

IMMERSE: PROPHETS

Week 2 – Amos, Hosea, Micah

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Click on Lessons link; scroll down under the first bullet – Continuity of Scripture/Scottsdale Bible Church Enrichment Class – to **(NEW!) Immerse: Prophets.**

Did these Prophets REALLY live? How do we know?

Luke 24:25-27 - Then He said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in **all that the prophets have spoken!** ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?' ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

AND, Jesus cited “Daniel **the prophet**”!!!!!! Jesus was sharing with the disciples as He sat on the Mount of Olives. Jesus spoke of the “abomination of desolation.” In Matt. 24:15 we read that Jesus told the disciples, *Therefore, when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),*

Jesus believed Daniel was a prophet who wrote Holy Scripture!

Jesus quoted 8 Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Hosea, Jonah, Micah, Zechariah, Malachi.

Within this study we will be understanding prophecy – how God is setting the stage for Jesus’ return! His return is our blessed hope (Titus 2:13). Prophecy teaches Who God is and that He is fully in control. Prophecy speaks to how we should live before Jesus returns (II Pet. 3:10-18).

As we read the Major and Minor Prophets, we need to know that...

- The Church is NOT being addressed. The Major and Minor Prophets are proclaiming God’s message to Israel – both the Kingdom of Israel in the north and the Kingdom of Judah in the south.
- Israel is called “The people of God” – chosen by God and His sovereign will to accomplish His/God’s purposes. Those within the Church, birthed at Pentecost (I Cor. 12:13) are considered “the people of God” – chosen individually by God for salvation.
- There is one way of salvation throughout Scripture in both OT (Gen. 15:6; Hab. 2:4) and NT (Eph. 2:8-9): by grace through faith in God’s revealed message which always points to the Messiah Jesus. If you weren’t Jewish, you were considered “foreigners/strangers” (Lev. 23:22) from 70 different nations.

Because God called the Prophets to proclaim His message during Israel’s history, we need to know that King David, followed by his son, King Solomon, reigned over a United Kingdom.

During his kingship, God told King Solomon that, because of his veering away from God, God would be tearing 10 tribes in the north away from the 2 tribes in the south (I Kings 11:1-13). After King Solomon, there was a Divided Kingdom.

Rehoboam, Solomon’s son, reigned over 2 tribes (Judah and Benjamin) in the Kingdom of Judah in the south. Jeroboam reigned over 10 in the Kingdom of Israel in the north.

The Prophets’ ministries revolved around the exiles of Israel (SEE CHART)

The Kingdom of Israel in the north was taken captive by Assyria in 722 BC. There were no righteous kings in the Kingdom of Israel. The Kingdom of Judah went into captivity/exile through 3 deportations: 605BC, 597BC, and 586 BC when Jerusalem was attacked and the Temple was destroyed. Out of the 20 Kings in the Kingdom of Judah, 8 were righteous – in a right relationship with God.

Pre-exilic Prophets told the people to RETURN to the LORD! REPENT!

During the Exile Prophets – Jeremiah prophesied before the exile in Babylon and during the exile in Babylon. Daniel and Ezekiel prophesied while in exile in Babylon.

Post-exilic Prophets, after the return of the Jewish people to the land of Israel, these Prophets looked beyond to the restoration of the nation of Israel at Jesus’ Second Coming.

THE PROPHETS IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE EXILE

605BC ————— 536BC		
Before the Exile	During the Exile	After the Exile
Obadiah Joel Jonah Amos Hosea Isaiah Micah Nahum Zephaniah Habakkak	Jeremiah-Lamentations Daniel Ezekiel	Haggai Zechariah Malachi

When Jesus physically returns to earth at His Second Coming, under the kingship of the Messiah, the Son of David, Israel will be regathered and restored to her land and they will

experience New Covenant blessings (Jer. 31:31-34; Eze. 36:24-27; Eze. 11:16-20 - *Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: Although I have cast them far off among the Gentiles, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet I shall be a little sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone. ¹⁷ Therefore say, Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. ¹⁸ And they will go there, and they will take away all its detestable things and all its abominations from there. ¹⁹ Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, ²⁰ that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.'*

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BIG PICTURE OF THE PROPHETS: as a result of the restoration of Israel, the nations will also benefit and will be included in the earthly Kingdom of God (Psa. 2:8; Isa. 2:2; Isa. 19:18-25; Isa. 60; Isa. 62:7).

AMOS

His name means “burden” or “burden bearer”. The book of Amos was thought to be written between 760 and 753 BC (8th C BC) before the Assyrian attack in 722 when the Kingdom of Israel was carried away into exile into “distant locations.”

Amos was a shepherd and a fruit picker from the Judean village of Tekoa in the Kingdom of Judah. God called Amos – an ordinary man!

Amos’ mission was directed to the Kingdom of Israel. Jeroboam II was king at the time and Uzziah reigned over Judah.

Under Jeroboam II in the Kingdom of Israel, it was a time of prosperity.

Jeroboam expanded the boundaries of Israel – to where the borders were during King Solomon’s day (II King 14:25). And it was also a time of peace with Judah. The barbaric Assyrian nation had been subdued perhaps due to Nineveh’s repentance at the preaching of Jonah (John 3:4-10).

Spiritually, however, it was a time of rampant corruption and moral decay (Amos 4:1; 5:10-13; II Kings 4:24). Two idol temples were set up...one in Bethel and one in Dan (I Kings 12:28-29).

And so, Amos’ message from God to deliver to the Kingdom of Israel: there would be chastening due to an absence of true worship and a lack of justice...neglect of God’s Word, idolatry, pagan worship, greed, corrupted leadership, and oppression of the poor. God promised divine judgment.

Amos 1-3 – Amos proclaimed judgment on the nations encircling the Kingdom of Israel (Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, Moab...then Judah...then Israel). I chose you; I called you to be Mine. With a greater calling comes greater responsibilities. And, a genuine relationship with God will transform your relationship with others.

Amos 4 – Israel did not accept correction.

Amos 5 – God called Israel to repent! To change (mind). Rom. 12:2 - be not conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God!

The Day of the LORD/YHWH (Amos 5:18; 9:11)

In summary, the “Day of the LORD” speaks to a general period of God’s wrath and judgment...a day which unveils God’s might, power, and holiness...which terrifyingly impacts His enemies.

The “Day of the LORD” will also bring physical blessings, fruitfulness, and prosperity. It is a day when judgment is poured out on sinners which leads to blessings on those who place their trust in God through Jesus.

AMOS 7

We read of 5 visions. The first two visions, the vision of the locusts (devouring the people’s portion of the latter cuttings); and the vision of the fire (a devastating drought causing the underground water supplies to dry up and the fields to be consumed)...after Israel cried out to

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God to forgive (Amos 7:2), and prayed, asking God to cease (Amos 7:6), we’re told that God relented (to be moved to pity...having compassion) The last three visions announced the inevitability of judgment. The vision of the plumb line – God’s plumb line of righteousness which found Israel to be wanting! The vision of the summer fruit – the fruit was fully ripened. Israel was ripe for judgment. The vision of the Lord standing beside the altar in Bethel, commanding that the temple be torn down...falling upon the worshipers. He would spare none.

What can we expect from God?

As our Holy One – we can expect God to deal with sin.

As our faithful God – we can expect God to fulfill His promises to those who, by faith, believe His promises – to those who are the remnant. Because of His unconditional covenant that God made with Abraham, the Lord would not abandon Israel altogether, but would bring future restoration to the righteous remnant (Amos 9:7-15).

Amos 9:11-15

THE REMNANT WILL BE PRESERVED!

Israel will be restored and on that day Millennial blessings, Kingdom of God blessings, await the faithful remnant when the Messiah will personally reign, sitting on the throne of David (Luke 1:30-33), and also ruling over the Gentile nations (Psa. 2:8).

In Amos 9:11, the Lord promised that He “will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down.” Hebrew for “tabernacle” – sukkah – a booth; a rude, woven, (flimsy) temporary shelter. The tabernacle of David more pointedly speaks of the dynasty given by God to David on earth through the Davidic Covenant (II Sam. 7:12-16). The temple was destroyed in 586 BC and again in 70 AD (on the SAME date – the 9th of Av [equivalent to August on the Gregorian calendar]).

Amos 9:11-12 – speaks of Gentile inclusion in the Kingdom of God on earth. OF COURSE, God had chosen Israel to bless the nations and serve as witnesses to the nations. This will be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom.

Amos 9:13-15 (READ) – Fruitfulness is so enormous that planting and reaping seasons overlap.

The ultimate fulfillment of God’s land promise to Abraham (Gen. 15:18-21) will occur during Jesus’ millennial (1,000 year) reign on earth.

THE ULTIMATE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

Isa. 27; 42-44; 65; 66

Obad. 17, 21

Jer. 30-33

Micah 7:14-20

Eze. 36; 37; 40-48

Zeph. 3:14-20

Dan. 9:20-27; 12:1-3

Hag. 2:20-23

Hosea 2:14-23; 14:4-7

Zech. 13; 14

Joel 3:18-21

Mal. 4:1-3

Amos 9:11-15

HOSEA

Hosea’s name means “salvation.” Hosea lived in the northern Kingdom of Israel, at times called Ephraim. Hosea prophesied from 785 to 725 BC. Hosea 1:1 identifies the author of the book as the Prophet Hosea. God’s message through Hosea is directed to Israel, the northern kingdom.

The theme of Hosea is God’s loyal love for His covenant people, Israel, in spite of their idolatry.

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Hosea was instructed by God to marry a certain woman and to commit his love and faithfulness to her. and experience with her a domestic life which was a dramatization of the sin and unfaithfulness of Israel.

While it has been debated, it seems best to understand Gomer as chaste/pure at the time of marriage to Hosea, only later having become an immoral woman. Hosea’s marriage to the adulterous Gomer pictures God’s love for Israel in spite of her spiritual adultery. God’s steadfast love is portrayed in the long-suffering husband of the unfaithful wife. Throughout Hosea we note the themes of sin, judgment, and forgiving love.

Children born:

Hosea 1:4 – Jezreel which means “God will scatter” speaking of future judgment. I will...*bring an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel* looks forward to Israel’s exile in Assyria in 722 BC.

Hosea 1:6 – Lo-Ruhamah – “not pitied” – God is no longer extending His favor toward Israel.

Hosea 1:8 – Lo-Ammi – “not my people”!

Restoration of Israel!

Hosea 1:10-2:1 – How immediately in this book is recorded Israel and Judah’s restoration (Hosea 1:11 – both Israel and Judah are mentioned. Eze. 37:15-27 – United Kingdom is noted!) God preserved a remnant for Himself from both Israel and Judah (Hosea 1:7).

Hosea 2:2 – *Bring charges against your mother.* While this language is applicable to Gomer, it depicts a courtroom scene in which the Lord bring charges against the defendant. Children are commanded to bring charges against their mother, Israel, as a nation.

Hosea 2:13 – *I will punish her for the days of the Baals to which she burned incense...she went after her lovers; but Me she forgot....*

Hosea 2:14 – *Therefore, behold, I will allure her; will bring her into the wilderness (where one can only depend on God) and speak comfort to her.* God will speak to her heart! (Isa. 40:1-Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God). God will restore Israel to Himself.

Hosea 2:16 – *And it shall be, in that day, says the LORD, that you will call Me, ‘My Husband.’* With great anticipation, God looked forward to the day when relationship would be genuinely restored with His people.

Hosea 2:19-20 – *I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord.* Repeated three time, *I will betroth you* – the term emphasizes the intensity of God’s restoring love for the nation. In that day, Israel will no longer be thought of as an adulterous wife. We note that Israel brings nothing to the marriage. God makes all the promises and provides the dowry. These verses are recited by every Orthodox Jew as he places the phylacteries on his and forehead. Deut. 11:18 – (in a section re: love and obedience being rewarded) *Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.*

Hosea 3

Hosea 3:1 – Having been previously separated, Hosea was commanded to pursue his estranged wife Gomer illustrating God’s unquenchable love for faithless Israel.

Hosea 3:4-5 (READ) – God’s dealings with Israel during the present age. Israel continues to exist without the monarchy, without their Levitical priesthood until... *Afterward* – when Messiah returns at the Second Coming to set up His Kingdom – His Millennial reign (Eze. 40-48).

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Hosea 4-10

Hosea 4:1b ...*There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land.*

Hosea 4:6 - *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; (Ex. 19:6 – you will be a kingdom of priests) Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.*

“Knowledge” – “yaDA” - personal relationship that transforms their hearts and lives.

God wanted Israel to experience His love for them. Instead they are breaking the 10 commandments and then going to the Temple and offering sacrifices to God. They are making political alliances with other nations. Assyria will attack!

Hosea 5:15 - *I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.”*

Hosea 6:1-3 - *Come and let us return to the LORD; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. ² After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight. ³ Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the*

latter and former rain to the earth. Hosea leads Israel in humble prayer seeing God's loving hand even in correction. There is a foreshadowing of Jesus' resurrection on the third day.

They lacked knowledge of God and so they were caught up in looking for what they wanted through different ways including idolatry. We need to know the LORD and His word!

Hosea 11 (READ)

Hosea 14 (READ)

MICAH

Micah resides in the southern Kingdom of Judah. Micah's message of warning proclaims that God will bring an Assyrian attack to take out the northern kingdom and ravage Jerusalem and then Babylon will bring greater destruction. Micah's message is also filled with hope. There will be restoration on the other side of judgment.

God appears over Israel as He did on Mt. Sinai (fire/smoke). This time God was not coming to make a covenant with Israel but to bring judgment. Micah picks a fight with Israel's leaders. They are wealthy through theft, greed, afflicting grave injustices. They are illegally selling land that belongs to families. God's judgment will arise through an oppressive nation that comes to take out Jerusalem and the temple.

God is like a shepherd Who will regather His flock and bring them back to good pasture. The ruined temple will be filled once more with God's glory. And, Israel will become the meeting place of heaven and earth where all nations will stream to Jerusalem.

God will restore His people, Israel, The Messiah will rule over His people. In the Kingdom of God the faithful remnant of His people will become that blessing among the nations. The Messiah will rule in justice and remove evil from the world.

Micah 6:8 - *He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*

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Micah 7 – Israel is personified as an individual who is sitting alone in shame and defeat and is watching for God's mercy. Why would God show mercy?

Because of His character - *Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage?*

He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy (Micah 7:18)

Because of God's promises - *He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. ²⁰ You will give truth to Jacob and mercy to Abraham, which You have sworn to our fathers from days of old* (Micah 7:19-20)

The nations will find God's blessings through Abraham's descendants. To become a blessing to the nations, Israel must become faithful to God. If God's going to bless the nations through Israel, He must confront and judge the evil among His people. God's judgment leads to hope. God's ultimate purpose is not destruction but to save and redeem/restore.