

Hello. We will begin the 2nd lecture on the Minor Prophets.

/2:8. Let us read. /And she did not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the wine, and the oil, and who lavished on her silver and gold, which they used for Baal.

/Verses 8-13 give us the reasons why we should not give God's gifts to idols. /God had given them grains and wine for food. /He gave them the gold and silver that they used for idols. /Everything we have is given to us by God.

/We would not even have our smallest possessions if God did not allow it. /We need to know that everything we have comes from God. /Then we will be able to live a life of thanks and a life of repaying God.

/We must not use the food that God gives us to serve idols. /We need to use our gold and silver for God. /We are doing evil when we use what God has given to us for ourselves. / This person is an unjust steward. /We must not become this person.

/Verse 9. /Therefore I will take back my grain in its time, and my wine in its season, and I will take away my wool and my flax, which were to cover her nakedness.

/We must be thankful for the things God has given us in our lives. /We must use our possessions for God and not for idols. /When we serve idols and live in debauchery, God becomes very angry. /Also, he will take away the grains and wine that he had already given to us.

/He will also reveal our shame in our nakedness. /We may have much, but we can end up losing everything. /Therefore, when we are capable of using our possessions, we must use them for God. /Then, we will store up eternal treasures in heaven.

/We must not store treasures on this earth when God gives to us plentifully. /If we do, God's wrath will take everything away from us. /We will be shamed. /This must not happen to us.

/Verse 10. /Now I will uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and no one shall rescue her out of my hand.

/Who are her lovers? /They are the foreign nations who are Israel's lovers. /Israel did not love God, but it loved the nations of the world. /Because Israel behaved in this way, God became angry. /He uncovered Israel's lewdness in the sight of the foreign nations.

/When this happens, do Israel's lovers help Israel? /They do not. /God is the only one who can help believers and save them. /We must not love the world or the things of the world.

/Verse 11. /And I will put an end to all her mirth, her feasts, her new moons, her Sabbaths, and all her appointed feasts.

/ “New moons” refers to the first day of the month, a day when special offerings are given to God. /If believers sin and do not repent, God puts an end to everything. /He puts an end to every mirth, feast, new moon, and Sabbath. /This is a frightening message.

/Verse 12. And I will lay waste her vines and her fig trees, of which she said, ‘These are my wages, which my lovers have given me.’ I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall devour them.

/The people of Israel are a foolish people. /We too are foolish like them. /Israel believed that the nations of the world were the ones that gave her its vines, figs, and good fruits. /Therefore God decides to lay waste to all these things.

/We must not think that the precious things God has given us are given to us by the world. /God will surely judge us when we live for idols and for the world. /We will be judged when we serve idols.

/Verse 13. /And I will punish her for the feast days of the Baals when she burned offerings to them and adorned herself with her ring and jewelry, and went after her lovers and forgot me, declares the LORD.

/The verse says, “She... adorned herself with her ring and jewelry.” /Israel was like an adulteress in her corruption. /The people adorned themselves with ring and jewelry. /They also went after their lovers.

/They desired to be loved by their lovers. /Israel dolled herself up to gain personal benefits. /Israel decorated herself and rubbed perfume on herself as she served Baal. /This is a great wrongdoing.

/Therefore God spoke. /He says, “I will punish her for the feast days of the Baals.” /Israel was to be punished for each day of worshipping Baal. /God punishes them according to the quantity of their sin.

/Revelation 18:17-18 say that God will repay her with suffering and mourning. /The days of suffering and death and mourning are days of the bad year. /We must not be at a place where we receive such punishment.

/Verses 14-23 tell us that the valley of Achor will become a door of hope.

/Verse 14. /“Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her.

/ “Allure” in the verse means to lure someone or something. /It can also mean to persuade or guide. /God lured the sinful Israel. /He led them into the wilderness. /In the wilderness, he punished them.

/The wilderness is a place of loneliness, much like a desert. /It is a place of hardship and suffering. /God caused Israel to suffer greatly in the wilderness. /He did this so that his people would repent and return to God.

/God is a God who allures his believers. /He is someone who lures us and guides us. /God doesn't guide us to hurt his believers. /He does it so that we may be helped. /God doesn't do this to kill us, but he does it to save us.

/When this happens, the believer faces trials and suffering. /However, at the end of all this, he receives great blessings. /Thus when God leads us into the wilderness, we must follow him with our hearts. /We must carry the cross and follow him.

/Such is the life of a disciple of Christ. /We must not intend for our bodies to only go to good and peaceful places. /We must follow God to wherever he guides us. /The Apostle Paul followed God wherever he took him.

/When God led Paul to Arabia, Paul stayed there and prayed for 3 years. /When God guided Paul to Jerusalem, Paul followed God up to Jerusalem. /Even though Paul knew that hardship and persecution awaited him, he still followed.

/Jesus also was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. /He was guided by God into the wilderness. /We must always follow God to wherever he guides us. /The one who is lured by God is someone who is truly loved by God.

/The believer must enter the tent or the palace or to any place God guides him. /Of course, hardship and suffering await us in the wilderness. /But there is a reason God takes us there. /Our God is truly a good God.

/He wants us to repent of all of our sins. /He eventually wants to refine us and bless us. /Are any of you experiencing hardship or suffering? /If so, then follow God's guidance. /You will experience God's great comfort and salvation.

/God helps us. /He will never abandon us. /At all times, please dwell in his grace and his love.

/Verse 15. /And there I will give her her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.

/We must be allured by God and enter the wilderness. /When we do so, we will see spiritual vineyards. /We will be able to eat the sweet fruit of the vines. /Heaven's door of hope will be opened. /God says that he will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.

/We must follow God when he allures us. /Then the Valley of Achor will open wide like a door of hope. /The Valley of Achor is the place where Achan and his family were

annihilated after Israel had lost the battle against Ai. /It is a place of despair and failure. /
However, if we are allured by God, this location becomes a place of hope.

/Although we may be enduring in disappointment, despair, and suffering, the valley will
become a place of hope. /God works so that the valley changes into a door of hope.
/However, if we do not follow God, the Valley of Achor does not transform into a place
of hope. /The door of hope does not open.

/We may try to open the door of hope, but it will remain shut. /If God does not open it for
us, we will not be able to open it at all. /We must go forward in faith as we follow God's
guidance. /We need to become like young children in the presence of God.

/Please lay down your wisdom and your schemes. /I hope you are only allured by God.
/Today, God searches for those who have complete faith. /We must have a faith like this.

/Verses 16-17. /“And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me ‘My Husband,’ and
no longer will you call me ‘My Baal.’ For I will remove the names of the Baals from her
mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no more.

/We must move forward as God allures us. /We need to head out into the wilderness and
the Valley of Achor. /We must endure many hardships and sufferings. /When we do this,
we will be able to leave Baal and the idols we serve. /Then we will love God with all of
our hearts.

/When this happens, we will accept God as our eternal Husband. /The Bible speaks of the
7 results that come from abandoning God. /Verse 2 says that we will be separated from
God. Verse 3 says that we will be shamed. /The second half of verse 3 says that we will
experience the wilderness and thirst.

/Verse 4 says our children will perish. /Verse 6 says that we will encounter thorns and
walls. /Verse 9 says that we will fail in the things we do. /Verse 11 says that we will be
stripped of any environment of receiving grace. /Verse 12 says that we will be laid to
waste.

/We must not experience these consequences in our lives. /They are the result of leaving
God. /We must return to God. /Then, these 7 consequences will become blessings. /Our
relationship with God will be restored.

/We will not be put to shame. /The wilderness and the desert will become heaven. /Our
children will be blessed to one thousand generations. /We will not bump into thorns or
walls. /We will not fail in the things we do.

/We will live in gratitude in an environment of grace. /Everything will be abundant. /We
need to enjoy these blessings as we return to God. /We must return to God when he
allures us.

/Verse 18. /And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety.

/A day of hope will come one day. /We will be able to conquer everything and bring everything to obey us. /We simply need to be allured by God. /At first, we will encounter the wilderness and the Valley of Achor. /However, later on, the door of hope will open.

/Everything will come to obey us. /The birds of the air, the beasts of the field, and the creeping things of the ground will obey us. /God will make for us a covenant, and he will abolish the bow, sword, and war as he lets us lie down in safety.

/God says he will make for us a covenant of peace. /He is saying he will restore Israel. /He is also speaking of the New Testament era, a period of spiritual peace and the period of the millennial kingdom.

/Follow God when he allures you while you are on this earth. /Pass through the wilderness and the Valley of Achor. /Be refined by God in many ways. /If you do these things, then God will open the door of hope for you at the right time.

/You will conquer everything and prosper. /In the millennial kingdom and in heaven, you will receive glory, nobility, and praise. /I hope you look forward to that day.

/Verses 19-20. /And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.

/The believer who follows God's allure is a good believer. /He is the one who will serve Jesus as his groom. /When the believer does this, he will communicate with the Lord and be glad. /Grace, love, truth, and righteousness will fill this person. /Through this believer, God will build his kingdom on earth. /Yes, God's blessing will be upon this believer in plenty.

/Verses 21-22. /“And in that day I will answer, declares the LORD, I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth, and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil, and they shall answer Jezreel,

/The verse says, “I will answer the heavens.” /God answers the heavens and makes it rain. /The barren earth will become wet because of the rain. /The fruit of the earth will make Israel abundant.

/Previously, this land was a cursed land. /Now, God's blessing is upon that land. /When we follow God when he allures us, /every door will open. /Such is the work of God.

/Verse 23. /and I will sow her for myself in the land. And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’; and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’”

/God allures Israel and makes her repent. /He also refines the people of Israel. /He brings Israel back to him. /He shows Israel mercy. /God promises that he will accept them as his people.

/Also, God says he will bring those who are not his people to become his people. /This is talking about foreigners who return to God and become his people. /God accepts them as his people. /They say to God, “You are my God.”

/This refers to the blessing that comes through Jesus Christ. /In the New Testament era, Jews and Gentiles alike believe in Jesus Christ as they return to God. /They become God’s people and God’s children.

/They serve God as their own God, /and they worship him as their Father. /Yes, as Hosea says, there is no end to God’s love. /We may have walked down the wrong path, but God does not abandon us.

/God allures us. /He brings us to repentance. /He calls us into his arms. /He brings us to understand his infinite love, to be thankful and to be moved by it. /God finds joy in saving us.

/That is why God himself came to find us. /God’s son died for us. /Jesus, who died on the cross, is our God. /I hope you come to realize the love of God, a love that does not spare his son but sacrifices him for us.

/The lyrics to a hymn go like this. / “The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell.” /It goes beyond the highest star and reaches to the lowest hell to come to us. /God delighted in saving sinful souls.

/He sent his son as a sacrifice. /He pardoned our sins. /We cannot measure the love of God. /It is wider than the universe. /His love is deeper than the sea.

/We must praise the eternally unchanging love of God with sincere hearts. /These are the words of the hymn. /I hope you come to understand the love of God through the prophet Hosea.

/We will now continue with Hosea 3. The title of chapter 3 is, “Purchasing the wife.” /Verses 1-3 are about the LORD who loves his people to the end. /In verse 4, God punishes the sinful Israel. /Verse 5 says that God’s people will return to him in the latter days.

/Chapter 3 is a short chapter of five verses. /Before we begin with chapter 3, I want to tell you several things. /The book of Hosea is unlike the other books of the Old Testament in

that it has a unique side. /North Israel had fallen into the great sin of leaving God and worshipping idols.

/God did not abandon them. /He shows them mercy. /He displays this through Hosea's unusual marriage life. /Hosea married an adulteress by the name of Gomer and had children with her.

/Gomer left her husband and ran away with another lover. /Hosea repeatedly has to bring her back home. /Chapter 3 is about Hosea's corrupt wife Gomer who leaves her home.

/Gomer runs away from home, but Hosea finds her and purchases her with money. /He purchases her again and shows her his love. /This is a portrayal of God's love for the corrupt people of Israel.

/The message shows us the persistent love of God. /I will tell you about the love of God that is displayed in chapter 3. /It is a love for someone that is unlovable. /It is God's love for sinners.

/It is God's love for the wicked. /Hosea purchased Gomer for fifteen shekels of silver. He loves a worthless woman. /His love is a love for a traitor. /It is love for a woman who is proud. /It is love for a woman who is immoral.

/It is love for the irresponsible woman who has neglected her children. /It is love for a stubborn and heartless woman. /It is love for a woman who shows no loyalty. /It is a persistent love for someone who cannot be forgiven. /This is the infinite love of God that overwhelms our hearts. /Verses 1-3 are about God loving his people to the end.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /And the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins."

/God loves the children of Israel even though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins. /Israel's children had abandoned the LORD God. /They abandoned God, who loved them like a husband would love, and they worshiped idols.

/This is the same as the sin of a wife leaving her husband. /It is a great sin for a woman to love a man other than her husband. /Israel committed this sin. /Here, the verse says that they love cakes of raisins. / "Cakes of raisins" symbolize idol worship or other religions.

/The religion of idols leads people to seek pleasure and debauchery. /However, real religion means denying one's self and carrying the cross. /We believers must not become friends with the world. /We must not be drunk in secularism, nor must we be drunk in wine.

/Worshiping idols and the worshipping the world is called hedonism. /Secularism and wine are sweet. /For this reason, many people fall into these two things. /What are idols? /The things we love more than God are idols. /The things we rely on more than we rely on God are idols.

/The things that have more control of our lives than God are idols. /We cannot serve God and idols at the same time. /The believer who does this is an immoral believer. /Even still, God says that he loves us.

/Israel may enjoy its cakes of raisins, but God still loves Israel. /Israel may follow the world, but God does not abandon them; rather, he loves them until the end. /That is why he commands Hosea to do this.

/God tells Hosea to love an adulteress who has other lovers. /It is not easy for a man to love a woman who has done lewd things with another man. /However, God tells Hosea to love her. /He is telling Hosea to love an adulteress.

/God's servant Hosea obeyed and loved the immoral woman. /Obedience is better than sacrifice. /God searches for people who are obedient. /We must learn Christ's obedience in our schools. /Our Lord himself was obedient.

/The Lord learned obedience through his suffering as he became complete. /We must become like the Lord.

/Verse 2. /So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley.

/The prophet Hosea bought Gomer for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley. /God treats Israel the same way. /God is not pleased when he deals with the sinful Israel. /However, he loves them until the end.

/We become worthless when we sin and worship idols. /Our value amounts to half the price of a slave, which is fifteen shekels of silver. /We are only worth a homer and a lethech of barley. /However, once we repent and return to the Lord, we become worthy.

/Verse 3. /And I said to her, "You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you."

/The verse is saying that Israel must not worship idols or rely on foreign nations. /Then, God will be with Israel. /God earnestly desires to be with us.

/God loves us. /He does not abandon us. /He goes before us as he guides us. /We must follow God's allure. /Then God will be delighted, and he will bless us.

/Verses 4-5. /For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods. Afterward the

children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the LORD and to his goodness in the latter days.

/Israel paid the price for its sins. /Later, the people of Israel live as prisoners in a foreign land. /They have no king or leader. /They will have no pillar or ephod. /They will live without teraphim. /The verse is saying that Israel will be taken captive to a foreign land.

/In the foreign nations, they will not be able to worship God. /Israel will not be able to build and worship pillars or teraphim when living in foreign land. However, there is hope. /God promises to bring Israel back in the latter days.

/The verse says that they will return in the latter days. /We have our hope in this. /God makes a promise when he says, “They shall come in fear to the LORD and to his goodness in the latter days.” /Israel will return home in the latter days and serve God.

/A king will come from David’s lineage. /God’s grace will once again be upon Israel. /God makes this promise. /It is a promise that is fulfilled in the New Testament era. /Jesus Christ will be born of David’s bloodline.

/Believers who serve Jesus as King will rise up. /They will fear God. /They will live in the grace of God. /We are people who live in the hope of the word of God’s promises.

/In the Bible, God makes many promises. /Thirty two thousand five hundred promises are made in the Bible. /These promises are made for us. /The Almighty God will certainly keep his promises. /Therefore we must hold firmly to God’s promises as we move forward. /In this we have hope.

/Thank you. /This concludes the 2nd lecture on the book of Hosea.