

MAJOR ON THE MINORS: FAITH IN THE PROPHETIC BOOKS

The Minor Prophets may be some of the most overlooked books of the Bible, but their messages are anything but minor. In this multi-week series, **Major on the Minors**, we'll journey through the lives and ministries of God's twelve prophetic messengers and discover how their stories intersect with our own.

Major on the Minors - Week 1

Hosea: Faith When Your Heart Is Shattered

Key Thought

The story of Hosea reminds us that no heart is too shattered, no sin too great, and no failure too final for the redeeming love of God.

> "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
> Romans 5:8

Main Characters

Hosea - The Faithful Servant

- Called by God during the reign of Jeroboam II
- Lived as a prophetic illustration of God's relationship with Israel
- Purchased and restored his unfaithful wife
- Demonstrates God's pursuing and redeeming love

Gomer - The Faithless Bride

- Represents Israel's spiritual unfaithfulness
- Pursued other lovers and false gods
- Searched for fulfillment in all the wrong places
- Found herself broken, enslaved, and in need of redemption

Israel - The Faithless Nation

- Prosperous outwardly
- Corrupt inwardly
- Repeatedly rejected God's love and correction
- Pursued idols instead of God

Big Question

"Have I taken something God gave me and allowed it to become more important than God Himself?"

Three Ways Israel Drifted from God

1. Israel Loved the Wrong Things

Hosea 2:13

- Prosperity became vanity
- Blessing became greed
- Worship became idolatry

Result: They forgot the God who had blessed them.

"They will eat and still be hungry..."
Hosea 4:10

Personal Reflection

What competes for God's place in my life?

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2. Israel Trusted the Wrong Things

Hosea 8:9

Instead of trusting God they trusted:

- Wealth
- Political alliances
- Military strength
- Pleasure
- Other nations

"Like a wild donkey looking for a mate... they have sold themselves to many lovers."

Personal Reflection

What am I relying on for security besides God?

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3. Israel Became the Wrong Thing

Hosea 7:1, 7:7, 8:7

- Sin became normalized
- Corruption spread
- Leaders were overthrown
- Rebellion became a way of life

Principle

You eventually reap the direction of your life.

- Sow to idols → reap emptiness
- Sow to rebellion → reap destruction
- Sow to sin → reap consequences

"They have planted the wind and will harvest the whirlwind."
Hosea 8:7

God's Shattered Heart

Hosea 11:8-9

"My heart is torn within me, and my compassion overflows."

The shattered heart in Hosea isn't only:

- Gomer's heart shattered by sin
- Hosea's heart shattered by betrayal
- Israel's heart shattered by rebellion

God's heart was shattered by the people He loved.

Remember:

- God's love is greater than our rebellion.
- God's mercy is greater than our failure.
- God's compassion is greater than His anger.

The story of Hosea is not that Israel wandered.
The story is that God kept pursuing.

Three Things We Must Recognize When Reading Hosea

1. God's Rebuke Is Warranted

Hosea 10:2

- God confronts sin because He is holy.
- Sin always leads to destruction.

2. God's Anger Doesn't Cancel His Love

Hosea 11:9

- God disciplines what He loves.
- His mercy remains available to those who return.

3. God Uses Prophecy to Ignite Repentance

Hosea 14:9

- God's warnings are invitations to return.
- Repentance is the pathway to restoration.

Application

Where am I today?

□ Like Gomer, chasing fulfillment in the wrong places?

□ Like Israel, trusting something other than God?

□ Like Hosea, walking faithfully through heartbreak?

□ Ready to return to God and receive His restoration?

Final Thought

Hosea paid the full price to redeem Gomer.

Jesus paid the full price to redeem us.

No matter how shattered your heart may be, Christ's sacrifice is more than enough to restore what sin has broken.

Prayer Request / Notes
