

Fairview Winter Bible Study 2023

Major Thoughts from the Minor Prophets

Book of Hosea: Sin starts at home

Hosea 1:2-9

²The beginning of the word of the Lord by Hosea. And the Lord said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the Lord.

³So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son.

⁴And the Lord said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel.

⁵And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel, in the valley of Jezreel.

⁶And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And God said unto him, Call her name Loruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away.

⁷But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the Lord their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.

⁸Now when she had weaned Loruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son.

⁹Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God.

Background

- The book of Hosea was written in about 715 BC
- Hosea is the author who was the son of Beeri
- The name Hosea is Hebrew and means salvation
- Hosea began his ministry during the reign of Jeroboam II
 - Northern Kingdom had prospered as far as material wealth
 - Moral decline occurring
- Written to the people of Israel, specifically the Northern Kingdom
- Written to show God's love for his sinful people
- Story of an unfaithful wife in a marriage to point out the sin and idolatry of His people
- Chapters 1-3: Relationship of a husband and wife and the problems that occur in their marriage due to the unfaithful behavior
- Chapters 4-14: Israel's sinfulness and then the punishment that occurs due to their sinfulness and concludes with God showing His love for His people even after their sin
- Lord tells Hosea that he is to find a wife
- Hosea is told by the Lord that his wife would be unfaithful and would bear children
- Hosea marries Gomer and she is unfaithful and they have 3 children

- Lord tells Hosea what to name his 3 children
 - Jezreel: scattered by God
 - Loruhamah: hath not obtained mercy
 - Loammi: not my people

Sin

- Gomer struggled with sexual sin > All struggle with sin
- Romans 3:10: "...There is none righteous, no, not one"
- Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"
- Romans 5:19; Psalm 51:5; Psalm 58:3
- Live in a weak sinful flesh and reside in a sinful, wicked world
- Genesis Chapter 3-sin entered the world
- Genesis 3:6-7: "...she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."
- Our country and our world are growing more wicked by the day
- The devil is looking for:
 - People to follow after him
 - God's people to turn their focus away from the Lord
- 1 Peter 5:8: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"
- Throughout our history the majority of the US population has claimed to be Christian
 - In 1990, 85% of the US population identified themselves as Christian
 - In 2019 that percentage had dropped to 65%
 - Today, it is popular to say you are not a Christian
- Anti-Christian agenda being pushed
 - Media, schools, workplaces, churches
- Ephesians 6:12: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."
- 2 Timothy 3:1-5: "...in the last days perilous times shall come, for men will be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

External threats

- Threats to occur outside of our homes
- External forces: wind, rain, sleet, snow, hail and tornadoes
- Are our homes are protected? (roof, windows, siding, doors, etc)
- External sins are threats to our Christian values and our Christian way of life
- Keep the lost as far from the Lord as possible and pull Christians away from the Lord
- Influenced by the things that we come into contact with - positive or negative

- 1 Corinthians 15:33: “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”
- Proverbs 13:20: “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”
- Proverbs 27:17
- All of the people and situations that we encounter in our lives have an influence on us
 - School: teachers, counselors, assistants, administrators
 - Extracurricular activities: coaches and mentors
 - Church: members, Sunday school teachers, pastors
 - Friends
- Outside Influences:
 - School
 - News/media
 - People
 - Social media
- Must prepare ourselves and our children to fight against them
 - Eph 6:11: “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

Internal threats

- Must maintain and protect the inside of our homes
- Stable foundation, floors, plumbing, electrical
- What happens inside our home is our greatest influence
 - Research shows that parents and home life are the biggest influence on children
 - Internal influences, whether positive or negative, whether Godly or worldly will affect the rest of our lives
 - Home is where we learn about:
 - What is important
 - How to prioritize
 - Home is where we learn about how to live: marriage, work, church
 - More likely to succeed if we have a stable home that is built on a firm foundation and maintained in a Godly manner
 - Our children take notice of the things that we do and the things that we don't do
 - They take notice of the sin in our lives
 - As parents we are the first role models for those in our homes
- Structure of a Christian home:
 - Faithful marriage between a man and a woman who have been saved by the grace of God
 - Establish a home
 - Model their marriage, upbringing of their children, and all aspects of their lives on Biblical principles
 - Minimize sin in their home - we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God
- Scriptures give us the model of Christian marriage as well as Christian parenting
 - Mark 10:6-9: “But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;

And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

- Col 3:18-21: “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”
- Mark 10:6-9; Ephesians 5:22-33; Genesis 2:23-24; Proverbs 13:24; 2 Tim 3:14-17

Sins of Commission

- Sins of commission are sins that we commit by willingly performing an action that is sinful
 - Murder, abuse, drug use, adultery, lying, cheating
- 1 John 2:15-16: “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”
- Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Cor 6:9-10; 1 Tim 1:9-10; 2 Tim 3:1-5; Eph 5:18-19; Matt 19:9; Matt 5:32; Rom 1:26-28; Lev 20:10; Lev 20:13

Sins of Omission

- Sins that we commit by willingly not doing what the Lord has called us to do
- James 4:17: “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”
- Not as blatant to the naked eye as a sin of commission but is still sin and the Lord is displeased with all sin
- Our purpose: obedience to the Lord and to glorify His name
- These sins occur when we fail to be obedient by our lack of action
- Not seeking the Lord for salvation when we are lost, not uniting with/attending church, not spending time in the Word, not spending time in prayer, not religiously educating our children, not following the leadership of the Lord in whatever way He is leading
- John 3:18-20; Matthew 7:26-27; Hebrews 10:25; 2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Timothy 3:16; Philippians 4:6; Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Eph 6:1-4; 1 Sam 15:22; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 4:30; John 14:15-21

Punishment/Repercussions

- Punishment from the Lord for sin/disobedience
- Our houses suffer damage from external storms and from not maintaining the inside
- Home will suffer from effects of sin outside the home
- Home will suffer even greater effects from the sin that is within the home
- Hosea 2:1-13: “Say ye unto your brethren, Ammi; and to your sisters, Ruhamah. Plead with your mother, plead: for she is not my wife, neither am I her husband: let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts; Lest I strip her naked, and set her as in the day that she was born, and make her as a wilderness, and set her like a dry land, and slay her with thirst. And I will not have mercy upon her children; for they be the children of whoredoms. For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give me my bread and my water, my

wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink. Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths. And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now. For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal. Therefore will I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax given to cover her nakedness. And now will I discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of mine hand. I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts. And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, whereof she hath said, These are my rewards that my lovers have given me: and I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them. And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the Lord.

- Repercussion of sin within our homes is the breakdown of our marriages and families and fellowship the Lord
- Will affect us and will affect future generations
 - We can see this as we look at the names of the children of Hosea
 - Exod 20:5: “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me”
 - Future generations are affected by the sin in our homes

What is going on in our world today?

- **Marriage**
 - 1962 the odds of being married by age 40 were over 90% (same in 1980)
 - 2014 that percentage dropped to less than 80%
- **Unwed couples living together**
 - The rate of unmarried couples living together has increased drastically in last 20 years
 - Nearly tripled from 6 million to 17 million
 - Couples who have been living together prior to marriage face a 40% increase in the likelihood of divorce
- **Divorce**
 - Drastic increase in the divorce rate from the 1950s to 1990s
 - 1958: 2.1 divorces for every 1000 people
 - 1980: 5.2 divorces per 1000 people
 - 2017: 2.9 divorces for every 1000 people
 - Decrease correlates with the decrease in the rate of marriage in the millennial population
 - Divorce statistics:
 - Leading causes of divorce: lack of commitment (75%), infidelity (59.6%), too much conflict and arguments (57.7%), domestic violence (23.5%), financial problems (36.1%), and substance abuse (34.6%)

- Alcohol abuse plays a major role in divorce: Almost 50% of couples with one alcoholic partner end up divorcing
 - Sexual sin/addiction:
 - Pornography: 56% of couples cited addiction to pornography as a contributor to divorce
 - Fornication: Women who had six or more premarital sexual partners are three times less likely to have a stable marriage
 - Early sexual sin: Women who began their sexual activity when they were 13 or 14 years old are nearly 50% less likely to be in a stable marriage than women who began their sexual activity in their 20s
 - Decreased divorce:
 - Having strong religious beliefs decreases the likelihood of divorce by 14%
 - Happily married parents decrease their kids' likelihood of divorce by 14%
- **Childbirth out of wedlock:**
 - 1964: 10% of children born to unwed couples
 - 2014: 40% of children born to unwed couples
 - Growth of population, marriage rate decline, unwed couples living together and having children drastic increase
 - And we have also seen the percentage of married couples that are having kids has decreased
- Statistics show is a correlation between the rate of kids being born out of wedlock, divorce rate, crime rate, rate of drug use/abuse
- **Sexual sin/Homosexuality/LGBT:**
 - From 2012 to 2015, between 3.5% and 3.9% of U.S. adults identified as LGBTQ
 - 2022, 7.1% of US adults identified as LGBTQ or non-heterosexual
 - Gen Z adults: more than 1 in 5, or 21 percent, identify as LGBTQ
- **Church membership/Religious affiliation**
 - 1990 to 2019: 20% decline in the number of people that identified themselves as Christians
 - 1937 to 2020: church membership declined from 73% to 47%
 - 1998 to 2021: Americans that don't identify with any religion increased from 8% to 21%

Redemption/Reconciliation

- The Lord promises restoration for His people that have fallen away
- If we look to the Lord and His word as our model for relationships, for marriage, for parenting and overall for how to manage our homes and live our lives He will help us rebuild on solid ground
- Hosea 3:1-5: "Then said the Lord unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the Lord toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine. So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley: And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for

thee. For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim: Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days.”

- 2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 51