

Lesson 05: Hosea & Joel

GROW University - Old Testament 103

Introduction

NEW Section: The Minor Prophets ("the Book of Twelve") Distinct books, but often considered together as one complete work.

The reasoning behind their ordering is most likely thematic/theological, though scholars disagree on what the thematic/theological connections exactly are.¹

Book	Rough Time Period
Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah	Set prior to the fall of the Northern Kingdom, <u>Israel</u> (722 BC).
Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah	Set prior the fall of the Southern Kingdom, <u>Judah</u> (587 BC).
Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	Set after the Southern Kingdom's return from exile (536 BC).

HOSEA

Context

Historical

Redemptive Historical

Theme

The people of Israel have broken the covenant like an adulterous wife, even though Yahweh has been a faithful husband to them.

¹ Paul House suggests that the theological connection is this: Hosea-Micah are mostly concerned with covenant breaking; Nahum-Zephaniah are mostly concerned with the Day of the Lord; and Haggai-Malachi are mostly concerned with the future hope.

Outline W/ Pivotal Texts

- I. Hosea 1:1-3:5 — Hosea’s Adulterous Wife, Gomer
 - A. Accusation, Judgment, and Mercy* 1:2-2:1
 - B. Accusation, Judgment, and Mercy 2:2-23
 - C. Accusation, Judgment, and Mercy ch. 3
- II. Hosea 4:1-14:9 — Yahweh’s Adulterous Wife, Israel
 - A. Accusation, Judgment, and Mercy 4:1-6:3
 - B. Accusation, Judgment, and Mercy 6:4-11:11
 - C. Accusation, Judgment, and Mercy 11:12-14:9

*Notice that each section has an internal structure of **accusation, judgment**, then **mercy**.

Key Phrases	Structural Element Introduced
"bring charges," "rebuke," "plead with," "contend with"	<u>Accusation</u>
"blow the horn," "sound the trumpet"	<u>Judgement</u>
"yet," "afterward," other such transition words, "I will return," "I will go back," "return O Israel"	<u>Mercy</u>

Theme Texts

Hosea 1-3

Hosea banks on **two very powerful images** to get message across.

- 1.) A Marriage.
- 2.) Adultery

Read 1:2

*Further Reading: Ch. 1-3: Hosea's relationship with Gomer, his immoral wife, and what it says about Israel. that each chapter ends with grace and mercy. Despite Israel's treachery, Yahweh is covenantally committed. As mentioned, the prophets always end on grace.

Read 1:9. "Lo-Ammi," which means "Not My People."

Read 1:11. Propheying that Israel and Judah will be reunited, and that they will have One ruler over them. Hm. Who could that be?

Romans 9:23-26, *"and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? 25 As He says also in Hosea: 'I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved.' 26 'And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God."*

1 Peter 2:9-10, *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."*

Hosea 4-14

Chapters 1-3 really embody **the rest of the book**.

Read 9:8-9.

Psalm 103:9-14, *"He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us*

according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him. 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust."

Again we return to **the gospel**. How can He have grace on sinners, which Hosea teaches, and still uphold His righteousness and be just, as Hosea also teaches?

**Further Reading:* Romans 3:21-26

Application:

- 1.) The call to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2.) The need to see sin the way God sees sin: adultery!

James 4:4, *"Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."*

Read Hosea 6:1-2.

Q: Why obey the Lord if we know He'll just forgive us anyway?

Read 14:9.

JOEL

Context

Historical

Redemptive-Historical

Theme

The Day of the Lord is prefigured in a locust plague, and in an invading army.

Outline W/ Pivotal Texts

- I. Joel 1:1-2:17 — The Day of the Lord in Judgment
 - A. The Call to Lament 1:1-2:11
 - B. The Call to Repent 2:12-17
- II. Joel 2:18-3:21 — The Day of the Lord in Grace
 - A. The Promise of Salvation 2:18-32
 - B. The Promise of Restoration 3:1-21²

Theme Texts

Joel 1:1-2:11

The Day of the Lord is explicitly mentioned in Joel more than any other book.

What is it? A one time event in the future where Yahweh will descend onto the earth, judge His people's enemies, vindicate His people, and recreate the entire universe and establishing peace, with His people at the head of the nations.

² Notice the gospel flow of thought through the book: lamentation over sin followed by repentance from sin result in salvation and a restored relationship with God.

*Further Reading: Isaiah 13, Amos 5, and Zephaniah 1.

Read Joel 1:4-6.

Read 1:15.

Read 2:10-11.

Joel 2:12-17

But is there any hope to escape this end-of-time-judgment?

Read 2:12. The way of escape is repentance.

Once again, we are driven back to the gospel.

Joel 2:18-32

This repentance is now followed by salvation for the penitent.

Read 2:17; 2:18; 2:25; 2:28.

The Lord's motive (just like in Exodus) for why He saves them:

The Day of the Lord	
A day of wrath and punishment for some	A day of salvation and vindication for others
those who <u>rebel</u> against God	Those who <u>repent</u> and gladly submit to God

Joel 3

How will Israel and Judah will be restored in their relationship with Yahweh, never again to taste the bitter fruits of sin again? **Read Joel 3:18.**

Joel 2:28-32

Read Joel 2:28-32— The outpouring of the Spirit and the emphasis on salvation.

Q: When did this take place? Read **Acts 2:1-4**.

This was about 7 weeks after Jesus' resurrection.

Read Acts 2:14.

What about **the wonders in the heavens**, the signs on the earth, the darkening of the sun?

Read Matthew 27:45-52— That is an account of Jesus' death!

The Day of the Lord came crashing down upon Jesus. He bore that day of wrath on behalf of His people, those who call upon Him.

Now they (His people) receive the eschatological Spirit to live in this day of salvation.

Q: What about the re-creation of the universe?

It's as though we are currently in the Day of the Lord. It has already dawned in God's first visit to earth, awaiting it's completion when He comes again.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5

The Ramifications for Evangelism Here in Joel:

- 1.) We need to remember to be clear that a *day of reckoning* is coming. Those found without a savior on that day will not stand.
- 2.) But the good news is that Jesus died to absorb His own wrath.
- 3.) Now in order to be saved one must *repent* and *call upon* the name of Jesus in faith.
- 4.) We need to remember that conversion happens only in *the power of the Holy Spirit*, as we just saw.
- 5.) **Read Joel 3:16-17.** The goal of salvation is not only to escape the coming wrath, but to know the Lord!
- 6.) God's motivation for saving sinners is *His own glory*. He is exalted and held in awe in our hearts when we think about how great a salvation this is!

Conclusion

Read Acts 4:12.

QUIZ : Match the Book to its Theme!

	Fill-in	Book Theme	Book
1	B	Yahweh is the only God. We know this for four reasons: Exhibit A: He alone is holy, "the Holy One of Israel," whereas the idols are the creation of man's idolatrous heart, and the people are sinful. Exhibit B: He alone is high and lifted up, majestic, whereas the idols and kings of the earth are lifted up only in vain pride. Exhibit C: He alone controls history, sees and controls the future, whereas the idols and great kings of the nations can do nothing and cannot save. Exhibit D: He alone can save, bringing peace to the earth in the form of a New Creation, whereas the idols cannot save and the kings only bring war.	A. Jeremiah
2	A	The old covenant has failed; not because it itself was defunct, but because the people were not able to keep it due to their sinful hearts. Therefore a new covenant is needed which will involve new hearts for the people of God.	B. Isaiah
3	G	The people of Israel have broken the covenant like an adulterous wife, even though Yahweh has been a faithful husband to them.	C. Daniel
4	E	The glory of Yahweh has departed from His land, because He is jealous for His name. But His glory will return, because He is jealous for His name. Ultimately, His glory will be restored to the entire earth in the last days.	D. Lamentations
5	C	The Most High, the God of Daniel, sovereignly rules and reigns supreme over all mankind. Therefore His people are brave in the face of persecution.	E. Ezekiel
	F	The Day of the Lord is prefigured in a locust plague, and in an invading army.	F. Joel
	D	We are in mourning because Yahweh has done this, even though it's our fault. Now we need Him to change our hearts, for He will again comfort us.	G. Hosea