

## **Minor Prophets Summer 2025 - Lesson 6**

### Indictment of Israel's People and Priests - Hosea 10-11

*Theme Verse: "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my Son" (Hosea 11:1 - ESV).*

#### **Harvest No More - Exile and Judgment**

Between chapters 9 & 10 the Lord describes what will happen to Israel and Ephraim. Their fertility will dry up. Not just the fertile land, but birth, pregnancy, and conception will be a rare thing. There will be miscarriages and mothers will not be able to feed their children. Some children will face death. The Lord's punishment is the literal wiping of this people off the face of the earth. This horrible judgment is not all that different from what the Lord describes bringing upon the earth in the last days in Revelation 16. The punishment for sin is unimaginable (Hosea 9:10-17; 10:14-15).

1. Considering the emphasis on this part of Hosea on fertility, birth, pregnancy, and the like, how might current social issues such as abortion, euthanasia, the disregard for marriage, and the like be the Lord's judgment upon us?

#### **The Lord's Love for His People**

Read **Hosea 11:1-3**. God expresses His love for Israel. He called her out of Egypt.

2. How did the people of Israel respond to the great kindness the Lord showed them?

Read **Hosea 11:5-7**. Literally, the people of Israel will not return to Egypt. However, they will return symbolically by being held captive in Assyria. Also, an alliance with Egypt or other powerful nation will not prevent them from being carried off.

3. Why does the Lord refuse to hear His people's cry to the Most High?

Read **Hosea 11:8-9**. God's heart changes toward His people. His compassion is kindled. Luther writes, "This is a wonderful promise of the mercy of God: 'I want My reputation for mercy to remain safe. I also want my people to flee to Me for refuge'" (AE 18:61).

4. How does the promise of God's mercy draw us near to Him?

Read **Hosea 11:10-12**. Here, God's "roar[ing] like a lion" is the proclamation of the Gospel, which provides comfort for His children as it scatters God's enemies. God promises to restore His people to their homes.

5. Read **Romans 1:16**. How is the preaching of the Gospel the power of God?

### **God's Word for Today**

From the example of Israel, we can see how seriously the Lord takes sin and how terribly He punishes it - even to the point of wiping a people off the earth. This should prompt us to repent of our sins. Yet, the Lord does not leave us in judgment. He promises to deliver us, rescue us, and to gather us into His Church and into the many mansions that are in the heavenly home of our Father.

6. Hosea's prophecy was about much more than just God delivering His people out of the land of Egypt. Hosea was prophesying about the coming of Jesus who saved His people. The Father called His beloved Son, Jesus, out of Egypt after the threat from King Herod had passed. How does God show us His love for us and call us out of Egypt, so to speak?

### **In Closing**

- Consider the many blessings of this life the Lord has given you: your house, home, spouse, children, job, salvation, and the like, and give thanks to the Lord.
- Read Hosea 12-14 for next Sunday.

*Prayer:* Almighty God, Your mercies are new every morning and You graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your goodness, give thanks for Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*This study is based on:*

*"God's Word for Today: Hosea, Joel, and Amos - Faithfulness amidst Unfaithfulness."*