-pity on the people of Judah. I, the Lord their God, will save them...”

—Hosea 1:7

Word List

crooked: not honest or straight in one's dealings

violence: times when people hurt each other; cruel acts

Baal worship: This false religion had many places of worship in Israel. The

God's Word (Hosea 1:1)

The main person in this book is not Hosea. We see the name Hosea only 4 times. His name is only mentioned in the first

people wanted to have their land grow many plants. To do this the men would do sex acts with women.

Things To Think About

1. Do you believe that God really punishes sin?
2. Think how you feel when someone is unfaithful to you. Does this help you understand how God feels when His people are not faithful?
3. Can you see the difference in the preaching of Amos and Hosea? Which one helps you understand God's message best?
4. In what ways do we try to worship the true God and others gods? What keeps you from being faithful to God?

chapter. His name means rescue or safety or to save. It is much like the name Joshua which mean "the Lord saves." It is also like the name Jesus. Hosea's country needed to be saved. Jesus and Hosea have a similar name. Both suffered to bring the truth of God's love to the people.

Hosea did not try to make himself look important. He always talked about God. The book begins with "The Word of the Lord..." (v.1). Hosea did not make up his own words. He brought the Word of the Lord to the people. We do not know if Hosea was a priest, a farmer or a baker. He talked about all these things.

We know that Hosea obeyed God. Hosea knew that his fellow Jews did not obey God. Hosea used the sad story of his family to tell a message that came from God.

Obey God (Hosea 1:2)

Hosea obeyed God and married Gomer. Gomer was a woman who was not faithful in marriage. She was unfaithful many times with many men. Her life became a picture story of the nation of Israel. Israel went away from obeying God many, many times.

Because of his wife, Hosea understood how sad God felt. God was sad about His unfaithful people. Hosea's heart was broken because of his wife. He still loved her. God's heart was broken because of His people. God still loved them. He loves us today. Israel had done many wrong things, but God wanted Israel back.

The Meaning of the Names (Hosea 1:3-9)

A son was born to Hosea and Gomer. God told Hosea to name him Jezreel. The name sounds almost like the word Israel. Jezreel was the name of a place where God's people had disobeyed Him. They had killed many people there. The

town was halfway between the Sea of Galilee and Samaria. It was in the northern part of Israel. This was where king Ahab and his wife Jezebel began the worship of **Baal**. Another king named Jehu had killed many members of Ahab's family here (II Kings 9-10).

When anyone saw this child named Jezreel they would think of these things. Israel was told they would be punished. Hosea was saying that the northern kingdom would come to an end.

Gomer had another child, a girl. They were told to name her Lo-ruhamah. "Ruhamah" means pity or mercy. "Lo" means no. So her name means "no mercy" or "not pitied." The name was a message to Israel. They were not faithful. God could not show any more mercy on them. We can never demand or expect mercy. It is a gift.

Hosea told of a time when there would be no more northern kingdom. God said that He would still show loving-pity on Judah, the southern kingdom. The people in Judah had not gone as far from God as the people in Israel.

Hosea and Gomer's third child was born two or three years later. His name was Lo-Ammi. "Ammi" means people. "Lo" means no. God was saying, "You are not my people."

Even when Hosea preached these

strong messages, the people did not listen. They did not come back to God. The names of these children were a message to the people of Israel. They did not listen. There was only one thing left. God would judge and punish them.

What We Can Learn

The names of the children were to be a lesson. The people of Israel did not learn the lesson. But Judah did listen to God. They stayed true to God for many more years.

We can learn from God's judgment too. Sometimes there is trouble in the family. Then every member in the family can work together to solve the problem. Sometimes there is trouble in God's family. Then we all need to repent.

The people of Israel worshipped the false god Baal. Today we worship many things that take the place of God.

As we think about a loving family, we can understand a little of God's love. God wants to have a loving relationship with all of us. He knows what is best for our lives. God punishes us so that we understand how serious sin is. Sin keeps us away from God. Repentance brings us back to Him. God judges us to restore us.

Hosea 1:1-9

1: The Word of the Lord came to Hosea the son of Beerī during the time that Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah were kings of Judah, and Jeroboam the son of Joash was king of Israel.

2: When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to him, “Go and marry a wife who is not faithful in marriage, and have children from that woman. For the land is guilty of not being faithful to the Lord.”

3: So he married Gomer the daughter of Diblaim and she gave birth to his son.

4: And the Lord said to Hosea, “Name him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the people of Jehu for the killing at Jezreel. And I will put an end to the ruling power of the people of Israel.

5: On that day, I will break the power of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.”

6: Then Gomer gave birth to a daughter. And the Lord said to Hosea, “Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have loving-pity on the people of Israel and forgive them.

7: But I will have loving-pity on the people of Judah. I, the Lord their God, will save them. But I will not save them by bow, sword, war, horses, or horsemen.”

8: When Gomer had finished nursing Lo-ruhamah, she gave birth to a son.

9: And the Lord said, “Name him Lo-

ammi, for you are not My people and I am not your God.



Lesson
7
Adult Bible Study in
Basic English

Bible Text

Hosea 1:10-2:5,14-23;
3:1-5

Memory Verse

“...I will put an end to the bow, the sword, and war in all the land. And I will let My people lie down in peace and be safe.”

—Hosea 2: 18

Word List

restore: bring back to the way it should be

relationship: to be connected to, related to

covenant: an agreement, promise between two people

Restoring the Relationship

A preacher went on a hunting trip with his friend. His gun went off by accident. He shot his friend. The friend died five days later. The preacher did not sleep for a week. He told his wife he thought he could never preach again. At last he fell asleep. In a dream Jesus gave him a word of comfort. The next Sunday he stood to preach. He remained silent for a long time. When he began, he sounded different. His voice seemed to carry the grief in the world. That preacher’s name was George Truett. George Truett served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, for forty-five years after that terrible accident. He was always kind to those who were in trouble, hurting, and heartbroken.

God wants to **restore** us. God wants to bring us back to Himself. He starts by healing broken lives. He fixes our hearts. He ministers to the suffering. He goes after those in trouble. God also asks us to be His partner.

God Can Change Names and Lives (Hosea 1:10—2:1)

God had chosen the names for Gomer’s children. He chose them to teach a lesson to Hosea and to Israel. The names showed that Gomer had not been faithful to her husband (Hosea 1:1-9). Jezreel’s name was a warning to change and return to God. Lo-ruhamah’s name meant that God would show no mercy. Through Lo-Ammi’s name God said, “You are not my people.”

Later, God changed the meaning of these names. Now God spoke of Jezreel as a great day, not a day of judgment. Now there would be mercy. The names of the other two children were changed. Before, Lo-ruhamah meant “not my people.” Now, they are called “sons of the living God” (v. 1). The names now mean “mercy” and “my people.”

What had once been sad names were now good names. This is the way God works. People sometimes go very far from God. God wants to bring His people back if they wish to return.

Things To Think About

1. Do you have the will to love as God loves?
2. Is the picture of Gomer's love for Hagar a picture of how much God loves you?
3. How can living through hard times help us to be more sensitive to the needs of others?
4. Have you ever seen God working in your life to make things right — to bring you back to Him?

Today people may be loyal to what they own. They may be loyal to what they want to become. They may be loyal to what they love. We should only be loyal to the one true and living God. It is God who begins this **relationship**. Where once we were sad, now we have joy.

The Sorrow of Sin (Hosea 2:2-5)

Hosea gave hope to the children of Gomer. In the same way God gave hope to the children of Israel. Hosea asked the children to go and talk to their mother. God was asking for the people of Israel to return. He wanted them to stop being unfaithful.

At first, living a life of sin seems fun and exciting. If it were not, people would not be tempted. This fun does not last. It turns into a life without purpose. It is an empty life, a sad life. A person who has been unfaithful to God must confess their sin. That person must turn away from sinful living. Then God can restore the relationship.

God at Work (Hosea 2:14-23)

God began to search for His people. He searched even while they were sinning. God was whispering sweet and tender words to bring His people back to Him.

A time was coming when God's people would call Him "My husband" (v. 16). They would start a new **covenant** with God. This time they would promise to be faithful. There would be peace, love and mercy (vv. 17-23). God would bring a time of plenty. Those who had not felt loved would now be loved. Those who were called "not my people" would now be "my people."

A Love That Will Not Stop (Hosea 3:1-2)

We do not know how much time there was between

Chapter 1 and Chapter 2. We do know that God spoke to Hosea another time. God told Hosea to keep on loving Gomer even though she had been unfaithful to him.

Hosea had to buy his wife back after she ran away. She had been unfaithful with other men. She was sold as a slave. She was no longer beautiful to other men. There is a kind of love which looks only at how a person looks. This love sees only the beautiful. There is another love which is from God. This love sees beyond sin.

The story of Hosea's love for Gomer is a message to us from God. It shows that nothing we do can stop God from loving us. Hosea 3 is a picture of how God saves us. Hosea paid a price to get his wife back. God paid a price when Jesus died on the cross. Jesus died to save us from our sins. This love cost a great price. Paul said, "But God showed His love to us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Gomer was to live with Hosea and sin no more. She had to prove that she was not going back to her old ways. The people from the southern kingdom had to learn never to worship idols again. It took seventy years of living in another land for them to learn.

Saved From, To, and For (Hosea 3:3-5)

Christians are saved from sin. Many have not understood that they are saved to be in a relationship with God. This is through His son Jesus. Gomer and Israel needed to change their way of living.

Christians have a purpose. Every Christian is to be on mission with God. You are saved *from* sin *to* a relationship with God through Christ *for* ministry.

What We Can Learn

We partner with God to show God's mercy to others. We can become one of the people of God. We help tell people they, too, can have a relationship with God.

God wanted Israel not to worship idols. God asks us to not put anything in His place. He also teaches us about forgiveness. Hosea forgave his wife. God forgives us. We must learn to forgive. Hosea gives a message of judgment and hope we can share.

Hosea 1:10—11

10: Yet the number of the people of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' it will be said to them, 'You are the sons of the living God.'

11: The people of Judah and the people of Israel will be gathered together, and they will choose one leader for themselves.

And they will go up from the land, for the day of Jezreel will be a great day.

Hosea 2:1-5

- 1:** “Say to your brothers, ‘My people,’ and to your sisters, ‘My loved one.’”
- 2:** Speak with strong words to your mother. Speak with strong words, for she is not My wife and I am not her husband. Tell her to stop selling the use of her body and giving herself to other men.
- 3:** If she does not, I will put her to shame by taking off her clothes and show her as when she was born. I will make her like a desert, like a hot and dry land, and will kill her with thirst.
- 4:** I will have no loving-pity on her children, for they are children of her sinful ways.
- 5:** Their mother has not been faithful. She who gave birth to them has acted in shame. For she said, ‘I will go after my lovers. They give me bread and water, my wool and linen, my oil and my drink.’”

Hosea 2:14-23

- 14:** “So I will lead her into the desert and speak words of comfort to her.”
- 15:** I will give her grape-fields there, and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. And she will sing there as she did when she as young, as in the day she came out of the land of Egypt.
- 16:** In that day.” says the Lord, “you will call Me, ‘My husband.’ And you will no longer call Me, ‘My Baal.’”
- 17:** For I will take the names of the Baals from her mouth. The names of the false gods will never be spoken again.
- 18:** In that day I will make an agreement for them with the wild animals of the field, the birds of the sky, and the things which move upon the ground. I will put an end to the

bow, the sword, and war in all the land. And I will let My people lie down in peace and be safe.

- 19** I will promise to make you Mine forever. Yes, I will take you as My bride in what is right and good and fair, and in loving-kindness and in loving-pity.
- 20:** I will keep My promise and make you Mine. Then you will know the Lord.
- 21:** “In that day,” says the Lord, “I will give an answer to the heavens, and they will give an answer to the earth.
- 22:** The earth will give an answer to the grain, the new wine, and the oil. And they will give an answer to Jezreel.
- 23:** I will plant her for Myself in the land. Those who were not loved, I will call, ‘My loved ones.’ Those who were not My people, I will call, ‘My people,’ And they will say, ‘You are my God!’”

Hosea 3:1-5

- 1:** Then the Lord said to me, “Go again and love your wife, even when she is loved by another and is not faithful. Love her as the Lord loves the people of Israel, even when they turn to other gods and love cakes of dried grapes.”
- 2:** So I bought her for fifteen pieces of silver money and ten baskets of barley.
- 3:** Then I said to her, “You must stay with me for many days, and be faithful to me. Do not have another man, and I will also be faithful to you.”
- 4:** For the sons of Israel will live many days without a king or leader, without holy gifts or holy stone pillars, and without linen vests or false gods.
- 5:** After this the sons of Israel will return and look for the Lord their God and for David their king. And they will come shaking before the Lord and receive His goodness in the last days.



Adult Bible Study in
Basic English

Bible Text

Hosea 4:1-12;
8:1-10,14

Memory Verse

“My people are
destroyed because
they have not
learned...”

—Hosea 4:6

Word List

charges: a list of
wrong-doing

complaint: saying
what is wrong

promise: to tell
someone that you will
do what you say

God's Charges

The first three chapters of Hosea were all about Hosea's family. The story of his family is a picture story for God's people. In Chapter 4, Hosea brings a message directly from God. The message is for the nations of Israel and Judah.

Hosea heard God speak. It was Hosea's job to tell the people what they were doing wrong. They were not just breaking God's laws. They were breaking the heart of God. They were breaking their covenant relationship with Him. Some things Hosea told about Israel are the same problems we have today.

God told how to make these things right. Imagine a courtroom, not just a television show or a movie. Imagine a real courtroom. Chapter 4 tells of a court where God has brought **charges** against His own people. God is not happy with the religious leaders. They were not telling Israel about the one true God. They had not kept their **promise** to obey God.

No Love Equals More Crime (Hosea 4:1-3)

The list of **complaints** about wrongdoing is long.

- Complaint #1: *You do not know me.* There is no faithfulness or knowledge of God in the land. They had religion written on their calendars. They made time to offer sacrifices, but they did not love God. They did not know God in their hearts.

- Complaint #2: *Your land is a land of crime. There is lying and murder and stealing and adultery. You have no respect for My laws and teachings.* God's people knew all the commandments. They talked about them, but they did not obey them. They told lies. There was one killing after another. They stole from each other. Husbands and wives were not faithful to each other. God's people were breaking half of the Ten Commandments.

- Complaint #3: *You are killing the land, the animals, the*

Things To Think About

1. If you know that you are guilty of the charges God has brought do this:

- Admit your guilt.
- Believe that God is merciful.
- Confess your sin honestly and fully.
- Dedicate yourself to be a better follower and disciple of God.
- Entrust yourself to do the will of God.
- Follow in the relationship with God that comes from Jesus Christ.

2. How can you make sure that the words of the Bible are used to make you change your wrongdoing?

3. Are there any parts of the list of charges in this lesson that are true of your life?

birds, and the fish that I made. The land was filled with sorrow because of the people's sin. People also disobey God and are selfish today. When we do this, we hurt the land. We need to watch over the world God has given us. He wants us to take care of it.

More Priests Equal More Sin (Hosea 4:4-12)

- *Complaint #4: You are playing religious games with my truth.* God said that the religious leaders were not being faithful. The people who followed them were also unfaithful. They were pretending. Everyone was guilty. The truth of God was not in them. They fell in the day and the night because they did follow God's light.

Religious leaders had important work to do. They were to teach others about God. Hosea 4:6-7 said that God's people had not learned. One of my teachers used to say, "Telling is not always teaching. Listening is not always learning." The religious leaders may have told the people what to do. The people may have listened, but no one learned. The religious leaders were not doing the right things. They were only talking about doing them. The people were not doing the right things either.

Because this was happening, God had no further use for them. There were many religious leaders. All of them were bad. The more religious leaders, the more sin there seemed to be in the land. God would not allow them to have more children.

When leaders are bad, people have a problem. These leaders were serving idols. When they served them they drank alcohol and did sex sins. Both the religious leaders and the people were guilty.

Idols Equal Broken Promises to God (Hosea 8:1-6)

Hosea asked that the trumpet player make the sound of warning. This would warn of coming danger. The Assyrians would come and take over the country. This would happen in 922 BC. Their days were numbered.

The Assyrians would come because of the sin and disobedience of Israel. This part of God's people would be destroyed. They had broken their promise to obey God.

The people said they knew God, but they did not. They turned away from what was good. God would not allow them to continue to worship idols. They would not be allowed to say that they were God's people. These idols were made from their own hands. One day they would be broken.

Plant Sin, Grow Judgment (Hosea 8:7-10,14)

Verse 7 is one of the most famous verses in Hosea. What you plant is what grows. Hosea said they had planted bad things that would grow large. They had planted wind. The wind would grow to a much larger whirlwind. They had sinned what they thought were small sins. They would learn these were not small sins. In the New Testament, Paul wrote, "Do not

be fooled. You cannot fool God. A man will get back what he plants" (Galatians 6:7).

Hosea said that Israel was not of any worth. Israel was like a plant which could not be used for bread. Israel would be blown away like a dried weed.

For many years, Israel paid bribe money to Assyria. Israel hoped Assyria would protect them. Israel hoped they would not allow any other country to take them over. They trusted a foreign king instead of asking God for help. God said this would not work any longer. Israel would be like a wild donkey going around all alone.

Israel also paid money to Egypt. In the end, no one would help them. They did not trust God. They forgot God (v.14). They tried to build walls around their cities. They trusted in themselves. Hosea warned Judah, the southern kingdom, that they must also trust God.

What We Can Learn

God's charges against Israel were strong. Israel had gone too far away from God. The question for us is this: Have we gone too far from God? Are we as guilty as Israel? How is God trying to get our attention today? Hosea said that when we repent we can change ourselves and our nation.

Hosea 4:1-12

1 Listen to the Word of the Lord, O people of Israel, because He has something against the people of the land. "They are not faithful or kind, and no one in the land knows God.

2: There is swearing, lying, killing, stealing and sex sins. They are always hurting others, and there is one killing after another.

3: The land is filled with sorrow. Everyone who lives on it wastes away, together with the animals of the field and the birds of the sky. Even the fish of the sea are taken away.

4: "Yet let no one put blame or guilt upon another. For your people are like those who argue with the religious leader.

5: You will fall during the day, and the religious leaders will fall with you during the night. And I will destroy your mother.

6: My people are destroyed because they have not learned. You were not willing to learn. So I am not willing to have you be My religious leader. Since you have forgotten the Law of your God, I also will forget your children.

7: "The more there were, the more they sinned against Me. I will change their shining-greatness into shame.

8: They feed on the sin of My people, and so they want them to sin more.

9: The religious leaders will be punished the same as the people. I will punish them for what they have done.

10: They will eat, but not have enough. They will do sex sins, but the number of their children will not grow because they have not been faithful to the Lord.

11: "Their sinful ways and both old and new wine take away My people's understanding.

12: They ask things of a wooden god and are answered by a stick of wood. A false spirit has led them the wrong way. They have not been faithful, and they have left their God.

Hosea 8:1-10

1: "Put the horn to your lips! Men who hate us are coming like an eagle to fight against the house of the Lord, because the people of Israel have sinned against My agreement and would not obey My Law.

2: They cry out to me, 'My God, we of Israel know You!'

3: Israel has turned away from the good, and those who hate him will come after him.

4: They have set up kings, but not by Me. They have chosen leaders, but I did not know it. They have made false gods for themselves out of silver and gold, so they will be destroyed.

5: O Samaria, I will have nothing to do with the calf you worship. My anger burns against them! How long will it be before they are pure

6: in Israel? A workman made this calf, so it is not God. The calf of Samaria will be broken to pieces.

7: They plant the wind and they will gather the storm. The standing grain has no heads, and will give no food. If it were to give good, strangers would eat it.

8: "Israel is eaten up. They are now among the nations like a pot that is of no worth.

9: They have gone up to Assyria like a wild donkey all alone. Ephraim has hired lovers.

10: Even when they hired people among the nations to help them, I will now gather them together. And they will begin to waste away because the powerful king will make it hard for them.

Hosea 8:14

14: Israel has forgotten his Maker and built great houses. And Judah has built many strong cities ready for battle. But I will send a fire upon its cities that will destroy its beautiful houses."



Adult Bible Study in
Basic English

Bible Text

Hosea 11:1-11

Memory Verse

“They will follow the Lord . . . And I will return them to their homes,” says the Lord.”

—Hosea 11: 10, 11

Word List

yearning: desiring

exile: banishment;
being cast away

rebel: (verb) telling God you will not do what He wants you to do; doing what God does not want you to do

Ephraim: A region in Israel. Sometimes Ephraim was used to mean all of Israel. Joseph and his Egyptian wife had a son by this name.

God's Yearning Heart

The message of Chapter 11 is one of hope and encouragement. In Chapters 9-10, Israel was told that judgment would come. Every year, Israel had a big festival of the harvest. They only pretended to be thankful. They would be punished. The crops would not grow. Because they worshipped Baal, they would be destroyed. They would be carried away into **exile**. They would no longer live a rich life. Their government would be gone. They would no longer trust each other.

Hosea told Israel to turn to God. They should plant right living so that they could grow God's love for them. Israel did not listen. When people first **rebel** against God they might find some fun times. Later, there are only empty feelings. The image of God within each person will never be filled when we do bad things. Our sins will not make us happy in the end.

Parents and Children (Hosea 11:1-4)

The first chapters of Hosea tell the story of a husband and wife. Hosea told of his marriage to Gomer. She was unfaithful. This was a picture of how Israel was hurting God. God loved His people. They were unfaithful to Him. Hosea wanted the people to think of God in a personal way.

In Chapter 11 there is another picture. It is the picture of a parent and child. A loving father is seeking a son who went the wrong way. The people of Israel had never thought of God in this way. Today, Christians have many examples of God as a father. Jesus taught us to pray, “Our Father” (Luke 15:11-32). Jesus said from the cross, “Father, forgive them” (Luke 23:34). He also said, “Father, into our hands I commend my spirit” (Luke 23:46). Israel had never heard this before. Hosea made them think.

Hosea 11:1 is the picture of a loving, caring father. The father

Ephraim and his older brother, Manasseh, received a tribal inheritance along with the sons of Jacob. The region of Ephraim was bordered by the Mediterranean Sea (west), tribe of Manasseh (north), Jordan River (east), and tribe of Benjamin (south).

Things To Think About

1. What have you learned about God when you have rebelled? What have you learned about God by watching others who have rebelled?
2. How do you know when you have been unfaithful to God?
3. How would your relationship with God be different if Jesus had not shown us about God?
4. How can we show God's yearning heart to those who are rebelling?

was willing to make any sacrifice for his children. This child is no longer small. This is an adult who is still behaving as a child.

Hosea 11:2 says the father "called." He is like a parent calling a child to come home. Maybe the child has been playing with his friends. Sometimes the child does not listen. He ignores the call and keeps on playing. Israel went farther away from God. This verse tells us that God was not leaving. God's people were leaving. They were turning to other gods. The more God called Israel, the farther they moved away. Israel had decided to do their own thing. Israel wanted to please themselves. They were taking the easy road. Then they complained when they got into trouble.

Hosea 11:3 shows how parents help their small children learn to stand. They help them take their first steps. After God's people left Egypt, they had to grow up. God was always there for them. They learned to walk. Then they acted like teenagers who just wanted to have their own way. Israel was going to do what they wanted to do. Israel was happy to be free from Egypt. However, they became slaves when they worshiped the false god Baal. Baal could do nothing for them.

Hosea 11:4 explains that Israel was like a child who needed love. They were like a farm animal that needed to be trained. God was ready to give them the care and attention they needed. God is a God of love and kindness.

Parents Punish (Hosea 11:5-7)

Good parents punish their children when the children disobey. God knew that Israel must be punished. Israel refused to stop worshipping idols. They would return to a time like they had in Egypt. In Egypt they were slaves. They could not keep their land or their freedom.

God said that Israel was going to be captured by the Assyrians. Israel was paying a lot of money to Assyria to prevent this. They also tried to get help from Egypt. But this did no good. In 733 BC, Assyria took over most of Israel. All this happened because they refused to be sorry for their sins.

Israel would not return to faith in God. They asked Baal, the false god, for help. Assyria was already taking over part of their land.

God's Heart of Love (Hosea 11:8-9)

God did not give up. God's love never ends. All of God's preachers had called the people of God to be faithful. They told Israel to turn from their sins. The hearts of the people were hard. They would not listen. God knew what His people deserved. God had once destroyed the two wicked cities of Admah and Zeboiim. However, His heart still had love for his children Israel.

A parent loves his child. When the child keeps doing the wrong thing, the parent feels sad. The sad parent keeps on hoping and keeps on believing. Israel acted very badly. It would be very hard to keep on loving and hoping. God's love is more than man's love. It is more than we can understand.

Hosea 11:9 is a verse that gives us

great hope. Parents can sometimes be so sad about the sin of a child that they give up. God still considered the child who sinned as His child. God is not like man. God's love is greater. God is love.

Coming Home (Hosea 11:10-11)

In the earlier verses, Hosea said that Israel was like a grown child. The grown child had gone away from God. God said that one day His people would follow Him. We see a picture of God's power. He is like a lion who makes a loud sound. Israel is like a small bird who hears a sound and is afraid. All people should know that God is a God of power and love.

Israel had chosen to run away. Later Israel would understand the love and power of God. There would be a time of punishment. Then Israel would hear the voice of the Lord. They were the ones who left. Soon they would be like birds returning to their nests. God would bring them to their homes.

What We Can Learn

God hates sin. He never hates the sinner. God always loves us. Read this chapter again. Every time you see the word *Israel*, say your name. Remember, God's love never gives up.

God does punish sin. The purpose of

the punishment is to soften the heart of His child. God loves you. It does not matter what you have done. It does not matter how far away from God you have gone. You cannot be bad enough to make God stop loving you. Read Luke 15:11-24 to learn more about God's love.

This lesson is a lesson of hope. God waits for us to return. He welcomes us back home. He forgives us.

Are we ready to do this for others? We should not give up on those who have done wrong to us. Love waits and welcomes them home, too. We can tell others of God's love for them.

Hosea 11:1-11

1: "When Israel was a child, I loved him. And I called My son out of Egypt.

2: The more I called them, the more they went from Me. They kept giving gifts in worship to the Baals and burning special perfume to false gods.

3: Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk. I took them in my arms. But they did not know that I healed them.

4: I led them with ropes of human kindness, with ties of love. I lifted the load from their neck and went down to feed them.

5: They will not return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria will be their king, because they would not return to Me.

6: The sword will come upon their cities and destroy their gates. And it will destroy them because of their plans.

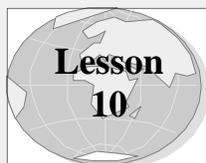
7: My people are always turning from Me. Even when those who speak for the Lord call them to the Most High, no one honors Him.

8: "How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I give you up, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboiim? My heart will not let Me do it. I love you very much.

9: I will not do anything in My burning anger. I will not destroy Ephraim again. For I am God and not man. I am the Holy One among you, and I will not come in anger.

10: They will follow the Lord, and He will make a noise like a lion. Yes, He will make a noise like a lion, and His children will come from the west shaking with fear.

11: They will come shaking like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria. And I will return them to their homes," says the Lord.



*Adult Bible Study in
Basic English*

Bible Text

Hosea 14:1-9

Memory Verse

“Whoever is wise, let him understand these things and know them. For the ways of the Lord are right, and those who are right and good will follow them, but sinners will not follow them.”

—Hosea 14: 9

Word List

repentance: to say you are sorry and try never to do the wrong thing again; turn around

wise: to know what is right, true or lasting

Return to the Lord

In the chapters before this lesson, Hosea talked about Israel’s sin. These sins were warning signs on the road away from God. Hosea reminded them of Jacob. Jacob had taken the blessing from his father Isaac. Jacob pretended to be his twin brother.

Hosea says that Israel was guilty of sins in the market place. They were guilty of sins of unfaithfulness to God. They cheated. They tried to bribe Egypt and Assyria to be their friend. They gave sacrifices to a false god. Hosea 11:12—13:16 is a warning about the sin that Israel had ignored. They were going the wrong way. They were going away from God. There was lying, violence, pride, selfishness, laziness, and idolatry.

God had tried many ways to get His people to listen. Israel stayed busy and did not listen. They were busy getting more money. They were turning their worship into a party. They were making friends with other countries. They did not depend on God.

Hosea tells three things in Hosea 12:6 that we must do. We must return to God. We must preserve love and justice. We must wait on the Lord.

Turn Around (Hosea 14:1)

The final thing Hosea told the people was to turn around. He told them to make a U-turn in the middle of the road. He said to return to God. The people had fallen because of their sin. This is like the father in Chapter 11 who teaches his son to walk. God has taught us to walk. God will help pick us up when we fall.

Words of Repentance (Hosea 14:2-3)

Repentance means turning away from sin. We say to God that we are sorry about what we have done. We must agree with God that what we have done is wrong. That helps us decide to

**Things To
Think About**

1. Do we see any of the signs of Hosea's time among people of God today?
2. Can you tell what repentance means to you?
3. What makes repentance hard for Christians?
4. In what ways does our busy society with TV and e-mail and work turn us away from a deeper faith in God? How can we repent of being too busy?
5. How is your life different after repentance?
6. How can a person who is doing everything wrong repent and have health and grace and new life?

change what we are doing. Too often we do the same sins. We live as if we did not know how to repent.

Israel had given sacrifices to the false god Baal. They sacrificed rams and lambs to try to get rid of their sins. Hosea told Israel to return to the Lord. The Lord did not want sacrifice of animals. The Lord wanted words of repentance. He wanted their words to be true. He wanted them to ask for forgiveness. They needed to ask God to take their sins away from them.

You do not have to be an evil person to need to repent. You need not be a criminal to know that you need to repent. God wants your words of repentance. You may be busy doing good things. If your heart is not right with God, you need to ask for His help.

The Spirit of God helps us know when we do wrong. We confess our sins and repent. Confession and repentance express our feelings to God. They tell Him we do not want to repeat our sin.

When we repent, we receive God's loving-kindness, grace and mercy. The name given Hosea's daughter in Chapter 1 was "no grace." Now the people would find grace. They would be able to praise God.

God's Word (Hosea 14:4-8)

These verses give three pictures of God. The people of Israel understood the pictures. We can learn from them today.

Hosea 14:4 is a picture of God as *healer*. Our sin does not go away just because we say we will not sin again. We need God to make us right again. This might not happen right away. It may take a long time. When we repent, God will forgive.

Hosea 14:4 is also a picture of God as the *one who loves*. The people of Israel had worshipped a false god. Their false

god was made with human hands. They had to do all kinds of things for this false god. The one true God offers repentance and love freely. Hosea gives a picture much like the one in the New Testament. “God is love” (I John 4:16).

Hosea 14:5 is a picture of God as *life-giver*. The people in the times of Hosea could not get water from a sink. They might have water from a well. Maybe it would rain once in a while. Each morning the ground and plants would be wet with dew. It appeared each morning to bring a fresh feeling. When we repent from our sin, God greets us each morning. He gives us fresh life.

With God’s blessings, His people will blossom and grow. The roots of the cedar tree show how we can stand during troubled times.

The Results of Repentance (Hosea 14: 5-7)

Three times in these verses we read about Lebanon. This country was known for its wonderful forests and rich earth. The trees had a beautiful smell. There were great harvests. The country was a picture of blessings and riches. Crops grew well there. God was saying that He would bless those who truly repent in many ways. He would change lives. He would make them beautiful and useful

and sweet.

The false god Baal was supposed to bring good harvests. That would have been impossible. Only God could do this. God said He is like a tree that is always green.

The Final Word (Hosea 14:9)

God says the sins of His people are wrong. He waits with love for any who will return. When Israel understood this they would be **wise**. God’s ways for us are right. They do not change. If we walk in His ways, we will not stumble.

What We Can Learn

God wants us to repent of our sins by changing direction. He does not want words without change. In what area of your life do you need to turn around?

God wants us to confess our sins out loud. Some feel that confession is not necessary. They say, “God knows everything.” Confession is not telling God something He does not know. Instead it is agreeing with God about our sin. It is telling Him we know it makes God sad. Are there sins in your life you have not talked to God about? Is it time you tell Him?

God expects us to depend only on Him. We try to depend on many things. We depend on our money, our power, our

parents. We depend on what we can do. Things and people will let us down. God will never fail. What are you depending on? Is it taking the place of God?

God wants to bless us. Our loving Father wants the very best for us. That is not to say that we will all be rich or healthy. Some things happen to teach us more about God. God knows what will help us grow more like Him. Have you received the blessings God has for you?

God expects us to listen to what He has to say. God gives us His Word to read, study and obey. Often we struggle to obey. God gave us His Word to change our lives. His Word causes us to want to repent and confess. It teaches us to rely on God and receive His blessings. What have you learned from this study of Hosea that you need to use in your life?

Hosea 14:1-9

1: Return to the Lord your God, O Israel, for you have fallen because of your sin.

2: Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to Him, “Take away all sin, and receive us in kindness, that we may praise You with our lips.

3: Assyria will not save us. We will not ride on horses. And we will never say again, ‘Our god,’ to what we have made with our hands. For those who have no father find loving-kindness in You.”

4: “I will bring My people back to Me. I will not hold back My love from them, for I am no longer angry with them.

5: I will be to Israel like the water on the grass in the early morning. He will grow like the lily, and have roots like the cedars of Lebanon.

6: His young branches will spread out and his beauty will be like the olive tree. His smell will be like the cedars of Lebanon.

7: Those who live in his shadow will grow like grain and like flowers of the vine. He will be known like the wine of Lebanon.

8: “O Ephraim, what have I to do with false gods? It is I Who answer and take care of you. I am like a green cypress tree. Your fruit comes from Me.”

9: Whoever is wise, let him understand these things and know them. For the ways of the Lord are right, and those who are right and good will follow them, but sinners will not follow them.

Amos, Hosea, Micah



Adult Bible Study in Basic English

UNIT 3: MICAH: WHAT THE LORD ASKS OF YOU

Lesson 11
What Happens When
We Covet
Micah 1:1-7; 2:1-9

Lesson 12
Bad Leaders
Micah 3:1-12

Lesson 13
Peace Is Coming
Micah 4:1-8; 5:-2-5a

Lesson 14
God's Charge Against
His People
Micah 6:1-8

UNIT 3

Micah: What the Lord Asks of You

What does the Lord ask of you? This question is answered in the book of Micah. This book also tells that God's people did not do right.

Micah, Amos, and Hosea said that God's people knew what they were doing when they disobeyed. Micah said the people wanted what was not theirs. They cheated to get it. Religious leaders and rulers and judges were not good. They would be judged. Micah gave one of the great messages of hope in the Bible. "Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and they will never learn war any more" (Micah 4:3). Micah 5:5 gives the promise of Jesus, "And He will be their peace." In this last unit we will study the following:

- Lesson 11: Coveting is wrong and will lead to ruin.
- Lesson 12: Political and religious leaders are greedy.
- Lesson 13: God promises peace to those who will be faithful to Him.
- Lesson 14: What does God ask of you?

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*Adult Bible Study in
Basic English*

Bible Text

Micah 1:1-7; 2:1-9

Memory Verse

“It is bad for those
who make plans to do
wrong...”

—Micah 2:1

Word List

covet: wanting what
belongs to someone
else; wanting it so
much that you wish
they did not have it
and you did

wanderers: people
who have no home,
who travel with their
animals from place to
place

widows: women

What Happens When We Covet

Micah began his preaching before the fall of the northern kingdom in 722 BC. He kept on preaching until Jerusalem was captured. His hometown was Moresheth. It was a small town near Jerusalem. He loved the life of the countryside and small towns. God was using other preachers at this time. They told the people what was right to do. Isaiah was at home in the big city. He was telling them of God’s coming judgment. Amos and Hosea were telling what would happen to Israel.

Micah preaches to Samaria, which means the northern kingdom. He also preaches to Jerusalem, which means the southern kingdom or Judah. At this time both kingdoms are called Israel—the whole kingdom of God.

Judgment Against Jerusalem and Samaria (Micah 1:2-7)

Think about a court room. God calls on the earth for all of the people to be His witnesses. They witness charges against Israel and Judah. God would judge His own people. He would judge all the nations of the earth.

The punishment is pictured as God coming down from heaven to earth. It would be like a volcano, earthquake, and a flood all at once. Mountains and valleys would melt like candles. No one could ever stand before God. They could not stand unless He was to be merciful and forgive. Israel and Judah did not repent. So they faced God’s judgment.

Micah said that the northern kingdom would fall. Those who should listen were not listening. They were unfaithful to the one true God. Micah told them that their false gods would be destroyed. Samaria would fall. Empty spaces with grapes would grow in its place. Rocks from the buildings would fall into the valleys.

whose husbands had died

orphans: children with no parents

Things To Think About

1. When we covet, what happens? Who loses?
2. Does coveting always lead to taking?
3. How does our society encourage coveting?
List what things you want because you watch advertisements on TV?
4. How can the church help us learn not to covet?
5. Greed says, "I want things." Coveting says, "I want your things." Do you agree or disagree?

Judah is Judged (Micah 1:8-16)

Micah spoke to Judah twenty years after the fall of Samaria. Micah's words to Judah sound like a song for the dead. The nation was as good as dead because they disobeyed God.

Don't Covet (Micah 2:1-4)

This is a story of those with power. They hurt those without power. Judah was breaking one of the Ten Commandments. Micah said it was on purpose. They were coveting. All night they stayed awake thinking of ways to do bad. They were so bad they were not even afraid of getting caught. They did their bad deeds in daylight. They had the power to take the land away from poor people.

God had said, "Do not have a desire for your neighbor's house. Do not have a desire for his wife or his male servant, his female servant, or his bull or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor" (Exodus 20:17). This law had to do with thoughts in the mind. This law had to do with desires of the heart. Our inner thoughts and thinking must be right before God. Then we will do the right thing.

Taking land was a big problem. Both Amos and Isaiah had warned about that. Land is important to many people in the world. This was especially true for those in Judah. Since the time of Abraham, God's people had been **wanderers**. When they came to the Promised Land they found a place to grow food. They could live all year in the same place. This was a great thing for them.

The laws God gave them showed how important land was. They should care for it. Every seven years they were not to grow anything on the land. Then the land could regain its strength. Families were given the land. Even if they had to sell it, the land was returned after fifty years. This was to give

everyone an equal chance. At this time, some were being greedy. They were trying to get more than their share.

Micah tried to make Judah understand that their greed was hurting them. They had gotten the power to take their neighbor's lands. Isaiah gave a picture of a person who took fields and more fields. He gave a picture of a person who took houses and more houses. Finally the person lived all alone in the middle of the land.

Living life to get more power and more land was dangerous. It left no room for God. There was no room to listen to God's messenger, Micah. They did not imagine that anything could ever happen to them.

God told them His plan. They would no longer walk so proud. Those who had hurt others by taking so much would see how that felt. These greedy men had taken all the land. They sent the owners away. When Assyria came to take over their land, these greedy people would be alone. No one would help them.

Judah could not believe this would happen. They told Micah to stop speaking. They said talking about land was not his business. They did not want to listen to anything bad.

The Message (Micah 2:5-9)

Micah kept on warning Judah. He asked questions from God to make them think. "Do not My Words do good to the one whose way is right and good?" (v.7). They were not doing good. God could not do good to them.

Micah reminded them again of what they were doing wrong. People without power were treated badly. They stole from peaceful people. They took the homes of **widows** and **orphans**. The homeless were sold as slaves. Children did not learn about God.

What We Can Learn

The sin of coveting was a problem in the time of Micah. It is a problem for us today. We want what someone else has that we don't have. We are selfish. When those who are selfish get power, it is bad. They can take what they want. Today we have people with power. We also have people with little.

Wanting more than we need also hurts families. We work to get everything we see that others have. We may not spend enough time with our families.

This message from God is one we also need to listen to. When we covet, we give too much time and attention to things. We do not give God first place in our lives.

Micah 1:1-7

1: This is the Word of the Lord which came to Micah of Moresheth about Samaria and Jerusalem in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

2: Hear, O people, all of you. Listen, O earth and all who are in it. The Lord God will speak against you from His holy house.

3: See, the Lord is coming from His place. He will come down and walk on the high places of the earth.

4: The mountains will melt under Him and the valleys will break open, like a candle in front of the fire, like water poured down a hill.

5: All this is because Jacob would not obey and because of the sins of the people of Israel. What is Jacob's sin? Is it not Samaria? What is the high place of Judah? Is it not Jerusalem?

6: So I will make Samaria a waste in the open country, making it a place to plant grape-fields. I will pour her stones down into the valley, and lay open the base of the city.

7: All of her false gods will be broken to pieces. Everything given in the place of worship will be burned with fire. I will destroy all her objects of worship, for she gathered them for the pay of a woman who sells the use of her body. They will return to pay a woman who sells the use of her body.

Micah 2:1-9

1: It is bad for those who make plans to do wrong, who lie on their beds thinking of something sinful to do! When morning comes, they do it, because it is in their

power.

2: They want fields that belong to someone else, and take them. They want houses, and take them. They rob a man and his house, a man and what has been given to him.

3: So the Lord says, "I am planning trouble against this family, from which you cannot save yourselves. You will no longer walk in pride, for it will be a time of much trouble.

4: On that day they will make fun of you and sing a bitter song of sorrow, saying, 'We are destroyed and everything is gone! My people's land is divided. He takes it from me! He gives our fields to those who turned against us.'"

5: So you will have no one among the Lord's people to divide the land in a right way for you.

6: "The people say to me, 'Do not speak about these things, because we will not be put to shame.'

7: Should it be said, O people of Jacob: "Is the Spirit of the Lord angry? Would He do such things? Do not My Words do good to the one whose way is right and good?"

8: My people have begun to hate those who are at peace with them. You pull the coat off from a brother Israelite, from those who pass by in peace like men returning from war.

9: You drive the women of My people away from their beautiful houses. You take My greatness away from their children forever.



Adult Bible Study in
Basic English

Bible Text

Micah 3:1-12

Memory Verse

“But as for me, I am filled with the Spirit of the Lord, with what is fair, and with strength.”

—Micah 3:8

Word List

good: in the Old Testament, what is pleasing to God; what is in God’s will

sin: anything that does not please God, that is not in His will

false preachers: preachers who were not true to God, who did not speak for God

Bad Leaders

God wants us to have leaders who care for others more than themselves. It is wrong to use power to hurt others to achieve success. God wants leaders of courage and right living. He wants leaders who depend on the Holy Spirit. Being greedy is wrong. Using power in the wrong way brings disaster for leaders and followers.

False Leaders (Micah 3:1-4)

Judah was all that was left of King David’s Israel. The northern kingdom was no more. Micah speaks to the leaders of Judah and rulers of Israel. However, all that is left is Judah. Micah cannot believe these leaders do not know what is right and fair. Instead these leaders hated **good** and loved **sin**. They were doing the opposite of what God wanted. They were the worst kind of leaders.

Micah said these leaders were really bad. They were eating their own people (v. 3). Leaders were supposed to take care of those without power. These leaders gave no thought to the cries of the poor. They even made them cry more. Later the leaders were in trouble. They wanted to cry to God to help them. Micah said that God would not listen to their cries. God would hide his face from them. This means that God could not be present with them. Their sins took them away from God.

False Preachers (Micah 3:5-7)

False preachers did not know God’s message. They just wanted to please those who listened to them. They were also greedy. They wanted more and more money. They said they could see what others could not. They said they could tell people what would happen in the future. Micah said they could not see at all. He said they were in darkness and night. They could not

Things To Think About

1. What are five ways a Christian leader should not act? What would you say are the five best ways a Christian leader can do?
2. How can you tell that a church has the wrong ideas about money?
3. If you were praying for the Holy Spirit to fill your life with a certain thing, what would that be?

give true answers. Soon everyone would know they did not speak the truth. What they said did not come true.

These false preachers did not help the people find their way. Instead, they helped them go in the wrong way. They confused them. Because of these false preachers, the people did not know right from wrong.

The True Preacher (Hosea 3:8)

Hosea said that the true preacher is filled with power and the Holy Spirit. They are not filled with themselves. They are filled with what God gives them. They do not spend time worrying about getting more money. The message of the true preacher is different from the false preacher. The true preacher showed the people their sins. It is a gift from God to know the difference between good and evil. They do this even if it is not always a popular message. God gives them courage. Micah had to do what none of the false preachers wanted to do. The true preachers told the people of Israel about their sins. They told them what would happen if they continued.

Bad Leaders (Micah 3:9-11)

Micah has even more to say to the bad leaders. These leaders were running away from what is right and fair. They made crooked what should be straight. The religious leaders and the leaders of Jerusalem were bad. They did all they did for money. They were greedy and wanted bribes.

Jerusalem was being built with blood and wrongdoing. The leaders wanted more money. They thought more money meant they had more of God's blessing. Jesus said, "You cannot serve God and money" (Luke 16:13).

Jerusalem Will Fall (Micah 3:12)

The people heard Micah say that Jerusalem would be plowed as a field. They could not believe their ears. They said that Jerusalem was the city of God. They believed that nothing bad could happen to it. They said that God had taken care of them since the time of Moses. That was over five hundred years before. They did not think they needed to obey God. Still they wanted God to take care of them. They thought that they did not need to worship in the right way.

Micah told them that God's house of worship would fall. It would look like a hill covered with trees. Micah told them this would happen because of their sin. They needed to repent or everything they knew would fall.

In the days of Micah, Jerusalem was not destroyed. Why? Because God used his preachers to call the king and others to repent. King Hezekiah listened to the true prophets and repented. He was able to save his nation from falling. They repented. God did not have to punish them.

What We Can Learn

We need to remember that God is always looking for a chance *not* to punish. God is just and right. When we rebel, God demands that we repent. When

we truly repent, God is waiting to forgive.

Good leaders can never let greed control them. We can never buy for money what is right and fair. We, and our leaders, must remember that God gives us everything we have. He gives us everything we need.

Good leaders do not ask, "What's in it for me?" Good leaders ask, "How can I make things better? How can I make the lives I touch happier? How can I make this church, school, or business better for all?" We should look at Hosea's words and allow them to change our lives.

Micah 3:1-12

1: And I said, “Hear now, leaders of Jacob and rulers of the people of Israel! Should you not know what is fair?”

2: Yet you hate good and love sin. You tear off the skin from my people and the flesh from their bones.

3: You eat my people’s flesh, pull their skin off, break their bones, and cut them up like meat for the pot.”

4: Then they will cry to the Lord, but He will not answer them. He will hid His face from them at that time, because they have done sinful things.

5: This is what the Lord says about the men who speak in God’s name and lead My people the wrong way. When they have something to eat, they speak of peace. But they make holy war against him who does not feed them.

6: So night will come to you without a special dream. Darkness will come to you without any word about the future. The sun will go down on those who speak about special dreams, and the day will become dark over them.

7: Those who tell what is going to happen in the future will be ashamed. Those who learn about the future using their secret ways will be ashamed. They will all cover their mouths because there is no answer from God.

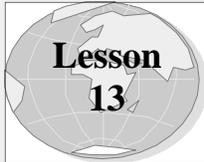
8: But as for me, I am filled with the power, with the Spirit of the Lord, with what is fair, and with strength. I am able to make known to Jacob his wrong-doing, and to Israel his sin.

9: Now listen to this, you leaders of Jacob and rulers of the people of Israel. You hate what is fair, and turn everything around that is right.

10: You built Zion with blood and Jerusalem with much wrong-doing.

11: Her leaders take pay in secret for doing wrong. Her religious teach for a price. Her men who tell what is going to happen in future do it for money. Yet they rest upon the Lord and say, “Is not the Lord among us? No trouble will come to us.”

12: So because of you Zion will be plowed as a field. Jerusalem will be laid waste. And the mountain of the Lord’s house will be covered with trees.



Adult Bible Study in
Basic English

Bible Text

Micah 4:1-8; 5:2-5a

Memory Verse

“...Then they will beat their swords into plows, and their spears into cutting hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and they will never learn war any more.”

—Micah 4:3

Word List

peace: In Hebrew the word peace is *shalom*. It means to be whole or complete. It is not just the absence of war. After fighting has stopped, what has been broken is made

Peace is Coming

Micah had brought strong warnings in earlier chapters: God judges sin. Those who sin *must* be punished. But there is good news. God does good things with and through His people. Judgment does not have to be the last word. Micah brings a message of hope. God wants to bring healing. He wants to make us whole and well.

God is a God of **peace**. We can have peace with God. Then all barriers between us and God are broken. We can come to God without any fear. God offers salvation as the final word for His people. Salvation is possible if we choose to repent. It is possible if we turn from our sinful ways. We must walk in God’s ways.

God’s Plan for the Future of Jerusalem and for a Rebuilt Lord’s House (Micah 4:1-2)

This passage of scripture tells about a time after Jerusalem falls. It talks about the last days. After the bad times would come good time. The Lord’s House would be rebuilt for all nations. The **temple** would no longer lie in ruin. The sacrifices offered there would not be the most important part. The important part would be the teaching about God’s ways. God’s people would learn God’s ways. Knowing the Word of the Lord is the hope for all people. We can learn how to live honestly, fairly and peacefully.

Walking in the way of the Lord had a special meaning. It was not just walking down some pathway. It was a way of living. If the people were to be God’s own, they must live the way God wanted. God wanted them to become a blessing to all the families of the earth (Genesis 12:3). Then they would fulfill all that God wanted them to be.

whole. Relationships are restored. Real peace comes with trust in God to give peace. If one is at peace with God and has accepted salvation through faith in Jesus, then life can be lived with no need for fear. That is real peace.

temple: God's special place of worship in Jerusalem

Things To

Think About

1. How can you help bring peace to a world with no peace?
2. What causes conflict between people and nations? What causes conflict in your life?
3. Can you help people learn to walk in the way of the Lord?

The Time of Peace (Micah 4:3-5)

A special time of peace will come. God will be the king, judge and ruler. He will help His people. We could have peace on earth. If we all lived as God wants, there would be enough food for all. The swords and spears used for war would disappear. They would become plows and cutting hooks for growing food. This food could feed the poor and hungry. Nations would no longer be at war. No armies would need to be trained. Each family would have its own fig tree. It would bring shade for the yard. They would be able to sit in peace with no fear. This is the promise of God.

There were those who disagreed with Micah. They did not want to believe that salvation and peace was for all people. They said that other nations would always have their own gods. They believed the people of Israel would be the only ones to be faithful to the one true God. Some would not listen to Micah. Maybe they did not want peace for everyone.

This age of peace can come in our own lives. It comes as we walk and live in the name of God. Remember how important a name was at this time. To know a name was to know the person. This was the way God made Himself known.

For real peace to come, we must be faithful to God forever. How long is forever? It means as far as you can see with no imaginable end.

The Nation Restored (Micah 4:6-8)

Micah tells how peace will come. God will do it. The nation will be restored, strong and established. God can help those who cannot walk. He can help the homeless. He can help those who have suffered. God will make a great nation from these. This is because He will be ruling them. How long will this nation last? Forever, because God will rule forever.

The Suffering and Triumph of the Nation (Micah 4:8—5:1)

These words are not in the focal passage. However, they help us understand the rest of the lesson. Jerusalem would experience defeat. The people were sent to Babylon in 587 B.C. They would be permitted to return and rebuild their lives and Jerusalem. This would start in 539 BC. The message from God explains that God is in control of the nations. For now there would be troubles. But God would bring hope and safety.

The Promise of a New Ruler from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2-5a)

Many people know these verses. They tell of a king from Bethlehem. Ephrathah was another name for Bethlehem. The king takes his people into a time of peace and safety.

Bethlehem was a very small town four or five miles south of Jerusalem. The people there depended on sheep for a living. It was the home of the family of Jesse. Jesse was the father of David who became the great king of Israel. David had brought the nation together. It was a time of great glory for Israel.

Those who heard Micah were part of Israel when it was small and had no power. Assyria was about to take over. They heard Micah talk of a new king who

would lead them into a time of peace. He would lead them into a time of faithfulness to God.

These words would not come true until Jesus was born. He would be born in Bethlehem hundreds of years later (Matthew 2:1-6; Luke 2:1-20). The message was a message of hope for those in the time of Micah.

When Jesus was born, wise men came to talk to King Herod in Jerusalem. They were trying to find the new king. The king's scholars looked at this passage from Micah. Then they knew the new king came from Bethlehem.

God cares for His creation, for His people. The promised king would take care of His people. He would feed them and keep them safe. Then everyone would know His greatness and devotion to peace.

What We Can Learn

God is a God of peace. He calls us to practice peace and work for peace. However, there are still wars. We have not done our job of bringing people to God.

We must change our hearts, not just talk about peace. God does this changing so that we no longer hate. Is this possible? Can we really love our enemies? With God all things are possible!

Micah 4:1-8

1: In the last days the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest one of all.

It will be raised above the hills, and the people will flow to it.

2: Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us about His ways, so that we may walk in His paths." For the Law will go out from Zion, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

3: He will judge between many people. He will decide for strong nations that are far away. Then they will beat their swords into plows, and their spears into cutting hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and they will never learn war any more.

4: Every man will sit under his vine and his fig tree with no one to make him afraid. For the mouth of the Lord of All has spoken.

5: All the nations may walk in the name of their god. But we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever.

6: "In that day," says the Lord, "I will gather together those who cannot walk and those who have been driven away, even those whom I have made to suffer.

7: I will make a new beginning with those who cannot walk. I will make a strong nation of those who have been driven away. And the Lord will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever.

8: As for you, O watch-tower of the flock, the strong-place of the people of Zion, the power you had to rule will come to you again. The nation will come to Jerusalem.

Micah 5:2-5a

2: Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are too little to be among the family groups of Judah. But from you One will come who will rule for Me in Israel. His coming was planned long ago, from the beginning."

3: He will give them up until the time when the woman in pain gives birth to a child. Then the rest of His brothers will return to the people of Israel

4: And He will come and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the great power of the name of the Lord His God. His people will live there and be safe, because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth.

5a: And He will be their peace.



Adult Bible Study in
Basic English

Bible Text

Micah 6:1-8

Memory Verse

“...What does the Lord ask of you but to do what is fair and to love kindness, and to walk without pride with your God.”

—Micah 6:8

Word List

blessing: to bring good to

gifts: offerings or sacrifices given to God to pay for sin

cursing: saying bad words against someone to cause harm

God's Charges Against His People

These words of Micah were spoken to God's people. They thought they were living in good times. They were really far from God. They had made promises to be faithful to God. They had not kept these promises.

God's Charges (Micah 6:1-5)

We read again of a court scene. God is bringing the charges against His people. They had not kept their promises. Now, even the mountains and hills would hear the charges against them. They are told to listen to what the people have done wrong. The court comes to order.

God begins by asking why His people have not been faithful. He asks, “What have I done to you?” The people know that God has done nothing but good to Israel. Israel has paid Him back with nothing but wrongdoing. God reminds them of all that He had done for them. God had brought them out of Egypt. He had helped them cross the Red Sea. He had given them great leaders: Moses; his brother, Aaron; and his sister, Miriam.

God reminds them of the time when they were in the wilderness (Numbers 22-24). The king of the Moabites was Balak. He was afraid of the Hebrews who were traveling towards Israel from Sinai. Balak hired a false future-seer named Balaam. He told Balaam to put a curse on the Hebrews. King Balak wanted to destroy them. He wanted to make their power go away. Balaam tried three times to say bad words against the Hebrews. Every time he tried to say bad words, a **blessing** came out instead (Numbers 24:10-15). God would not let Balaam hurt His people.

God reminded the Hebrews of what happened after they left Shittim until they came to Gilgal. These things came right after

**Things To
Think About**

1. What are some ways you can practice doing what is fair?
2. Do you know anyone who shows that they love kindness?
3. When you walk with the Lord, how does that keep you humble about what you do?

what happened with the false priest Balaam.

Balaam was not successful in **cursing** Israel. He told King Balak to send women into the camp of Israel. These women lead Israel into sex sins (Numbers 25). Then it was God who had to curse His people. But God only judged Israel when they did not obey. Israel was in trouble because of their own actions.

God forgave them and kept leading them. After the death of Moses, Joshua became their leader. From here the spies were sent to find out about Jericho (Joshua 2:1). They camped on the east side of the river at a city called Shittim. After they crossed the Jordan River, they camped at the city of Gilgal. Here they got ready to take the city of Jericho (Joshua 4).

Hosea reminds Israel that they should remember the good things that God had done for them. This is more than a history lesson. It is a reminder of what they knew in their heads. The purpose of God's speech was to show Israel His love for them. He had loved them from the beginning of the nation's life. The covenant was more than a list of rules. It was a relationship between God and His people. The charges brought against Israel reminded them this relationship was in danger. Their relationship with God was in danger because of their sin.

How to Respond to God's Love and Care (Micah 6:6-8)

Israel asked, "What should I bring before the Lord?" (v.6). They wanted to know how much forgiveness would cost. They think of three possible **gifts** to bring to God. Each one is more costly than the last. Does God want a burnt offering of year-old calves? This might cost a bit, but it could be done. What about thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of expensive oil? How could any one give a gift that would cost

more? What about giving a gift that would cost more than money? Should they give the gift of the sacrifice of a child?

None of these gifts would do. God is not interested in things. He is interested in the hearts of His people. We cannot bribe God to make Him do what we want. We are the ones who need to change, not God.

The Answer (Micah 6:8)

God has been telling His people from the beginning what He asked of them. God's will is made clear in His law. It is clear in what the early preachers said. God wants what is good. Remember that *good* means those things God wants for us. There is no simpler way to say what God asks of us. God wants a saving relationship with us. He wants us to be rightly related to Him. These are the things God wants of His people:

Do what is fair. This does not mean that we simply obey the commandments. We are to make sure that others are treated right. We must take care of the poor especially. They have no one to speak for them. To do what is fair is means treating others the way we want to be treated. We want to do God's will.

Love kindness. If we act fairly without love, we are not doing what God

wants. God's love meant that He sent His Son to die for our sins.

We must love to give others the same kindness we want. Just as we *do* what is fair, we must *do* kindness. If we do both of these, we will have right acts and right hearts.

To love kindness means we show concern for those we care about. We would deny our own selves to help the one we love.

Walk without pride with your Lord.

This means we have a way of life. We have a journey with God. When we remember who God is, we know who we are. Then it is easier to walk without pride.

Pride is the first sin. Read Genesis 3. Adam and Eve were tempted to become like God so they would not need God. Those who are proud cannot be taught. We know we need God to teach us how to do what is fair. He must teach us to love kindness. We must learn to walk with Him every day.

What We Can Learn

God still asks us to do what is fair, to love kindness, and walk without pride with Him. The basics are still the same. Only God can help us do what He asks.

Micah 6:1-8

1: Listen to what the Lord says: Stand up and make your cause known in front of the mountains. Let the hills hear your voice.

2: Listen to the Lord's cause, you mountains and bases of the earth that last forever. The Lord has something against His people, and will speak against Israel.

3: My people, what have I done to you? How have I made it hard for you? Answer me.

4: I brought you out of the land of Egypt. I took you out of the land where you were servants. And I sent Moses, Aaron and Miriam to lead you.

5: My people, remember what Balak king of Moab said, and what Balaam son of Beor answered him. Remember what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, so that you may know the good things the Lord has done.”

6: What should I bring to the Lord when I bow down before the God on high? Should I come to Him with burnt gifts, with calves a year old?

7: Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with 10,000 rivers of oil? Should I give my first-born to pay for not obeying? Should I give the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

8: O man, He has told you what is good. What does the Lord ask of you but to do what is fair and to love kindness, and to walk without pride with your God.