

“FAITH TO CONTINUE WHEN YOUR LIFE IS SHATTERED BY UNFAITHFULNESS”

Survey of Hosea

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. The neglected “minor” prophets that conclude the Old Testament:

1. “Minor” is usually interpreted unimportant: (*ref. to size not significance*)
2. Twelve fringe authors:
3. Lacking personal narratives:

“The messages of the minor prophets are amazing and profound. They fill the reader with hope and wonder, all the while convicting and challenging us to faithfully follow God.” *Nathan Jones*

B. Twelve everyday people ministering from experience:

B. The prophet, his congregation, and the theme of the book:

1. Hosea the prophet – “the Lord saves”
2. The relative congregation, Ephraim:
3. The theme – “The redeeming love of the Lord”

II. REBELLIOUSNESS, THAT ZAPS YOUR STRENGTH AND DEVOURS YOUR HEART:

A. The tragedy of an unfaithful mate: *Chapters 1- 3*

1. The marriage:
 - a. Meet Gomer:
 - b. Who selected who:
2. The children:
 - a. First son, Jezreel: *1:4*
 - b. Daughter next, Lo-ruhamah: *1:6-7*
 - c. Son last, Lo-smmi: *1:8-9*
3. The separation: *Chapter 2*
4. The restoration: *Chapter 3*
 - a. God’s command: *v. 1*
 - b. Grasping her worth: *v. 2*

B. The tragedy of an unfaithful nation: *Chapters 4 - 14*

1. Sinful people at odds with holy God: (*Rom. 3:23*)
2. The consequences of a just God: (*Rom. 6:23a*)
3. The faithfulness of a loving God: (*Rom. 5:8; 6:23b; Jn. 3:16*)

III. APPLICATIONS: (*Together becoming “people of the Word” in principle AND in practice*)

A. A wrong decision can never be rectified by another wrong decision. (*Ja. 4:17*) (*It is never right to do wrong to get a chance to do right*).

B. My faithfulness to others must never rest upon their faithfulness to me. (*Lam. 3:22-23*)

C. The desire for revenge is the natural response when I fail to look at negative experiences from God’s perspective.