

Correspondence Bible Study

Lesson #27 – Hosea & Joel

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, as I begin my study of the minor prophets, let me see that You can use all of us as Your vehicles of grace. I may not be important to the world, but I know I am very important to You. There are people in my life who pay attention to the way I live. I pray that all I do and say will point them to Jesus Christ my Lord. In His name I pray. Amen.

Notes on Hosea:

Hosea is the first of the twelve minor prophets. The prophet Hosea lived and spoke to the Northern Kingdom of Israel in the middle of the 700's B.C. He would be living at the same time as Isaiah in Judah. Hosea is the only writing prophet who was born in the north. The life and words of Hosea were to be a warning to Israel to mend their ways before it was too late.

Questions on Hosea:

1. In Chapters 1-3 God directs Hosea to live out in his personal life what was going on in the nation of Israel. Read these chapters and describe the roles that were being played out and how they related to Israel.
 - Hosea
 - Gomer
 - Their Children (what did their names mean?)
2. Chapter 2 Gomer (Israel) is rebuked and sent away. What did the Lord hope would happen as a result? (Also see 1 Cor. 5:1-5)
3. Chapter 4-14 – List 10 charges the Lord has against Israel?
4. Who will destroy Israel? See 7:11, 8:9, 10:6, 11:11

5. There is grace in Hosea. What are some of the promises of Hosea? Look especially in chapters 11 and 14.

Notes on Joel:

The dates for Joel are uncertain. Luther makes him a contemporary of Hosea. Others date him earlier. His words are unlike most of the other prophets in that he is not so harsh. He pleads with the people to help keep them close to God.

Apparently, there was a severe plague of locust and drought. Joel tries to help the people deal with that tragedy as well use it to point to the future. A large portion of Joel speaks of restoration and renewal, in time and in eternity.

Questions on Joel:

1. Chapters 1 & 2 – Imagine the destruction that can be done by locusts. List some of the results.
2. Chapter 2:18-27 – List the ways the Lord would restore the people and land.
3. What are some things that can happen to us that might cause us to go through this same type of anguish that the locust plague brought?
4. Chapter 2:28-32 – is quoted by Peter in the Pentecost sermon. That makes this text the first one used in the New Testament church. (Acts 2:16-21) The period described here is the time of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. What happened on Pentecost that made this prophecy come true?
5. Read the last verse of Joel 3:21. How does he end on a promising note?

Your questions on Daniel...