

## OT Survey

### Lesson 25

- **Introduction to The Minor Prophets**

- \_\_\_\_ minor prophets total
- **Time frame:** Throughout the post-divided kingdom

*“When we come to the prophecy of Hosea, we are coming to one of the great books of the Bible and to a man who was a remarkable prophet. I personally do not like the classification of the prophets as Major and Minor. Every one of these men, whether they wrote a long prophecy or not, was an outstanding man. You wouldn’t call Elijah a minor prophet simply because he never wrote a prophecy, would you? And John the Baptist, the last of the prophets, never wrote anything; yet he was a prophet of God and announced the coming of the Savior.*

*The prophets were not grouped as Major and Minor in the Hebrew Bible. They were arranged as we have them by the church around the third century. If I could have had my way in the arrangement of the books of the Bible, I would have placed each prophet with the historical book to which it corresponds. You will notice that the messages of nearly all the writing prophets belong to the period of the divided kingdom. When the kings failed, God then raised up prophets to speak to the nation.*

*Chronologically, therefore, the prophecy of Hosea belongs before Jeremiah. Hosea was contemporary with Isaiah, Micah, and his compatriot, Amos, in the northern kingdom. Hosea and Amos were prophets in the northern kingdom, Isaiah and Micah in the southern kingdom.*

-J Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary

### Hosea

- Prophet of \_\_\_\_\_
  - During the reigns of Uzziah-Hezekiah of Judah, and Jeroboam of Israel
1. Hosea- a \_\_\_\_\_ illustration
    - A. Commanded to marry a \_\_\_\_\_ as an illustration to Israel (chapter 1)
    - B. \_\_\_\_\_ children in the home
      - Meaning of names plays a role in the illustration
        - Hosea, form of \_\_\_\_\_: Salvation
        - First child, Jezreel: God will scatter, and God will avenge.

- Prophecy of judgement vs 4-5
- Jezreel/ valley of Megiddo

1. 2nd child, Lo–ruhamah: “no \_\_\_\_\_”

- Prophecy of the preservation of Judah vs 7

2. Third child, Lo–ammi: “not my \_\_\_\_\_”

- Prophecy of restoration vs 9-11

2. Illustration of the adulterous wife compared to \_\_\_\_\_ (chapter 2)

- Prophecy of future restoration in the kingdom vs 14-23, Romans 9:25-26

3. Purchasing of Gomer from \_\_\_\_\_ (chapter 3)

- A type of Christ's redemption
- Prophecy of silent years vs 4-5

4. Indictment against an adulterous nation (chapter 4)

5. Judgment prophesied (chapter 5)

6. Lamentation/ poetry: a song of the Remnant and Jehovah (ch 6-8)

A. The remnant calls to repentance (6:1-3)

B. Jehovah responds- judgement against an idolatrous nation (6:4-13:8)

C. Themes addressed:

- Idolatry
- God's offer to Israel for healing beforetime
- God's history with Israel
- Israel's sin of seeking refuge in Assyria and Egypt
- Impending judgement against Israel/ Ephraim/ Samaria

7. Conclusion of the Lord's response (13:9-14)

- Illustration summarized: "I will ransom them... (13:14)
- Call to repentance/ future restoration of Israel (chapter 14)

## Joel

- Prophet of \_\_\_\_\_
- Likely during the reign of \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Chron 22-24)
- Contemporary of \_\_\_\_\_ and Elisha

### Main themes:

1. Plagues against the Land (chapter 1)
2. Foretelling of \_\_\_\_\_ (chapter 1:15-2)
  - *Joel was the first of the writing prophets. You cannot say the Day of the Lord is something other than what Joel says it is; it must fit into the program which he describes. All the prophets who came after him used this term many times. "The Day of the Lord" occurs about seventy-five times in the entire Bible; "the day of the LORD" occurs five times and "that day" one time in the Book of Joel. All of the prophets have a great deal to say about the Day of the Lord, and we need to recognize that it is a technical term which is defined and used consistently in Scripture. -Thru the Bible Commentary*
  - Joel 2:11. And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for *the day of the LORD* is great and very terrible; and who can abide it
3. Restoration of Israel (2:12-ch 3)
  - a. Call to repentance. (2:12-17)
  - b. Restoration of the Land (2:18-19)
  - c. Deliverance from oppressors (2:20)
  - d. Call from captivity (ch3:1)
4. Specifics of the day of the Lord- the Valley of \_\_\_\_\_
  - Rebellion against the Lord's earthly rule

Joel 3:10-12 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. [11] Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. [12] Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

## Amos

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Tekoah

Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit: And the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel" (Amos 7:10–15).

- From Judah, sent to \_\_\_\_\_
  - From Tekoah to Bethel
- During the reign of Uzziah, king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Joash. (2 Ki 15, 2 Chron 26, Isa 1)
- Key verses:

Amos 1:2

And he said, The LORD will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither.

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

1. Judgements against the nations (ch1-2)
2. Judgement against Judah (2:4-5)
  - reasons for Judah's punishment
3. Judgement against Israel (2:5-16)
4. Further warnings to Israel (ch 3)
  - "That day" assured

Amos 3:11-14

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; An adversary there shall be even round about the land; and he shall bring down thy strength from thee, and thy palaces shall be spoiled. [12] Thus saith the LORD; As the shepherd taketh out of the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear; so shall the children of Israel be taken out that dwell in Samaria in the corner of a bed, and in Damascus in a couch. [13] Hear ye, and testify in the house of Jacob, saith the Lord GOD, the God of hosts, [14] That in the day that I shall visit the transgressions of Israel upon him I will also visit the altars of Beth-el: and the horns of the altar shall be cut off, and fall to the ground.

- Against the \_\_\_\_\_ at Beth-el (4:1-5)
  - Reminders of former judgments (4:6-13)
5. Lamentation of the Lord- plea to Israel (ch 5)
  6. The day of the Lord (5:16-20)
  7. Temple worship detested (5:21-25)
  8. Idolatry targeted
    - Moloch and Chiun
    - "The star of your god"

Amos 5:26-27

But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves. [27] Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name is The God of hosts.

9. Condemnation of excessive and ungodly living (ch 6)
10. Vision of Destructions (ch 7:1-9)
  - Locust
  - Fire
  - the Plumbline- foreign oppressors
  - Prophecy against the house of Jeroboam (7:9)
11. Priest of Beth-el accuses Amos to the king (7:10-17)
12. The Basket of Summer fruit (ch 8)
13. Warnings to the oppressors of the poor (8:4-10)
  - Prophecy of the Famine of Hearing the Word of the Lord (8:11-12)
14. The Vision of the Lord standing upon the Altar (ch 9)
  - Judgment assured
  - Future restoration of Israel in the Kingdom (9:11-15)

## Obadiah

- Timeline debated
  - During Athalia
  - After the dispersion
- Main theme: Prophecy against \_\_\_\_\_
  - Edom's pride

### Obadiah 1:3

The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?

- Paganism
- Violence
- For treatment of Israel in affliction
- The "day of the Lord" against the nations
- Mt Zion, the source of deliverance (Zech)