

## Major Lessons From Minor Prophets – 1

### Spiritual Adultery – Hosea

Memory Verse **Hand Out Scriptures to read**

**Hosea 2:23 (NKJV)** *Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; Then I will say to those who were not My people, ‘You are My people!’ And they shall say, ‘You are my God!’ ”*

#### A Little Introduction

Hosea; Joel; Amos; Obadiah; Jonah; Micah; Nahum; Habakkuk; Zephaniah; Haggai; Zechariah; Malachi

These prophets have been dubbed “the Minor Prophets,” not because they are of less importance than the Major ones but because their books are much shorter than those written by the other Old Testament writers.

**The order for these books seems to date back over 190 years BC.**

Hosea through Micah raising the question of iniquity, and Nahum through Malachi proposing resolutions.

**Even amid spiritual adultery God’s love for His people never wavers.**

**DATE :790-686 B.C.** The name *Hosea* in Hebrew means “the Lord saves” and is related to the names *Joshua*, *Isaiah*, and even *Jesus*.

**\*Hosea 1:1 (NKJV)** *The word of the Lord that came to Hosea the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.*

#### A Strange Command

**Hosea 1:2, 3 (NKJV)** <sup>2</sup> *When the Lord began to speak by Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea: “Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry And children of harlotry, For the land has committed great harlotry By departing from the Lord.”* <sup>3</sup> *So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.*

**Getting divorced a little too quickly when there is infidelity Some of these marriages could have been redeemed.**

**Ephesians 5:25–28 (NKJV)** <sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,* <sup>26</sup> *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,* <sup>27</sup> *that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.* <sup>28</sup> *So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.*

**Revelation 19:7–9 (NKJV)** *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”* <sup>8</sup> *And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”*

#### Dramatic Re-Creations

**Isaiah 20:2–4 (NKJV)** <sup>2</sup> *at the same time the Lord spoke by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, “Go, and remove the sackcloth from your body, and take your sandals off your feet.” And he did so, walking naked and barefoot.* <sup>3</sup> *Then the Lord said, “Just as My servant Isaiah has walked naked and barefoot three years for a sign and a wonder against Egypt and Ethiopia,* <sup>4</sup> *so shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians as prisoners and the Ethiopians as captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.*

**\*Mark 11:20–21 (NKJV)** *Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.* <sup>21</sup> *And Peter, remembering, said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.”*

#### The Siege of Jerusalem Portrayed

**Ezekiel 4:1–6 (NKJV)** *“You also, son of man, take a clay tablet and lay it before you, and portray on it a city, Jerusalem.* <sup>2</sup> *Lay siege against it, build a siege wall against it, and heap up a mound against it; set camps against it also, and place battering rams against it all around.* <sup>3</sup> *Moreover take for yourself an iron plate, and set it as an iron wall between you and the city. Set your face against it, and it shall be besieged, and you shall lay siege against it. This will be a sign to the house of Israel.* <sup>4</sup> *“Lie also on your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it. According to the number of the days that you lie on it, you shall bear their iniquity.* <sup>5</sup> *For I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.* <sup>6</sup> *And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year.*

### Symbol of the Yokes

**Jeremiah 27:1–3** (NKJV) *In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying,* <sup>2</sup> *“Thus says the Lord to me: ‘Make for yourselves bonds and yokes, and put them on your neck,* <sup>3</sup> *and send them to the king of Edom, the king of Moab, the king of the Ammonites, the king of Tyre, and the king of Sidon, by the hand of the messengers who come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah.*

### Spiritual Adultery

**Jeremiah 3:1** (NKJV) *“They say, ‘If a man divorces his wife, And she goes from him And becomes another man’s, May he return to her again?’ Would not that land be greatly polluted? But you have played the harlot with many lovers; Yet return to Me,” says the Lord.*

**Ezekiel 16:32–33** (NKJV) *You are an adulterous wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband.* <sup>33</sup> *Men make payment to all harlots, but you made your payments to all your lovers, and hired them to come to you from all around for your harlotry.*

**\*Leviticus 21:7** (NKJV) *They shall not take a wife who is a harlot or a defiled woman, nor shall they take a woman divorced from her husband; for the priest is holy to his God.*

**\*Deuteronomy 31:16** (NKJV) *And the Lord said to Moses: “Behold, you will rest with your fathers; and this people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go to be among them, and they will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them.*

**Hosea 2:8–13** (NKJV) <sup>8</sup> *For she did not know That I gave her grain, new wine, and oil, And multiplied her silver and gold— Which they prepared for Baal.* <sup>9</sup> *“Therefore I will return and take away My grain in its time And My new wine in its season, And will take back My wool and My linen, Given to cover her nakedness.* <sup>10</sup> *Now I will uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, And no one shall deliver her from My hand.* <sup>11</sup> *I will also cause all her mirth to cease, Her feast days, Her New Moons, **Her Sabbaths**— All her appointed feasts.* <sup>12</sup> *“And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, Of which she has said, ‘These are my wages that my lovers have given me.’ So I will make them a forest, And the beasts of the field shall eat them.* <sup>13</sup> *I will punish her For the days of the Baals to which she burned incense. She decked herself with **her earrings and jewelry**, And went after her lovers; But Me she forgot,” says the Lord.*

**Think about how easy it is to take the gifts given you by God and use them selfishly, or even in an idolatrous manner.**

### A Promise of Restoration

**Hosea 2:14–16** (NKJV) *“Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Will bring her into the wilderness, And speak comfort to her.* <sup>15</sup> *I will give her her vineyards from there, And the Valley of Achor as a door of hope; She shall sing there, As in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.* <sup>16</sup> *“And it shall be, in that day,” Says the Lord, “That you will call Me ‘My Husband,’ And no longer call Me ‘My Master,’*

### The Case Against Israel

**Hosea 4:1–3** (NKJV) *Hear the word of the LORD, You children of Israel, For the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: “There is no truth or mercy Or knowledge of God in the land.* <sup>2</sup> *By swearing and lying, Killing and stealing and committing adultery, They break all restraint, With bloodshed upon bloodshed.* <sup>3</sup> *Therefore the land will mourn; And everyone who dwells there will waste away With the beasts of the field And the birds of the air; Even the fish of the sea will be taken away.*

**James 5:1–6** (NKJV) *Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you!* <sup>2</sup> *Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten.* <sup>3</sup> *Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.* <sup>4</sup> *Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.* <sup>5</sup> *You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter.* <sup>6</sup> *You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.*

### A Call to Repentance

**John 17:3**, NKJV *“ ‘And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent’ ”.*

**Hosea 4:6** (NKJV) <sup>6</sup> *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.*

**\*1 John 2:4** (NKJV) <sup>4</sup> *He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*