

the Royal

MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9

Week 22 Law Enforcement, Chapter 3

Continuing in Law Enforcement this week, we will pick-up in Hosea 2 as started by Pastor Miles in the sermon on Sunday. It will be a continuation of the study of Hosea 1 last week. Hosea proceeds to show Israel that though they are apostate, there is hope when they repent.

We will narrow and focus on a couple minor themes this week:

1. To understand Hosea 2 we will need to review some key themes from Hosea 1.
2. Look at what the prophecy of Hosea meant for Israel during the Reflect section.
3. Look at what the prophecy of Hosea means for us in 21st Century America during the Respond section.

One thing to highlight is that although we can learn and grow from the book of Hosea, and the Holy Spirit will definitely minister to us through this book, it is important to understand it was not written directly to us. With that in mind, try to think less about what it means to you, and focus more on what it meant to them, and how can you learn from it.

Isn't it fun studying Scripture!!!!

In Him,

Rock Church Small Group Team

Part 1: Opening/Recap Weekly Challenge/Small Group Sermon Discussion

Opening

- Open in Prayer
- Worship (optional)
- Recap Week 21 Homework
- Small Group Sermon Discussion

Recap Week 21 Weekly Challenge

1. Recite **James 4:17**.
2. Discuss experiences practicing them Study.

Small Group Sermon Discussion

1. Review the rules of "Law Enforcement," or Prophetic language as a group.
 1. **Genre:** Prophetic Language (The prophets used poetic and narrative language, parables, riddles and enactments to communicate their message.)
 2. **Who is the Law Enforcer (Prophet)?** *When possible, identify if there is a unique God experience in the prophet's life.*
 3. To whom are they **enforcing** loyalty to the law?
 4. In what ways has the nation or an individual been **un-loyal** to God's law?
 5. Identify the **curses** or **blessings** being pronounced.
 6. Identify what new **behavior** God is seeking through the Law Enforcer's message.
2. Review the sermon through Hosea 2 as a group.
 - ▶ Use lesson plan notes if you have them available.

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Hosea 2

Read Hosea 2

This week in our pre-observation of Hosea 2 we want to use the text of Hosea 1 as our foundation. Hosea repeats a lot of the same concepts and imagery to explain the heart of God and His judgment toward Israel during this idolatrous time. So below is simply a refresher as to what Hosea is communicating:

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Hosea 1

(continued)

Hosea 1 Review

- ▶ Jeroboam was king of Israel; approximate time frame was between 753-723 BC.
- ▶ Hosea was immediately commanded by the Lord to take a prostitute as a wife; her name was Gomer (cf. 1:1-3).
- ▶ Hosea and Gomer had a son named Jezreel, which means God will sow. This was a sign that Israel reaped upon themselves judgment for their idolatry, so now God will sow that judgment (cf. 1:4-5).
- ▶ Hosea and Gomer had another child, a daughter, and named her No Mercy, in Hebrew is La-ruhama, which means that she has not received mercy (cf. 1:6).
- ▶ After No Mercy they had another son and his name was Not My People, in Hebrew is Lo-ammi, which means not my people (cf. 1:8-9).
- ▶ These two children, No Mercy and Not My People symbolized two major prophecies that were to come:
 1. God will not forgive (no mercy) Israel of their idolatry and worship of Baal, but will have mercy on Judah. He will rescue them by His might alone, not by sword or horsemen (cf. 1:7, 10, 11).
 2. And naturally this was to show that they were not His people anymore. But rather once He reunites them with Judah to be under one head, than they will be His people again (cf. 1:10-11).
- ▶ Read Hosea 2 as a group.

Reflect Hosea 2

1. Hosea 2:1-13 describes the punishment that God will pour out for Israel's unfaithfulness. Focus in on verses 5-8, and discuss why God describes Israel with such strong imagery for their apostasy. Why do you suppose He is so angry with them?
2. Hosea 2:14-23 describes the mercy that God will eventually show toward Israel. This was the focus text of the Sunday sermon. Focus in on verses 16-20. In the midst of disobedience what was God's greatest concern for Israel?

Respond Hosea 2

1. Refer to the discussion in Reflect #1. Where in your life have you been idolatrous or unfaithful to the Lord? Have you been taking it serious, or has it not been that important for you? How do you think the Lord feels about it?
 - ▶ This is a great time to confess struggles and sin, and allow the group to lift up one another in prayer.
2. Refer to the discussion in Reflect #2. After confessing areas of struggle and praying for one another, discuss how we can be more faithful to "My Husband". How can we treat Him and worship Him in faithfulness and honor?

Part 3: Weekly Challenge

- ▶ **Scripture Reading Guide:** Go through the devotions that correspond with each day. These are given to everyone in their lesson plan every week. (September 27 – October 3)
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” **John 10:10 (ESV)**
- ▶ **Bible Study Tool:** Navigate through www.desiringgod.org and discover the great resources available for free for your personal gain.
- ▶ **Spiritual Formation Practice:** Each week we will introduce a “spiritual discipline” that each person can try to adapt to their personal devotion. This week is the **Discipline of Study.**

The discipline of study has been repeated week after week because in order to understand anything in its entirety, the discipline of pursuing it has to become an essential habit. Scripture is no different, and studying prophecy is even more crucial to study. Author’s intent of writing a historic document is always hard to grasp, but is possible to get to a clear understanding of.

So for the rest of “Law Enforcement” and even to the end of the Royal series, we are going to really focus on study. We really want to challenge you to grow in the study and knowledge of the Word, so we can grow closer to Him.