

Hello. /We will begin the 1st lecture on the Minor Prophets. /I am Professor Sung Ho Nam, and I will be in charge of the lectures on the Minor Prophets. /I will give you the introduction to the book of Hosea. /The Major Prophets are made up of five books. /They are Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Daniel, and Ezekiel.

/The Minor Prophets are made up of twelve books. /Hosea, Joel Amos, /Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, /Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, /Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. /The Minor Prophets are composed of 12 books and 67 chapters. /The Major Prophets are not greater than the Minor Prophets.

/Because of the longer length of the books, they are called the Major Prophets. /9 of the 12 Minor Prophets lived in captivity. /3 were active after captivity in Babylon. /The prophet Hosea was a prophet of North Israel.

/The book of Hosea was recorded at around 760 B.C. /The book prophesied the fall of North Israel to the kingdom of Assyria, which came 40 years later. /According to scholars, Hosea served as prophet for about 65 years.

/The name “Hosea” shares the same origin as the names “Joshua” and “Jesus.” /It means “The LORD is salvation.” /In short, it is “Savior.”

/Hosea is put into a different situation than the other prophets of the Old Testament. /God wanted the corrupt Israelites to return to him. /To admonish his people, God gave to Hosea an adulterous wife.

/Hosea’s wife left him and ran away to another man, but Hosea purchased her and brought her back. /He repeatedly had to buy her back after she left. God teaches the Israelites a lesson through Hosea’s life.

/God taught Hosea to forgive someone who could not by human capabilities be forgiven. /It shows God’s willingness to admonish the Israelites to come back and to forgive them if they choose to return to him. /It is a display of God’s noble love, a love that goes beyond human generosity.

/The subject of the book of Hosea is, “God’s Burning Love for Israel.” /North Israel abandoned God and worshiped Baal and Asherah. /In God’s eyes, Israel was like an adulteress.

/God, in his grace, saved Israel and took her as his wife. /However, Israel left God and served idols, much like an adulteress. /The book of Hosea is a message for today’s church.

/It is God’s warning to believers who are becoming corrupt, secular, /and materialistic. /God wants his believers to turn away from idols and come to God. /He wants believers to turn away from the world and idols and come to a place of loving God alone.

/If Israel repents and returns to God, there is hope, /but if she does not, she will perish. /
We believers are recipients of God's love and grace. /Thus we need to live godly lives of
serving and following God.

/Only when we do this do we have hope. /We will avoid God's wrath. /It is the way to
receive God's mercy and love. /We will now begin the lecture on Hosea 1. /The title of
Hosea 1 is "Marriage." / "Marry the adulteress."

/Verses 1-2 are about Hosea receiving his calling. /In verse 3, Hosea takes the adulteress
as his wife. /Verses 4-9 are about Hosea's children and their names. /Verses 10-11 are
about the promise of salvation and its fulfillment.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /The word of the LORD that came to Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the
days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days
of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

/Uzziah, Ahaz, and Hezekiah are kings of South Judah. /Joash's son, Jeroboam, is the
king of Israel. /Two of the four kings of South Judah were excellent kings. /Uzziah and
Hezekiah were kings of faith. /Joram and Ahaz were evil kings.

/An evil king comes after a good king, and then another good king takes the throne.
/However, in North Israel, evil kings came one after the other. /Hosea served as a prophet
for a long time, but he was never welcomed.

/The reason is he was a prophet during a difficult and gloomy period. /In the midst of
adversity and difficulties, Hosea proclaimed the word of God. /He was a faithful prophet
who did all he could to proclaim the word of God. /But no one welcomed him.

/Even still, Hosea did his job until the very end. /He received the word of God and carried
it as it was. /No matter the time period or treatment by the people, a true prophet
consistently obeys.

/Precious is someone who unchangingly serves God with a steady heart even when the
world's storms blow. /We need to become this kind of believer.

/Verse 2. /When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take
to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits
great whoredom by forsaking the LORD."

/The verse says, "When the LORD first spoke through Hosea." /It means God was
waiting and waiting. /Because evil had filled the place, God sent his servant to admonish
the people.

/God patiently waited during the time of Noah and the flood. /God commanded Hosea /to
take a wife of whoredom and have children. /What this means is that Israel had become
like a woman of whoredom.

/Like a woman leaving her husband for another man, /Israel abandoned the word of God and left. /This command isn't an easy one to keep. /There are times when God wants us to obey him in doing something difficult.

/However, if it is God's command, we must believe and obey. /Hosea's personal life had become a mess, but he obeyed God.

/Verse 3 talks about this. /Verse 3. Let us read. /So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

/Hosea immediately obeyed God's command. /The name "Gomer" means "complete." /Hosea took Gomer, a woman of whoredom, as his wife. /Not long after, he had a son. /Hosea obeyed without any reason.

/His name's son was Jezreel. / "Jezreel" means "God sows." /For reference, "Israel" means "Who prevails with God." /Both have good meanings. /However, the meaning changed.

/Later, Jezreel becomes a cursed valley. /There was a king by the name of Ahab, someone who served idols and abandoned God. /Ahab and his children were cursed, and they perished in the Valley of Jezreel. /Abandoning God only results in being cursed.

/We must stick closely to God and not be separated from him. /Verse 4 says, "For in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel."

/God is saying he will completely destroy North Israel. /As we see here, God holds the people responsible for their corruption.

/Verse 5. /And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel."

/When God says he will break the bow of Israel, he is saying he will bring down Israel's military capacities. /In other words, God will punish Israel and bring them to destruction in the Valley of Jezreel. /Everything happened as the prophecy said it would.

/Israel was invaded by Assyria, and the nation lost and perished in the Valley of Jezreel. /The nation did not recover, but it became a mixed-blooded nation. /South Judah returns, but North Israel perishes.

/The reason is North Israel did not repent to the very end. /The people heard Hosea's warnings, but they did not repent. /A nation's fate and power does not lie in its military capacities. /It lies in the faith of the people.

/I will summarize what I just told you. /Hosea was not welcomed, but he looked only to God as he firmly preached the word of God. /Although things may not have made sense in the human mind, Hosea still said “Yes” if they were God’s words.

/Our God is truly a good God. /He patiently waits for and urges his people to come back, no matter how corrupt they are. /We need to remember the grace God has given us and look to God alone as we move forward.

/Verse 6. /She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the LORD said to him, “Call her name No Mercy (*Lo-ruhama*) for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all.

/ “Ruhama” means “one who is given mercy.” / “Lo-ruhama” means “one who is not given mercy.” /In English, Ruhama would be “My loved one.” /Lo-ruhama would be “Not my loved one.”

/When Gomer gave birth to a daughter, God told her to name the baby “Lo-ruhama” as a warning to Israel that he will not show them mercy. /God’s people need to be given mercy, but because of their sin, God is saying he will show them mercy no more.

/If we believers lose God’s mercy, we perish. /We must always look to God’s mercy. /In Hebrew, the word is “chesed.” /It means, “steadfast love,” “mercy,” or “love.” /In Greek, the word is “agape.” /It is God’s love. /It is a word that reveals his love.

/Verse 7. /But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen.”

/Because North Israel disobeyed God, it will perish without mercy. /South Judah will be saved because of God’s mercy. /The north will become Lo-ruhama. /However, God promised he would make the south Ruhama.

/If God gives his mercy, /he protects those without military power from their enemies. /North Israel was stronger than South Judah, for it was made of 10 tribes. /However, because North Israel abandoned God and served idols, it perished.

/Israel became Jezreel. /On the other hand, South Judah was small, but it worshiped God and served God, which led to it being saved. /We need to remember these historical facts.

/Verses 8-9. /When she had weaned No Mercy (*Lo-ruhama*), she conceived and bore a son. And the LORD said, “Call his name Not My People (*Lo-ammi*), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.”

/ “Ammi” means “my people.” / “Lo-ammi” means “not my people.” /Gomer had her third son. /By naming the child Lo-ammi, God wakes the Israelites up. /After the naming of the first and second children, Israel did not repent.

/By naming the third son, God makes things clear. /Israel had become Jezreel, /Ruhama had become Lo-ruhama, /and Ammi had become Lo-ammi. /We need to rely on God's mercy alone. /Verses 10-11 are about the fulfillment of the promise of salvation.

/Verses 10-11. /Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God." And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

/These verses are a prophesy of Israel's restoration. /It is a prophesy of the salvation of many through the Christ to come. /God always keeps his promises because he is truthful. /He never abandons his people.

/By punishing, rebuking, and bringing Israel to repentance, God surely fulfills his promise. /Let me tell you a story about God's love. /A man and a woman were in love.

/The man went to fight in the Vietnam War. /As he was participating in the war, he suffered a heavy injury. /After surgery, he amputated both his arms. /This man was downhearted. /He was discouraged. /He didn't have the heart to return to the woman.

/He didn't want to make her unhappy. /So after much contemplation, the man wrote a letter saying he was killed in action. /How discouraged do you think this woman was? /Time passed, and the woman married someone else.

/The man wanted to see how this woman was living. /He secretly found her and saw her. /He witnessed something amazing. /The woman's husband did not have any arms or legs. /She did not forget the man who was killed in action.

/She dearly loved the man. /That is why she chose to marry someone who had lost both arms and legs in the Vietnam War. /She loved him, sacrificed for him, and served him. /How heartbroken do you think was the man who witnessed this?

/If he had returned to the woman without both his arms, she would have accepted him with her love. /We cannot compare God's love to this love. /Even when we were sinners, God loved us. /He loved us before creation.

/He loved us when we were his enemies. /The wages of sin is death. /Due to our sin and disobedience, we have come to a place of death. /Because God loved us, he came to us. /The Lord laid down his life for us.

/His Son was sacrificed on the cross. /This is the gospel. /This is God's mercy and love. /We need to remember God's limitless love and mercy. /The book of Hosea is about God's unchanging love.

/Verse 10 says, “It shall be said to them, “Children of the living God.” /The verse refers to the Israelites repenting and returning after being captive in a foreign land. /It also means foreigners will be saved and return to God through the coming Christ.

/The foreign nations served idols, as did the people of Israel. /However, by repenting and believing in Christ, many will come to God.

/Verse 11 says, “And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head.” /A time will come when South Judah and North Israel become one. /Historically, this happened when those taken captive to Babylon returned.

/Prophetically speaking, this happens when believers who are saved through Jesus Christ serve Christ as King. /Christ is our King. /The verse says, “For great shall be the day of Jezreel.” /This is the day of liberation from Babylon.

/It is also the day of salvation through Christ. /Lastly, it is the day of Jesus Christ’s second coming. /This day will be a great and frightening day. /Christ will return and judge the sin of the world.

/When the Lord builds his thousand year kingdom, it will be the greatest day on earth. /We need to look to God’s salvation. /The Lord will surely fulfill it.

/We will continue with Hosea 2. /The title of chapter 2 is “The Door of Hope.” /Here are the main points of the chapter. /Verse 1 is about God showing his mercy by calling on Israel. /In verses 2-5, God rebukes Israel’s sin.

/In verses 6-7, God blocks Israel with thorns and a wall. /Verses 8-13 say that gifts from God must not be given to idols. /Verses 14-23 say that the Valley of Achor will be a door of hope.

/Verse 1. Let us read. / Say to your brothers, “You are my people,” (Ammi) and to your sisters, “You have received mercy.” (Ruhama)

/Israel and the believers from foreign nations who are saved are brothers and sisters. /The verse says that the brothers are Ammi and Ruhama. / “Ammi” means “my people.” / “Ruhama” means “one who is given mercy.”

/God temporarily abandons his believer when the believer sins. /There are times when God does not show his mercy but treats his believer as if he is not his own. /However, God does not completely abandon his people.

/The Lord finds us, calls us, brings us to repentance, and saves us. /There is no end to God’s love and mercy. /In verses 2-5, God rebukes Israel’s sin.

/Verse 2. / “Plead with your mother, plead— for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband— that she put away her whoring from her face, and her adultery from between her breasts;

/Mother and wife refer to the nation of Israel and its people. /God’s relationship with Israel was like the relationship between a husband and a wife. /God loved Israel like a wife. /He loved and nurtured the people like they were his children.

/However, Israel sinned. /The contract relationship between husband and wife was broken. /The contract relationship between the father and son were broken. /God says to plead. / “Plead” in Hebrew is “rib.” / “Rib” means to rebuke or dispute.

/Israel was like a woman of whoredom. /However, some people kept their faith and served God. /God is telling them to have a dispute with their sin. /He wants them to fight sin.

/Tolerating sin is not good faith. /Hebrews 12:4. /Hebrews says that you have not resisted to the point of shedding blood in the struggle against sin. /The verse is telling us to resist sin to the point of shedding blood. /The movement of truth must be carried out in gentleness and love.

/We need to work not for ourselves, but we need to sacrifice ourselves for the work of God. /As God’s word says we need to work with gentle and fearful hearts. /We need to bring ourselves to obedience when doing God’s work.

/God says, “That she put away her whoring from her face.” /This is telling them to rid themselves of the desire of the eyes and the lustful heart. /Isaiah 3:16 says to stop walking around with lustful eyes. /Israel did not trust in God.

/She looked to foreign nations and asked for their help. /God is telling them to stop this. / He says, “And her adultery from between her breasts.” /It means the believer shouldn’t be paired up with the world, that the believer should repent of falling into the world.

/Using the things God gives us for extravagance and pleasure are acts of adultery. /God gave us everything we need. /He gave us time, possessions, and health. /He gave us these things to do the deeds of faith. /He didn’t give them to us so that we may love the world and use it for the world.

/Verse 3. / lest I strip her naked and make her as in the day she was born, and make her like a wilderness, and make her like a parched land, and kill her with thirst.

/We must repent of our adultery. /If we do not repent, God will strip us naked and reveal our shame. /He will take away our good surroundings and blessings. /He will put us to shame as if we are naked.

/We will become people who are like a wilderness, with no one to put our trust in. /No one will be able to protect us. /Must we become like this? /We must never come to this place. /We need to keep our faith when the Lord gives us good things.

/If we don't, we will face a miserable ending. /We will live in the wilderness. /Our shame will be revealed in our nakedness. /We need to receive grace when God gives it to us. /Also, we need to receive salvation on the day of God's salvation.

/Verses 4-5. / Upon her children also I will have no mercy, because they are children of whoredom. For their mother has played the whore; she who conceived them has acted shamefully. For she said, 'I will go after my lovers, who give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.'

/ "Their mother" and "she who conceived them" refer to the nation of Israel. / "Her children" refers to the people of Israel. /They committed adultery, but they did not repent. /That is why they did not receive God's mercy.

/The verse says, "I will go after my lovers." /The Israelites loved idols and put their trust in them. /They trusted in Assyria to save them. /They believed their idols would give them blessings.

/They thought idols would give them bread, water, wool, flax, oil, and drink. /That is why they followed idols. /But did the idols give Israel these things? /No. /God gave them all these things.

/The people of Israel believed the idols gave them everything, but this is a huge mistake, an act of spiritual adultery. /We need to follow God and God alone. /In verses 6-7, God says he will block them with thorns and a wall.

/Verses 6-7. /Therefore I will hedge up her way with thorns, and I will build a wall against her, so that she cannot find her paths. She shall pursue her lovers but not overtake them, and she shall seek them but shall not find them. Then she shall say, 'I will go and return to my first husband, for it was better for me then than now.'

/God does not delight when his beloved ones fall into sin. /For this reason, he hedges the way with thorns. /God builds a wall so that we cannot walk down that road. /He does this because the path leads to destruction.

/We are here today because God has stopped us with thorns. /The verse says, "I will hedge up her way with thorns." /This means God will cause us to endure suffering. /He prevents us from doing what the flesh desires.

/The verse continues and says, "I will build a wall against her, so that she cannot find her paths." /Because the path is blocked, no matter how much we want to pass, we will not be able to. /There are times when the believer walks down the wrong path. /When this happens, God places thorns and a wall to stop the believer.

/He does this to bring believers back to him, their first husband. /God is a good God who does whatever he can to bring us back to him. /In the past, we may have loved the world and followed the things of the world. /Now, we have come to understand God's mercy and love.

/God has stopped us with thorns and a wall. /Because he has done so, we walk the way of life and not the way of destruction

/This concludes the 1st lecture on the book of Hosea. /Thank you.