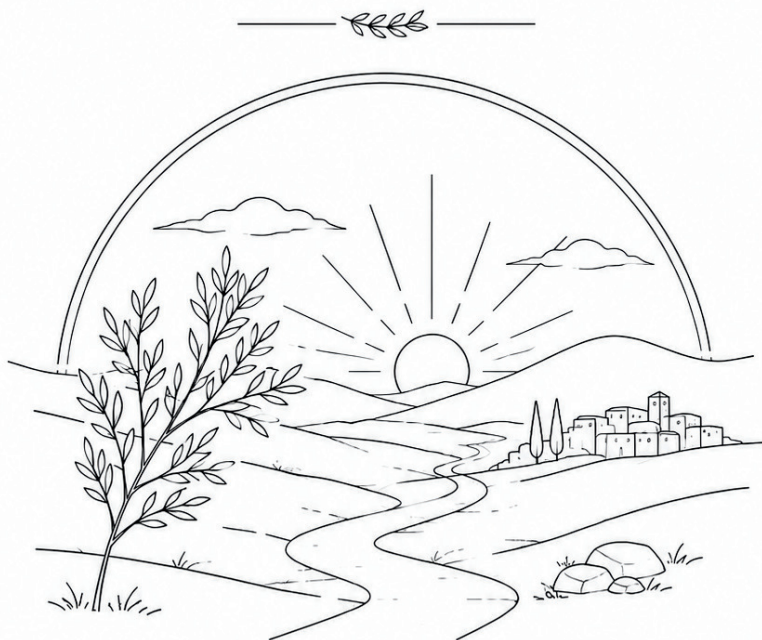


— THE BOOK OF —
THE TWELVE
THE MINOR PROPHETS



HOSEA

CROSSPOINT BAPTIST CHURCH
VOL. 1 / 2026

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

GOD.

God is the Creator & King of all things. He is perfectly holy, worthy of all worship and will punish sin. (Genesis 1:1, 1 John 1:5, Revelation 4:11, Romans 2:5 — 8)

MAN.

All people, though created good, have become sinful by nature. From birth, all people are alienated from God, hostile to God (we chose to reject God's rule and rule our own lives) and subject to the wrath of God. (Genesis 1:26 — 28, Psalm 51:5, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:1 — 3)

CHRIST.

Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully man, is the true King. He lived a sinless life, died on the Cross to bear God's wrath in the place of all who would believe in Him, and rose from the grave in order to give His people eternal life. (John 1:1, 1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 7:26, Romans 3:21 — 26, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Corinthians 15:20 — 22)

RESPONSE.

Because He is King, God commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins, trust in Christ as the only King in order to be saved and live as though He is your King. (Mark 1:15, Acts 20:21, Romans 10:9 — 10)

INTRODUCTION

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE DISREGARD HIS WORD AND BEGIN TO ENGAGE IN IDOLATROUS LIVING? WHAT DOES GOD DO WHEN HIS PEOPLE CARE MORE ABOUT BUILDING THEIR OWN WEALTH THAN CARING FOR THOSE IN THE MARGINS?

The Book of the Twelve, otherwise known as The Minor Prophets, are a collection of prophetic books where God speaks through His prophets to warn His people of the sinful direction of their lives and calls them to righteous living.

In the book of Hosea the prophet is dramatically called to marry an unfaithful wife to illustrate the “spiritual adultery” of Israel. God lovingly calls His people back to their first love, God, while teaching them the destructive nature of sin.

As we study these texts we'll be challenged and encouraged to remain faithful to God because “when we are faithless He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself” (2 Timothy 2:13).

LESSON 1

GOD'S ENDURING LOVE FOR ISRAEL

{ HOSEA 1:1–2:1 }

Read the Text

The Prophets can be difficult to read at times. Spend a few minutes in prayer asking God to show you what He wants you to see in these chapters.

Read this passage three times.

Explore the Text

Write down any questions you may have as you read.

Engage the Text

Who speaks in this passage? Why is this important?

What does The Lord tell Hosea to do?(v. 2) Why do you think this is The Lord's instruction? (v. 2)

What does it mean to “forsake the Lord” (v. 2) Why does The Lord compare Israel’s “forsaking Him” with such harsh language like “whoredom”?

What does The Lord’s speaking through Hosea in the midst of Israel's sin say about God’s character?

Why will God put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel? (v. 4)

LESSON 1

How does Hosea calling his daughter “No Mercy” show how God views the nation of Israel at this time? (v. 6)

Why do you think that God will show mercy to Judah and not Israel? (v. 7)

How will God save Judah? (v. 7) Why is it important for them to know that Judah will not be saved “by sword or by war”? (v. 7)

Why does God tell Hosea to call his son “Not My People”? (v. 9)

Read verse 10. How do you see God’s immense grace in this verse? Does this verse remind you of any other places/promises in Scripture? (Hint: Genesis)

What “head” do you think The Lord is referring to in verse 11?

Reflect on chapter 2 verse 1 and the names that Hosea is commanded to give his daughter and son. What hope does Israel have in their future?

Apply the Text

How has our own life followed the pattern we read in this chapter? Spend some time journaling about your own sin and God's grace He has shown you.

Hosea 1 describes sin and forsaking the Lord in some very blatant ways. Do you see your sin like this?

Reflect on what you deserve because of your sin. Then reflect on God's mercy that you have received in Christ.

Man is sinful and undeserving of God's love, yet He sends his Son to offer mercy and grace. Spend your last few minutes in prayer thanking Him for His wonderful grace.

Reflections on the Text

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LESSON 2

GOD'S DISCIPLINING LOVE

{ HOSEA 2:2-2:23 }

Read the Text

Listen along to a bible app as you read these verses.

Explore the Text

Write yourself an outline showing how this chapter is structured.

Write down what you do not understand about these verses.

Engage the Text

The previous passage ended with hope. How would you describe the way this passage begins?

What does God compare his people to in vv. 2-5? What type of behavior earned this description? (v. 2)

Does the husband (Hosea & God) want his wife (Gomer & Israel) to change their behavior? What does this show us about God? (v. 2)

What will be the consequence if they don't change? (v. 3-5)

LESSON 2

From where does Israel attribute its blessing and provision? (v. 5) What is the true source of our “daily bread”?

What will God do to save Israel from their idolatry? (v. 6) What does this show us about God’s love for His people?

What will be Israel’s response to God’s love? (v.7)

What type of consequences for Israel’s idolatry are described in verses 8-13?

Read Deuteronomy 28:15-19. After reading Hosea 2:2-23 what does this passage tell us about God’s word?

What hope does Israel have for the future? (v. 14-18) Will The Lord “show mercy” to “his people”? (v. 23) Reflect on God’s relentless love for his people.

Apply the Text

Are we responsible for the faithfulness that we see in our fellow church members? How can we help one another be devoted to The Lord and nothing else?

After having read about how God feels about his people worshipping idols, reflect on any behavior in your own life that shows signs of idolatry. Is there anything that you place above God? What steps should you take to remedy this?

Have you ever experienced the discipline of The Lord? In what ways? How can that discipline be an encouragement?

Reflections on the Text

[illegible]

LESSON 3

GO LOVE AGAIN:

GOD'S DETERMINED LOVE FOR ISRAEL

{ HOSEA 3 }

Read the Text

It's only 5 verses. Read it out loud five times. Read in two different translations.

Explore the Text

What questions do you have after reading through these verses?

Engage the Text

How does verse 1 compare Hosea and his wife with God and Israel?

Do you think God is calling Hosea to marry another wife other than Gomer? How does the second half of verse 1 help us answer this question?

Read Jeremiah 7:18 and 44:19 to understand more about what is wrong with cakes of raisins.

Verses 3-4 can be difficult to understand. How does verse 4 help us understand verse 3?

What does verse 4 look ahead to in Israel's history?

What is the significance of "no king, no prince, no sacrifice, no pillar, no ephod, and no household gods"?

What will this prolonged time away from God and his blessings do for Israel? (v. 5)

Who is "David their king" in verse 5? Hasn't David been dead for many years?

Who is this Davidic king being compared to in verse 5?

When will Israel return to God and his king? (v. 5)

Apply the Text

- In what ways does Israel’s story mimic our stories before salvation?
- What should be the correct response to the love that God offers His people?
- How do we see this same commitment from God to his people in the New Testament?
- How can the love we see displayed by God teach us to love others?

Reflections on the Text

LESSON 4

LIKE PEOPLE, LIKE PRIEST: GOD'S LAWSUIT AGAINST ISRAEL

{ HOSEA 4 }

Read the Text

Read the text twice before beginning this study.

Explore the Text

Write 2-3 sentences summarizing chapter 4 in your own words.

Engage the Text

What controversy does God have with the people of Israel? (v. 1)

What ways should Israel obtain “knowledge of God” and “faithfulness”? (v. 1)

What behavior is exhibited when people stray from the Lord? (v. 2) (cf. Exodus 20) And what effect does it have on the land? (v. 3)

Who is to be blamed for the way that Israel is behaving? (vv. 4-5)

LESSON 4

Why is it significant that God's priests, his leaders, do not know him? Read 1 Samuel 2:13-15 and Malachi 1:7-8 to see how the priests have acted in this manner.

What are the consequences of sin that we see in verses 6-11?

From where does Israel look for answers? (v. 12) Where should Israel turn to for guidance?

Israel worships on hills, under the shade of trees. (v. 13) What is wrong with this? Where should their worship be held, and to whom should it be focused towards?

Reflect on why verse 14 says "I will not punish". Doesn't the behavior in chapter 4 deserve punishment? What is God doing, and what does this teach us about Him?

Israel and Judah are two separate nations at this time. How can Israel's sin affect Judah? (v. 15)

How does God respond to Israel's repetitive idolatry? (v. 17) What awaits Israel? (vv. 18-19)

Apply the Text

What warnings to God’s people and its leaders should contemporary hearers heed?

Are you tempted to seek alternative sources (other than God) to gain understanding or guidance? How are these sources dangerous?

Have you experienced God’s patience in your life? Reflect on His patience and write a prayer of thanksgiving.

Reflections on the Text

LESSON 5

EARNEST SEEKING OF GOD

{ HOSEA 5 }

Read the Text

Read the text in two different translations.

Explore the Text

What stood out to you in this passage?

What confused you in this passage?

What convicted you in this passage?

What encouraged you in this passage?

Engage the Text

Who are God's words directed at in vv. 1-2? Who is the judgment upon? Why is God singling out this group of people?

It seems like the people think that God is unaware of their ways, or that they can hide from Him (v. 3). How does God respond? Are there any other times when biblical characters attempt to *hide* things from God?

How does the author describe their sin? What kind of language does He use to convey the seriousness of their sin (vv. 3b-7)? Why would their sin be described as *spiritual adultery*? (cf. Ezekiel 16)

The beginning of 5:3 and the ending of 5:4 are bookends. God knows His people, but His people do not know Him. The book of Hosea emphasizes a lack of knowing the Lord (5:4; 4:1, 6; 14). How are the people's actions and their "knowledge of the Lord" related?

What certainty is there that what the prophet says will come to pass? (v. 9b)
Why is it certain that what the prophet says will come to pass? Where do Hosea's words ultimately come from?

The prophet describes the rulers as those who have "moved the landmark" (v. 10). What is this about? (cf. Deuteronomy 19:14; 27:17; Job 24:2; Prov. 22:28; 23:10)

How did the people attempt to fix their situation (v. 13)? Where did God's people go looking for help in their distress and judgment? Why might they have gone to these places/people? What does God say about their ability to help them in their time of need?

What three things should God's people do in their distress and under judgment? (v. 15) (cf. Nehemiah 9:26-31). Would you consider this as repentance?

Apply the Text

How have you attempted to hide your sin?

Do we consider sin and rebellion as spiritual adultery, faithlessness, etc.? How might this enhance our understanding of our sin?

What are some places or people we look to for help instead of the Lord in times of need? Why?

What does repentance look like? Should acknowledging our guilt, seeking God's face, and earnestly seeking God in our distress be considered components of repentance? Do you see these things in your life?

Reflections on the Text

LESSON 6

REAL REPENTANCE & FOOLISH REBELLION { HOSEA 6-7 }

Read the Text

Read the text out loud once.

Explore the Text

In your own words, attempt to summarize the passage in one paragraph.

Engage the Text

What piqued your curiosity while reading these two chapters? Write them down.

What is 6:1-3 describing? What does it mean to “return to the Lord”?

What was the purpose of God’s judgment on His people (v. 1)? How does 6:1 relate to 5:13? Who can and can’t heal the people?

How does the prophet describe their healing (v. 2)? Does this language sound familiar to you? (cf. Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2; Psalm 16:10; Matthew 16:21)

How does God describe His people's loyalty (v. 4)? How has God responded (v. 5)? What does God desire from them (v. 6)? How do 1 Samuel 15:22, Matthew 9:13, and Matthew 12:7 relate to Hosea 6:6?

Despite God's judgment (vv. 5-6), how do the people respond (vv. 7-11)? How are the people described in vv. 7-11? Does it seem like their affliction and punishment have changed them?

How did/would the people respond to God's healing (7:1)? What does this communicate about the people?

Why is their sadness presented as disingenuous, or not real repentance (v. 14)?

In reflecting on these two chapters, why do the people not want to return to the Lord?

Apply the Text

God desires true repentance, not just sadness and sacrifice. (cf. 2 Corinthians 7:1-12). What is the difference between worldly grief and godly grief?

It seems like the people were just sad because of their circumstances, not because they had sinned against God. Do you feel this same temptation? Explain.

What is the purpose of God’s discipline? How has God’s discipline brought you to repentance?

Why aren’t practices and sacrifices enough? What does God truly desire from us?

Have you ever felt like your loyalty and love for God were like a “morning cloud” and “early dew”? How do we strengthen the stability of our loyalty and love for God?

Reflections on the Text

LESSON 7 THE VULTURE, THE WHIRLWIND & THE FIRE { HOSEA 8 }

Read the Text

Read the text twice before beginning this study.

Explore the Text

Summarize this chapter in your own words.

Engage the Text

Is it a good thing to be compared to a vulture? What does it mean that a vulture is “over the house of the Lord”?

How would you describe verse 2? Are we supposed to believe that they know God? How can we tell that they do not?

Describe Israel’s actions in vv. 3-4.

LESSON 7

What are their actions being compared to in vv. 5-6? (Ex 32)

What will be the consequences for their actions? (vv. 7-8)

Describe Israel's ability to understand God's word. (v. 12)

What is wrong with the picture we get of their sacrificial practices in verse 13?

What will be the future consequences for Israel if they continue to disobey? (v. 13)

What is the danger of "forgetting your Maker"? (v. 14)

Apply the Text

Our knowledge of God and our obedience to him and his word are closely connected. Reflect on what you know about God and how that fuels your obedience to Him.

Idolatry is a pattern in human history. Spend some time identifying potential idols in your life. Ask God to help you turn away from them and to God alone.

There are consequences for sin and disobedience. What should our response be to this truth?

Verse 13 says that God will remember their sins. Jeremiah 31:34 looks forward to a day when “He will remember their sins no more.” Reflect on the gospel and the promise of forgiveness we have in Christ.

Reflections on the Text

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page or a sheet of stationery.

LESSON 8

LEAVING HARVEST JOY BEHIND { HOSEA 9 }

Read the Text

Read the text in two different translations.

Explore the Text

What stood out to you in this passage?

What confused you in this passage?

What convicted you in this passage?

What encouraged you in this passage?

Engage the Text

After reading and reflecting on Hosea 9, describe what will happen to God's people and why it will happen to them.

Why should the people "not rejoice"? What have they done to God (v. 1)? What will He do to them (vv. 2-3)?

The people will "return to Egypt." What does this sound like? Why is returning to Egypt a punishment? (Hint: a reversal of the exodus).

LESSON 8

How will God look at their offerings (v. 4)? What makes them so unacceptable? Why?

How do the people respond to God's prophets (vv. 7-9)? Why does their iniquity and great hatred cause them to respond this way to the prophet's message?

Discuss what it means for them to "become detestable like the thing they loved" (v. 10). What does idolatry do to us? (cf. Psalm 115:8; 135:18)

What will be Israel's reality if they continue in idolatry? (vv. 11-17)

Describe how God feels about Israel's behavior. (v. 15) This verse uses strong language (hate). How do we reconcile this language with what we know about God's character?

Apply the Text

How does sin affect our worship? (v. 4) Can you remember a time when sin affected your personal and corporate worship? How so?

How does our sin affect our ability to listen to the truth? (vv. 7-9) If we are in sin, why might we not want to hear the truth?

How does idolatry change us? (v. 10) Have you ever seen how idolizing something/someone has affected your spiritual life?

Reflections on the Text

LESSON 9

TIME TO SEEK GOD, TIME TO SOW RIGHTEOUSNESS { HOSEA 10 }

Read the Text

Read the text outloud before working through the questions.

Explore the Text

Write down any questions you have from these verses.

What phrases, names, places do you need clarification on?

Engage the Text

What has Israel's response been to the blessings they've received from God?
(v. 1)

Who will destroy the idols Israel has made? What does this say about God and his comparison to idols?

Is there a time earlier in Israel's history when the people exclaimed that they had no king? (1 Samuel 8:5) Reflect on Israel's attitude now compared to 1 Samuel. They begged for a king like the nations, now they have none. Do you think Israel sees God as their King? Why or why not?

What is the response to Israel's idols being removed? (v. 5) Where will their idols be taken? (v. 6)

What will happen to the "high places" or places of idol worship when Israel is removed from the land? (vv. 7-8)

How will God punish Israel's sin (v. 10)? What is the purpose of God's discipline? (v. 12)

Reflect on the metaphor in verse 13. Discuss the progression of sowing sin, reaping sin, and eating the fruit of sin. (cf. James 1:13-15)

Again the Lord describes what is in store for Israel. Because of their idolatry, what is their fate? (vv. 14-15)

Apply the Text

Reflect on the many blessings that you have received from God. What do our actions say about what we believe about those blessings?

Think through the things in your life that you often place before The Lord. Compare God's greatness with the list of things that often take his place. Ask God to forgive you and lead you to deeper devotion to Him.

Based on the progression we see in verse 13, how can our sin follow this same progression? How can we prevent ourselves from going through this progression?

Reflections on the Text

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