

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 21 Law Enforcement, Chapter 2

Continuing in Law Enforcement this week, we will pick-up in Hosea 1 as started by Pastor Miles in the sermon on Sunday. It will be similar to the study of Jeremiah last week in that we want to gain a clear understanding of the intent of the prophecy. Prophetic language can be poetic and also use biblical narrative. The tricky thing is that entire books of prophecy may not be in chronological order, so we always have to keep the author's intent in mind when reading it.

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

1. Using Hosea 1 as our focus text, why is the prophet highlighting the wrath of God right away?
2. What is the purpose of God using Hosea marrying a prostitute? God can use any means He wants to express a concern or a point, so why this way?
3. After examining #2 a little further, we will be led to examine our own obedience to the Lord a little further. We want to be honest and express how we may have committed spiritual adultery to the Lord? We also want to express how we have repented, or may be continuously repenting.

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 20 Homework
- Small Group Sermon Discussion

Recap Week 20 Weekly Challenge

1. Recite **Jeremiah 1:5**.
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 1 as a group.
 - ▶ Use lesson plan notes if you have them available.

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

Read Hosea 1

This week's "Read, Reflect, and Respond" will be a continuation of the Sunday sermon through Hosea 1. We want to take the great lesson from Miles, and dig deeper into what was going at that time, and also review what our response is in our daily lives. Below are some key pre-observations as we examine further the first chapter of this book:

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

(continued)

Hosea 1 Pre-observation

- ▶ The book of Hosea is 1 of 12 Minor Prophetic books. They are called “minor” not because of importance, but only because they didn’t write as much content as the Major Prophets (ex. Jeremiah, Isaiah, etc.).
- ▶ Hosea was a prophet for the Northern Kingdom of Israel around 753-723 BC.
- ▶ Jeroboam II, son of Joash, was the king of Israel during that time (cf. 1:1).
- ▶ Though Hosea writes of harsh wrath toward a disobedient Israel, Hosea is typically known as a prophet of love. And paints the picture of God as a loving God. Though He will judge them, He will still bring them back to Himself.
- ▶ Hosea has a unique family situation too. He was commanded by God to marry Gomer, a prostitute, and they had a son. The Lord commanded this as a sign to show that Israel was whoring after other gods (cf. 1:2-3).
- ▶ Hosea uses mainly poetic language; however it is apparent that chapter 1 is biblical narrative, which would make this a true historical event.

- ▶ Read Hosea 1 as a group.

Reflect Hosea 1

1. After reading chapter 1, what is Hosea expressing to Israel? Be specific.

2. Why do you suppose God wanted Hosea to marry Gomer as a sign, and not use another means?

Respond Hosea 1

1. As Miles mentioned on Sunday, we are His bride, and when we are disobedient we are committing spiritual adultery. This is strong language!!! Discuss amongst the group how you have been guilty of this and how you have/or currently repented from that adultery.

- ▶ This is a great time to personally connect and personally apply Hosea’s prophecy.

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 20 – September 26)
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** “So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.” **James 4:17 (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.