

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 Dec 2012 .....Hosea 1:1-3:5.....**Exposing a Broken Relationship**
- 2) 09 Dec .....Hosea 4:1-7:16..... Rebuking Destructive Behavior
- 3) 16 Dec .....Hosea 8:1-10:15.....Deciding on Discipline
- 4) 23 Dec .....Matthew 1:18-2:18.....Seeking the Savior
- 5) 30 Dec .....Hosea 11:1-12:14..... Remembering Compassion
- 6) 06 Jan 2013 .....Hosea 13:1-14:9..... Restoring the Repentant
- 7) 13 Jan .....Amos 1:1-4:13..... Unseal the Indictment
- 8) 20 Jan.....Gen 1; Ex 1, Ps 139; Mk 10.....Value of Human Life
- 9) 27 Jan .....Amos 5:1-6:14..... Court is in Session
- 10) 03 Feb .....Amos 7:1-17..... Can I Get a Witness
- 11) 10 Feb .....Amos 8:1-9:15..... Let the Verdict be Read
- 12) 17 Feb .....Jonah 1:1-2:10.....Pursuing Those Called to Tell
- 13) 24 Feb .....Jonah 3:1-4:11.....Pursuing Those Who Need to Hear

INTRODUCTION

- **Hosea, Amos** and **Obadiah** were the last prophets to warn the Northern Kingdom to repent before they were over thrown by the Assyrians ~ 712 BC, while **Jonah** preached to Gentiles in Iraq
  - ♦ **Hosea** is best known for marrying an unfaithful woman, Gomer, to emulate the rocky relationship between God and Israel
  - ♦ **Amos** tried to motivate Israel to repent by stating that her sins were worse than the combined sins of all surrounding nations
  - ♦ **Jonah's** ministry was to win the lost in a foreign land, who happened to be Israel's worst enemy – the unbelieving Arabs
- Hosea's audience was so despicable that God had Hosea marry Gomer, possibly a cult prostitute, as a powerful analogy to provoke Israel to realize how her loving husband (God) was still willing to woo her back into His arms even after her horrendous affairs
- This would be akin to Billy Graham marrying Heidi Fleiss – a high profile brothel madam. It would definitely get everyone's attention

Passage	Comments
2:1-13	<p><b>Israel's Shame</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v2. God used graphic and intimate imagery to convey the terrible act of betrayal of one's vows to be faithful</li> <li>• v3. Captured people in the ancient world were often marched naked to mock their defenselessness. Some have to be shamed into changing their unrighteous behavior, assuming they do not have a seared conscience where they no longer can blush ..... Jer 6:15</li> <li>• v5. We, too, can be considered adulterous when we chase material things to meet our needs, and not God</li> <li>• v7. Like the prodigal son who came to his senses once he realized nobody gave him anything, the adulterous spouse often seeks to return home when their lovers stop meeting their needs</li> <li>• vv8-13. Like a fool who returns to his folly or a dog to its vomit and needs to be crushed in a crucible to try to remove his foolishness, God will need to crush Israel</li> </ul>
2:14-23	<p><b>God's Compassionate Promises</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once foolishness and unfaithfulness is removed God can restore Israel to full favor &amp; change their names to <b>Ruhamah</b> ("Mercy") and <b>Ammi</b> ("My People")</li> <li>• v16. Intimacy is restored as God's name changes from Baali (i.e., Master) to Ishe (i.e., Husband)</li> <li>• v18. Protection is restored as the once-unfaithful spouse can now lie down in safety and serenity</li> <li>• vv21-23. Prosperity and confidence are also restored</li> </ul>
3:1-5	<p><b>A Husband's Redemptive Love</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-2. Presumably, Gomer went back to her old lovers, and her loving husband chased her and paid a price to rescue her from herself</li> <li>• vv3-4. But there needed to be a time of reflection, a time of repentance, a time to hunger for righteousness. We often times don't realize how precious God's blessings are in our lives till we lose them</li> <li>• v5. Fortunately, God wants to restore and fully reconcile with His wayward people. For Israel, however, that time is in the future</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
Hosea 1:1-11	<p><b>A Family Nightmare</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosea, like all godly young men, was saving himself for the right woman – a soul mate he could easily love and who would serve God wholeheartedly with him</li> <li>• v2. BUT, God had other plans for his life. He was to find a "sexually immoral" woman to marry for the purpose of emulating Israel's unfaithfulness to God</li> <li>• Gomer was probably a cult prostitute associated with Baal worship, which was prolific throughout the land</li> <li>• What kind of emotions did Hosea experience? Nausea? Anger? Humiliation? Frustration? Despair? Anxiety? Any "agape" love for his unfaithful spouse?</li> <li>• <b>1st Child, Jezreel</b> – "<b>God will Scatter</b>" – The Northern Kingdom of Israel will one day be no more</li> <li>• <b>2nd Child, Lo-Ruhamah</b> – "<b>No Mercy</b>" – God was going to stop showing mercy to Israel. But realize this, these Israelites were not backslidden believers, but were unbelievers labeled as God's people ("<i>For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel</i>" – Rom 9:6)</li> <li>• <b>3rd Child, Lo-Ammi</b> – "<b>Not My People</b>" – "But one day the [true] children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea" – and they will be known as the sons of God</li> <li>• These kids would be life-long reminders of Israel's sins</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- God did everything conceivably possible to encourage His people Israel to consider their state and repent or risk total destruction
- God will only wait so long for sinners and backsliders to seek Him – then the inevitable judgment must come
- Therefore, whatever state of faithfulness or unfaithfulness we find ourselves in, seek God early and often with a humble/contrite heart

NEXT WEEK: **Hosea 4-7**. The Northern Kingdom of Israel had become a nation where young women were anything but pure, married women entertained other men, the husbands chased prostitutes, and the religion of the land was focused on pleasurable experiences. Is America far behind? BUT Israel's restoration is coming.

Judean Kings	Reign	Character	Prophets	Northern Kings	Reign	Prophets
11. Joash (Jehoash)	835-796	Good-Bad	Joel	12. Jehoahaz	814-798	Jonah, Amos, Hosea
12. Amaziah	796-767	Good-Bad		13. Jehoash (Joash)	798-782	
13. Uzziah (Azariah)	767-740	Good-Bad	Isaiah Micah	14. Jeroboam II	782-753	Hosea
14. Jotham	740-732	Good		15. Zechariah	753-752	
15. Ahaz	732-716	Bad		16. Shallum	752	
16. Hezekiah	716-687	Very Good		17. Menahem	752-742	

