

HOPE SABBATH SCHOOL

Major Lessons from Minor Prophets – Part 2

Love and Judgment: God’s Dilemma (Hosea)

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. Today we are continuing a series of studies entitled Seek the LORD and Live! –Major Lessons from Minor Prophets. Our topic today: Love and Judgment: God’ (Hosea)

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

Prayer

- 1) Review of Part 1
 - 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, like Baal.
 - c) What did God want to teach Israel and us through the life experience of Hosea the prophet?
 - 2) Dependence on powers besides God
 - a) Hosea 7:11-12
 - b) Hosea 10:13
 - c) How can we avoid making a similar mistake?
 - 3) God’s plan for His people
 - a) Hosea 10:12
 - b) What does it mean to “break up your fallow ground”?
 - c) How does this metaphor relate to the following teachings of Jesus?
 - i) Matthew 11:28-30
 - ii) Matthew 13:3-9
 - d) Why it this appeal so relevant for us today?
 - e) What are your thoughts about God’s desire to “rain righteousness on us”? What does that look like in everyday life?
- 4) God, the loving parent
 - a) Hosea 11:1,3
 - b) Hosea 11:8-9
 - c) Hosea 14:1-6
 - d) Some people view God, especially in the Old Testament as stern and harsh. What other passages of Scripture present God as a loving parent?
 - i) John 3:16
 - ii) John 16:27
 - iii) 1 John 3:1
 - iv) Romans 5:8
 - v) Proverbs 3:11-12; Deut. 8:5
 - e) How do you know if God is allowing a trial to train and discipline you, or whether the trial is just the natural result of living in a broken world?
 - f) What is your response to the truth that God loves you with an everlasting love?
 - 5) Discussion questions
 - a) How can we avoid a slow and insidious apostasy?
 - b) How has the message of Hosea impacted your life?