

THE BOOKS OF HOSEA, JOEL AND AMOS

HOSEA

Hosea and Amos were both prophets to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Hosea is often called "the prophet of Israel's zero hour". Israel had gone so far into spiritual depravity that God would no longer delay His judgement. **II Kings 15-17** covers the period of Hosea and records the terrible sins of idol worship and immorality in that time.

The Central Message

"Return to the Lord" - **Hosea 6:1**

The word "return" occurs 15 times in Hosea.

The Structure of the Book

Hosea - His Marriage (compared to God and Israel) **Chapters 1-3** (analogy)
Sin, Judgement and Ultimate Blessing of Israel - **Chapters 4-14**.

Hosea's Marriage Chapters 1-3

1. Through the heartbreak of his own marriage, he had come to see Israel's sin against God. Gomer, Hosea's wife, typified the nation of Israel. (1:1-4)

a. The children were named to symbolize judgement:

a. JEZREEL (1:4-5) means "God scatters".

b. LO-RUHAMAH (1:6-7) means "not obtained mercy".

c. LO-AMMI (1:8-9) means "not my people".

Hosea's patience, compassion and his final acts of redeeming, chastening and restoring Gomer are the same qualities God does and will have for sinning Israel.

2. The chastisement of Israel is described in **Chapter 2** and the symbolism and prophecy was fulfilled. See **II Kings 15:19-20; 17:5-23**.

New names are given to the children to tell of the future restoration of Israel.

a. Jezreel (scattered in 1:5) becomes "gathered together in 1:11.

b. Lo-Ammi (not my people) becomes Ammi (my people) in 2:1.

c. Lo-Ruhamah (not obtained mercy) becomes Ruhamah (have obtained mercy) in 2:1.

3. The latter days of Israel are described in **Chapter 3**. Here we have the story of Israel, past, present and future in the first 3 Chapters. In **3:2** we have "redemption".

Sin, Judgement and Ultimate Blessing of Israel - Chapters 4-14

1. THERE WAS A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOD in Israel, which, in a way, accounts for their adulterous actions.

a. **Hosea 4:1** - No knowledge of God in the land.

Hosea 4:6 - "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge".

2. THERE WERE FALSE PRIESTS AND PROPHETS.

a. **Hosea 4:5** - The prophet shall fall (stumble).

Hosea 4:9 - "Like people, like priest".

3. THERE WAS IMMORALITY.

a. **Hosea 4:13-14, 16-17; 7:4; 8:9**

4. Judgement and Punishment of Israel

a. "They have sown the wind and shall reap the whirlwind" (8:7).

b. "He will remember their iniquity" (9:9).

c. "Samaria shall become desolate; they shall fall by the sword: (13:16).

* Ephraim is used as a name for Israel in connection with the sin of backsliding. It is used 37 times in this Book.

Ultimate Blessing of Israel

1. The day is coming when Israel will return to God and He will receive them.

a. "Afterward shall the children of Israel return" (3:5).

b. "I will heal their backsliding" (14:4).

Please remember:

Israel is the adulterous wife of Jehovah, to be restored in GRACE (2:16-23). The Church is the Virgin espoused to one husband (II Cor. 11:1-2). Israel then, is Jehovah's earthly wife (2:23); the Church is the Lamb's Heavenly bride (Revelation 19:7).

THE BOOK OF JOEL

Joel was a prophet to Judah. Nothing is known of him except what is written in verse 1. His name means "Jehovah is God".

The Central Message

THE DAY OF THE LORD - Joel 1:15; 2:1,2,10,11,30,31; 3:14-16.

* To remember in a general way the meaning of "The Day of the Lord"; it is a period of time which is in contrast to man's day or Satan's day. It begins with the Great Tribulation and extends through the Millennial Kingdom.

The Structure of the Book

GOD'S JUDGMENT - 1:1 - 2:27.

THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT - 2:28 - 3:1.

GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS - 3:1-17.

THE RESTORATION OF JUDAH - 3:18-21.

The Judgement on Judah - 1:1 - 2:27

1. This was a literal plague of locusts but it was also used to symbolize the destruction of the "Day of the Lord". The was foreshadowing a future event where "all" are affected: drunkards (1:5), priests (1:13-16), the whole earth (1:17), the beasts of the field (1:18-20).
2. This judgement points to that period of tribulation. Compare 2:2 with Matthew 24:21 and Daniel 12:1.
3. Deliverance only if there is repentance (2:12-27).

The Promise of the Spirit - 2:18-27

1. This is one of the prophecies which had a part of its fulfillment at Pentecost. Peter quotes the words of Joel 2:28-29 in Acts 2:16-18. The events prophesied in Joel 2:30-31 and Acts 2:19-20 have not yet been fulfilled. Please compare these Scripture passages.
2. Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would be in them (John 14:17) and Acts 1:8.
3. Peter used Joel's prophecy to describe the power of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost for all who believe. The entire prophecy was not fulfilled then but was a guarantee that God would ultimately fulfill all Joel said in the day when Israel returns to the Lord (Joel 2:31-32).

God's Judgement of the Nations - 3:18-21

- 1 This occurs at the end time in the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Judgement) at Christ's actual return (3:2, 14). Compare Matthew 25:31-32.

The Restoration of Judah - 3:18-21

1. The Lord Jesus shall reign in person and the land will be restored. Zechariah 14:4, 8.

THE BOOK OF AMOS

Amos, the author of the Book, was a layman (1:1; 7:14-15). The Lord called him to prophesy to the Northern Kingdom of Israel and to the whole house of Jacob (3:1, 13). He ministered during the reign of Uzziah, King of Judah and Jeroboam, King of Israel.

The Central Message

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (3:3)

The Structure of the Book

JUDGEMENT of Surrounding Nations - 1:1 - 2:3

JUDGEMENT of Judah and Israel - 2:4 - 6:14

VISIONS of the Future - Chapters 7-9

Judgement of Surrounding Nations

1. Against Syria for cruelty - 1:3-5
2. Against Philistia for selling Israelites into slavery in Edom. 1:6-8
3. Against Phoenicia for breaking their covenant with Israel. 1:9-10
4. Against Edom for causing Israel to suffer. 1:11-12
5. Against Ammon for violence against Israel. 1:13-15
6. Against Moab for injustice. 2:1-3

Judgement of Judah and Israel

1. Against Judah for despising the Law. 2:4-5
2. Against Israel for immorality. 2:6-16
3. GOD'S CHARGE against the whole house of Israel: 12 tribes. 3:1-6:14

Visions of the Future - Chapters 7-9

1. VISION of the Grasshoppers - 7:1-3
2. VISION of the fire - 7:4-6
3. VISION of the plumbline - 7:7-17
4. VISION of the basket of summer fruit - Chapter 8
5. VISION of the Lord at the Altar - 9:1-10
6. FUTURE Kingdom of David's Tabernacle - 9:11-15

All of this came from a man who was not a "trained prophet".

FOR NEXT WEEK:
READ OBADIAH, JONAH AND MICAH