

## **Minor Prophets Summer 2025 - Lesson 7**

### **Judgment, Repentance, and Restoration - Hosea 12-14**

*Theme Verse: "Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death? O Death, where are your plagues? O sheol, where is your sting?" (Hosea 13:4 - ESV).*

Hosea 12-14 continues the pattern of threat and promise, Law and Gospel. The Lord outlines how He went time and again to His people to deliver them. Yet Israel did not return to the Lord; therefore, punishment would come upon them. Israel's idolatry led to ethical problems as well. The merchants became dishonest. In the worship of Ba'al, human beings were sacrificed and, as a result, God would destroy them. Yet in the midst of judgment, God calls His people and says, "Return to the Lord your God." There is hope of restoration, for the Lord will heal their apostasy. He will love His people because His anger has been turned away by His grace.

#### **Useless Pursuits**

1. Read **Hosea 12:1-4**. "Ephraim feeds on the wind" (v. 1). Feeding on the wind leaves the stomach unsatisfied. How do people "feed on the wind" as they seek fulfillment or satisfaction in life?
2. The people "[pursue] the east wind all day long" (v. 1), that is to say, they try to "herd" the wind. Read **1 Corinthians 9:26**. How does lacking a purpose turn our actions into useless pursuits?

#### **History Repeated**

In commenting on Hosea 12:3-4, Martin Luther wrote, "In their preaching the prophets have the custom of teaching what happened in the past. From that they compose a consolation or rebuke for present situations" (AE 18:65).

3. Read **Hosea 12:5-14**. The Lord wants to repeat Jacob's history (12:3-4) in the people of Israel. He wants His people to return with His help. The Lord desires His people to "hold fast to love and justice" (v. 6). Returning to the Lord is repentance. Mercy is the gift that God gives us, His Gospel.
4. The last part of Hosea 12:6 urges God's people to "wait continually for [their] God." Israel had not waited on the Lord but instead turned to the Ba'als. How is "waiting continually for your God" connected to faith?

## **Sin and Repentance**

Read **Hosea 13:1-3**. Because of Israel's idolatry, the people will pass away like the morning mist or like smoke through a hole in the wall. The Israelites' adoption of Ba'al worship with sexual perversion and human sacrifice brought judgment upon the people.

5. What does the Lord's punishment of Israel for idolatry, sexual perversion, and human sacrifice say about how He views the vices and sin of our modern culture?
6. Read **Hosea 13:4**. Why does God remind His people that, besides Him, "there is no savior" (Hosea 13:4)?
7. Read **Hosea 14**. Verse 9 is similar to other wisdom literature in the Scriptures (i.e. Job, Proverbs & Ecclesiastes). Who are the wise?

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

The Book of Hosea was written over many years. Hosea preached judgment, repentance, and restoration. While Israel was destroyed, the Lord preserved a remnant of His people. Their restoration is told in the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah. God is faithful to His promises. He delivered and restored His people. The Lord also has a people for Himself today. We are His people in Christ Jesus. The promises that He proclaimed through Hosea still belong to us.

## **In Closing**

- Pray to hear the Lord's call to repentance.
- Think on how death has lost its sting in the resurrection of Jesus.
- Read Joel 1-2:17 for Sunday, August 10 – **no class next week**.

*Prayer:* Almighty God, by the death of Your Son Jesus Christ You destroyed death, by His rest in the tomb You sanctified the graves of Your saints, and by His bodily resurrection You brought life and immortality to light so that all who die in Him abide in peace and hope. Receive our thanks for the victory over death and the grave that He won for us. Keep us in everlasting communion with all who wait for Him on earth and with all in heaven who are with Him, for He is the resurrection and the life, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*This study is based on:*

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