LESONS THIS QUARTER

1) 02 Dec 2012   Hosea 1:1-3:5   Exposing a Broken Relationship
2) 09 Dec        Hosea 4:1-7:16   Rebutting 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        Hosea 13:1-14:9   Restoring the Repentant
7) 13 Jan        Amos 1:1-4:13   Unsealed 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 overthrown 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 horridous affairs.

- This would be akin to Billy Graham marrying Heidi Fleiss – a high profile brothel madam. It would definitely get everyone’s attention.

### Hosea 1:1-11

**A Family Nightmare**
- 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.
- 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.
- Gomer was probably a cult prostitute associated with Baal worship, which was prolific throughout the land.
- What kind of emotions did Hosea experience?
  - Anxiety? Any “agape” love for his unfaithful spouse?
- 1st Child, Jezreel – “God will Scatter” – The Northern Kingdom of Israel will one day be no more.
- 2nd Child, Lo-Ruhamah – “No Mercy” – 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 (“For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel” – Rom 9:6)
- 3rd Child, Lo-Ammi – “Not My People” – “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.
- These kids would be life-long reminders of Israel’s sins.

### Passage: Hosea 1:1

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### CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- God did everything conceivable 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.

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Rod O’Neil (rod.oneil@insightbb.com)  
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