

The Prophetic Wisdom of Hosea

Journal Questions

LESSON
ONE

AN INTRODUCTION TO
HOSEA



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Journal Questions

1. Israel and Judah's sinful actions directly led to severe punishment from God. How can God be loving and still allow the destruction of his people?
2. Hosea's prophecies warned that God would not tolerate his people's blatant disloyalty as they made alliances with pagan nations. In what ways are believers today disloyal to God? How are these disloyalties similar to the foreign alliances made in the book of Hosea?
3. What kinds of idolatry are tolerated today in your culture or even in your church community? How might your ministry expose this idolatry and offer freedom from it?
4. Is the office of prophet still active today? If so, in what way? If not, why not?
5. What prophetic roles might the church still perform in the world today?
6. The leaders in Israel and Judah were responsible for the corporate sins of their people. What does this suggest about the kinds of accountability leaders have in the church today? As a leader of God's people, does this added responsibility concern you? Why or why not?
7. Why do you suppose God used living parables (e.g., Hosea's marriage to Gomer and the names of their children) to communicate with his people? What are some of the ways we can communicate today that are analogous to these living parables?
8. What do God's lawsuits in the heavenly court tell us about how God dispenses justice? How does the legal system in your culture today compare with these standards of justice?
9. From Hosea's account, we know that God warns his people repeatedly before he brings judgment on them. What does this tell you about God's character?
10. How does every Christian today benefit from God's legal declaration of innocence as a result of Christ's death and resurrection?
11. Does the fact that God used a cruel and wicked pagan nation to punish his people seem right to you? Explain your answer.
12. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?

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LESSON
TWO

REVELATIONS FOR THE
WISE



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1. Hosea offered Judah's leaders wisdom by reminding them of Israel's failures and God's judgment. Should pastors and Christian leaders today use a similar strategy to bring people to Christ? Why or why not?
2. Hosea prophesied that blessings would come after Israel's judgment. What comfort and encouragement do you draw from Hosea's words? How might you use Hosea's words to encourage other believers?
3. What does Hosea's relationship with Gomer teach us about the church's relationship with God today?
4. How has knowing that the Christian church grew out of the people of God in the Old Testament changed the way you read the Old Testament?
5. The New Testament teaches that there is only one bride (or people) of Christ. How should this reality shape the way we think of, pray for, and help believers throughout the world?
6. Of the four accusations against Israel (covenant breaking, idolatry, adultery, and hypocritical worship), which do you see as the greatest problem in your nation today? In your city/town? In your local church? How might you best address these issues?
7. Are natural disasters, poverty, war, sickness, and similar calamities always indicative of God's judgment? Explain your answer. How should the church respond in these situations?
8. Scripture makes a distinction between the visible and the invisible church. How does the likelihood that there are unbelievers in your congregation help you in your Christian witness, even in church?
9. Hosea tells us that God loved his people like a beloved child, but his love did not prevent him from disciplining them. Read Hebrews 12:7-11. How does this challenge the way we should view temporary judgments that we suffer in this life?
10. How would you answer someone who believes that God cannot be both wrathful and merciful at the same time?
11. When Jesus chastised the religious leaders of Israel saying, "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice" (Matthew 9:13) he meant that he despised their hypocritical worship. How can we protect our hearts from sliding into the practice of hypocritical worship?
12. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?