

# Sermon Notes – July 7, 2019

## Why Study the Minor Prophets?

- ⇒ The entire Bible – including the Old Testament – is God’s living and powerful word to us. The Old Testament is the Bible that Jesus used. On the road to Emmaus, Jesus chided the disciples with Him for being “slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken” (Luke 24:25). Paul affirmed to Timothy that the Old Testament Scriptures are able to make us “wise for salvation” through faith in Christ Jesus (II Timothy 3:15).
- ⇒ Our Christmas preaching & presentation this year will take us to the Old Testament prophets! Our study this summer will lay a helpful foundation for our holiday preaching.
- ⇒ An important “Key” to understanding the Bible as a unit: The Bible from beginning to end tells one BIG story of God’s redemption. Because God is the same throughout all of time, God’s \_\_\_\_\_ standards do not change, however, there are some details in the OT civil law that were specific to that time & place (like dietary & civil laws, feasts, & sacrifices). All of the OT is worthy of our study, and ultimately it points us to Christ who \_\_\_\_\_ OT prophecies & pictures and is the “end” of the OT law (Romans 10:4 – “goal” or “endzone”).

## Today’s Text: The World & Message of Hosea

- ⇒ Hosea is the first of the “Minor Prophets” – so named because they are (in general) shorter than the “Major Prophets. His name has the same meaning – “\_\_\_\_\_” – as Joshua and Jesus.
- ⇒ Hosea spoke for God during the time of the “Divided Kingdom.” You may recall that Israel as a nation split into two parts in 931 BC, then the northern part went into captivity in 722 BC, followed by the southern part, captured by Babylon in 586 BC.
- ⇒ This was a LONG, painful season of national decline, God’s judgment, and \_\_\_\_\_ a harvest for decades of sin and turning away from God. Through it all, God calls His people to “Cultivate a New Heart” and turn back to Him.

The Loyal Love of God for His People  
The Book of Hosea  
Pastor Jay Mosser

## Adulterous Wife & Faithful Husband

(Outline headings from the MacArthur Study Bible – ESV)

1:1-3:5 (READ 1:1-11)

- ⇒ Ever think that you have a rough assignment from the Lord? How would you like Hosea’s assigned task?
- ⇒ Jezreel, Lo-Ruhamah, and Lo-Ammi – three names packed with \_\_\_\_\_ meaning – “Scattered,” “No Mercy,” and “Not My People.”
- ⇒ A journey toward \_\_\_\_\_ (2:2, 5-7), yet undeserved, stubborn, \_\_\_\_\_ love that looks forward and plans for good (2:5 & 8, 14-16).
- ⇒ Hosea’s loyal love takes him all the way to a slave auction where he redeems his wife from a most degrading “rock bottom” (3:1-3). Cf. Rom 5:8.

## Adulterous Israel & Faithful Lord

4:1-14:9

- ⇒ Now that He has our attention, God now takes the personal & painful story of Hosea & Gomer and applies it in vivid color to His covenant people (4:1-3, 6, 11 – “Harlotry, wine, & new wine \_\_\_\_\_ the heart” – NKJ, & 13)
- ⇒ Listen to the story unfold: 5:1; 6:1 & 6; 8:7
- ⇒ Hear God’s call for repentance, prompted by His loyal love: 10:12 (i.e. “Pull up the weeds & plant a new crop and guess what? You’ll reap something very different from what you see today”); Also, 14:1-2, 9

## Response to God’s Word: “Cultivating a New Heart”

- ⇒ Listen to the New Covenant in Jeremiah 31:31-34...God does not just want to clean us up on the outside; He gives us a new heart through Jesus!
- ⇒ Make no mistake: God’s loyal love isn’t just about “loving you the way you are”; rather, He loves you too much to LEAVE you as you are! Heb. 12:10
- ⇒ Give thanks for this! God in His loyal love is pursuing YOUR heart, reshaping what you love, and prying your hands off of lesser things that you might love Him more. Yes, give thanks for His loyal love!

Next Sunday: July 14, 2019

“Does God Love THOSE People?”

The Book of Jonah; Pastor Tyler Pease

Answer Key: ▪ moral ▪ fulfilled ▪ Salvation ▪ reaping ▪ painful ▪ destruction ▪ pursuing ▪ enslave ▪