

The Bible - Week 18 (May 9th)

Eric Swanson / General

Hosea + Amos

Author: Hosea - a prophet of the Northern Kingdom & Amos a small town prophet from Tekoa who was a Shepard.

Date: Hosea says that he was around during Uzziah, Jeroboam II, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah making the timeline 755-715 BCE & Amos is assumed to be around 760 BCE.

Audience: Hosea is to the 10 northern tribes in a season when they thought they could go without God. Amos was a southern prophet writing to the wealthy elites in the north.

Reason: Both prophets wanted people to consider repentance.

Theme: In a way, these prophets attempt to show us that God's faithfulness to the covenant remains with the people, even when they have gone astray.

Key Verse:

Hosea 2:23 CEB

²³ I will sow him for myself in the land; and I will have compassion on No Compassion, and I will say to Not My People, "You are my people"; and he will say, "You are my God."

Amos 2:4 CEB

⁴ The LORD proclaims: For three crimes of Judah, and for

four, I won't hold back the punishment, because they have rejected the Instruction of the LORD, and haven't kept his laws. They have been led off the right path by the same lies after which their ancestors walked.

Sections: Hosea - Chapters 1-3 is about his marriage to Gomer and 4-14 is the Lord's marriage to Israel. Amos - Judgement of the nations Chapters 1-2, Complaints against the Northern Kingdom is Chapter 3-6, Destruction and Restoration is Chapters 7-9.

Key Words: Judgement, Adultery, Covenant, Righteousness, Nations.

Basic Intro: Hosea and Amos both show the problems of the Northern Kingdom, though they do so in different ways. They are explaining the need to repent for trying to leave God behind. Both want a restorative change but do not promise that.

Questions for Discussion:

- **Think about Hosea for a moment, what must it have been to hear God ask him to marry an unfaithful wife? How has the allegory been helpful or hurtful to your understanding of our running from God?**
- **Hosea also deals a lot with Pride, what role does pride play in our world today?**
- **With Amos, a Southern prophet speaking to the North... What are the good parts about this and what are the struggles Amos would face being the outsider speaking inward?**

- **Amos was ordinary, have ordinary people in modern culture done similar things for God?**
- **What does the Lord promise to do to Israel if they repent and return to God? How do you think that compares to our world today?**