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The Minor Prophets

Hosea¹

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum²

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

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Majors From The Minors¹

A major lesson from Hosea ...

- **Principle text:**
 - “Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry
 - And children of harlotry,
 - For the land has committed great harlotry
 - By departing from the LORD.” **1.2**

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A major lesson from Hosea ...

- The *marriage* metaphor
 - God's bride (Israel) sinned against her husband (God) • She was spiritually unfaithful to God • She had many "husbands" (gods)
- The *covenant* metaphor
 - God made a covenant with Israel • Both had covenant obligations • God always kept covenant • Israel often failed to keep covenant
- Key messages
 - Judgment will come • But God still loves/still has compassion for/will never leave
 - I will still be your God • You will still be my people **Rom 9.25, 1 Pet 2.10**

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A major lesson from Joel ...

- **Principle text:**
 - “And it shall come to pass afterward
 - That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
 - Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
 - Your old men shall dream dreams,
 - Your young men shall see visions.
 - And also on My menservants and on My maidservants
 - I will pour out My Spirit in those days.” **2.28ff, Acts 2.16ff**

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A major lesson from Joel ...

- Major **societal** changes anticipate major **spiritual** changes
 - OT prophetic/teaching qualifications -> Changed under the new covenant
 - OT priestly qualifications -> Changed under the new covenant
 - OT national covenant -> Changed under the new covenant
 - OT calling -> Changed under the new covenant (national -> individual)
 - OT descriptions of God's people -> Changed under the new covenant
 - OT role of the Spirit -> Changed under the new covenant

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A major lesson from Amos ...

- **Principle text:**
 - “Surely the Lord GOD does nothing,
 - Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.
 - A lion has roared!
 - Who will not fear?
 - The Lord GOD has spoken!
 - Who can but prophesy?” **3.7-8**

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A major lesson from Amos ...

- The sovereign **God speaks** - > The sovereign **God's prophets prophesy**
 - God through his prophets denounce Israel's apostasy
 - Israel was more worldly than spiritual
 - She focused on riches/false gods **6.3ff, 3.14-15** • Oppressing others **2.7ff, 5.11**
 - Though God knew only Israel **3.2**, he intended to punish her **1.4**
 - God would send Israel into captivity **9.4** • Remove his word from them **8.11ff**
 - Send adversaries against them **3.11** • Defeat them **5.3** • Slay them **6.9-10**
- It was Amos' "job" as a prophet to proclaim these difficult truths to Israel

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A major lesson from Obadiah ...

- **Principle text:**
 - “In the day that you stood on the other side—
 - In the day that strangers carried captive his forces,
 - When foreigners entered his gates
 - And cast lots for Jerusalem—
 - Even you were as one of them.” **11**

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A major lesson from Obadiah ...

- God's universal sovereignty
 - God was **not** just the God of Judah/Israel • God was the God of **all nations**
 - Abrahamic covenant-promise reached “**all** the families of the earth” **Gen 12.3**
 - God's prophets “went to war” on God's behalf against Judah's/Israel's sin
 - But they also “went to war” on God's behalf against their enemies
 - What Edom's founder (Esau) did/despised his birthright -> indicates what would befall that nation -> they would be despised **2, Gen 25.34**
 - Why? Because they rejoiced in the downfall of Judah **12**
 - We should never rejoice when God punishes sinners **Ezek 18.23, 32**

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A major lesson from Jonah ...

- **Principle text:**

- “But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry.
- So he prayed to the LORD, and said, “Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.
- Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!” **4.1-3**



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A major lesson from Jonah ...

- God's **universal grace**
 - Jonah is about so much more than the prophet
 - Jonah is about so much more than the prophet's message **3.4**
 - Jonah is about God's **covenant-promise** -> **all families Gen 12.3**
 - Jonah is about Jonah's failure to understand ...
 - The **covenant-promise** • God's **grace**
 - Jonah **would rather die** than accept God's inclusion of others **4.3, 9**
 - God's message **always** includes others **Mt 21.33ff, Lk 4.25ff, Jn 10.16**

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A major lesson from Micah ...

- **Principle text:**

- With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old
- Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
- He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? **6.6-8**

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A major lesson from Micah ...

- The First/Old Testament has **always** been about **more** than law/s and obedience
 - It has **always** been about heart and attitude
 - “obeying the voice” = **heart** acts **1 Sam 15.22, Ps 51.16, Is 1.11-15**
 - mercy must precede actions **Hos 5.6, 6.6 • Amos 5.22**
 - sacrifices/obedience must always be about doing good **Heb 13.16**
- What Micah says here has **always** been a part of the law **Deut 10.12-13**

