

Sermon Notes:

Series: Minor Prophets, # 2 Hosea

God's covenant love story with Israel is woven through this book. Here is a summary:

He delivered them from slavery in Egypt 2:15, 13:4

He led them into the wilderness 2:14, 13:5

He courted and took Israel as his bride 2:15, 13:4

He gave them the promised land with all its gifts 2:8, 21-23

He became like a husband to his beloved Israel 2:16

He became like a father to this infant nation 11:1

Yet Israel had a rebellious spirit 4:16

She turned to other lovers, to idols 4:17, 9:10

The more God called, the more they ran away 11:2

Israel established a kingship and rejected Yahweh's rule 9:15

They relied on foreign alliances for security, not God 5:13, 8:9-10

They set up idols to Baal throughout the land 2:8, 13:2

Hosea describes this sin as Israel's 'harlotry' against her husband
He holds the priests and political leaders primarily responsible
Gone from Israel is the knowledge of Yahweh as the source of life
and security

2:8, 4:6, 8:12

The Israelites "do not know" God, have forgotten him 2:13, 8:14

They are a people "without understanding" 4:14

Their destruction is inevitable 5:14, 13:7-9

Both nature and human life will become infertile 2:9-12, 9:11-14

The nation will fall to foreign armies 9:3, 9:17, 11:5

If all seems dark, the message of the prophecy is that repentance
can always turn things around. So despite the grim scenario,
Hosea's promise is that God will save Israel in the future 3:1-5,
11:8-11, 13:4, 14:4

Reflection: Read 1 Samuel 8 and Exodus 32

Do you see parallels between Israel of 760 BC, and us today?

Does God still require repentance from sin today, like he did long ago?

What idolatry are you personally guilty of?

What idolatry are we as a church guilty of?

What idolatry are we as a nation guilty of?