

HOPE SABBATH SCHOOL

Major Lessons from Minor Prophets – Part 1

Spiritual Adultery (Hosea)

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. Today we are beginning a new series of studies entitled Seek the LORD and Live! –Major Lessons from Minor Prophets. Our topic today: Spiritual Adultery (Hosea – salvation, the LORD saves)

New Scripture Song: “Seek the LORD while He may be found” – Isaiah 55:6-7

Prayer

Introduction: The minor prophets are the last 12 books of the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament. They are also called “the book of the twelve”. We refer to them as minor not because they are less important but because they are shorter inspired writings than major prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. But the message of the minor prophets is important: Seek the LORD and live!

- 1) The message of Hosea the prophet (8th century BC)
 - a) Hosea’s prophetic ministry was at the close of Israel’s time of prosperity, just prior to the invasion by the Assyrians in 722 BC.
 - b) Israel has committed spiritual apostasy, worshipping other gods, or additional gods.
- 2) The life testimony of Hosea the prophet

- a) Hosea 1:2-3 (Jeremiah 3:1)
 - b) This is a sermon without many words. Luke 5:12-13
 - c) What lesson is God trying to teach Israel and us through this strange command to Hosea?
 - d) How would you feel about obeying such a command? Example of Moses: Ex 3:11, 4:1, 10, 13.
 - e) Why did Hosea obey God without argument? What about Jonah (negative) and Mary (positive)?
 - f) Hosea 1:3-9 How would you feel at this time in your ministry assignment?
- 3) Spiritual adultery
 - a) Hosea 2:8-13
 - b) How can we avoid this trap of an unthankful heart?
 - c) How does adultery affect a marriage relationship?
 - d) Hosea 4:1-2 – the consequences of spiritual adultery
 - e) What parallels do you see in the world today?
 - 4) The Promise of Restoration
 - a) Hosea 2:14-23
 - b) Why doesn’t God just abandon his unfaithful people?
 - c) Hosea 3:1-3 Why did Hosea have to buy Gomer back?
 - 5) A call to repentance
 - a) Hosea 6:1-3
 - b) Why do we need the latter rain? Zech 10:1
 - 6) Discussion question
 - a) What vital lessons can we learn from the life and testimony of Hosea the prophet?
 - b) How has God shown His mercy to you?
 - c) When should we pray for a hedge of thorns? Hosea 2:6-7