



Introduction to the Minor Prophets

HOSEA

Context, Outline & Theme

Hosea 1-3

Love's Strange Story

Hosea 4-14

Love's Challenge: Sin

Love's Recovery: Repentance

Love's Hope: Restoration

JOEL

Context & Theme

Joel 1:1-2:11—The Call to Lament

Joel 2:12-2:17—The Call to Repent

Joel 2:18-2:32—The Promise of Salvation

Joel 3:1-3:16—The Promise of Justice

Joel 3:17-3:21—The Call to Lament

OUTLINE OF HOSEA

- I. Hosea 1:1-3:5 – Hosea’s Adulterous Wife, Gomer
 - a. Hosea, Gomer, and Their Children 1:2-2:1
 - b. The Lord’s Marriage to Israel 2:2-23
 - c. Hosea’s Restored Marriage 3:1-5
- II. Hosea 4:1-14:9 – Yahweh’s Adulterous Wife, Israel
 - a. Accusation, Judgment, and Mercy* 4:1-6:3
 - b. Accusation, Judgment, and Mercy 6:4-11:11
 - c. Accusation, Judgment, and Mercy 11:12-14:9

This threefold structure becomes apparent in the text through some key words. Phrases like “bring charges,” “rebuke,” “plead with,” and “contend with” begin the **accusations of sin. Phrases like “blow the horn,” and “sound the trumpet” show God’s **judgment** against sin. And phrases like “yet,” “afterward,” and other such transition words, “I will return,” “I will go back,” and “return O Israel” indicate God’s promises of **mercy**.*

OUTLINE OF JOEL

- I. Joel 1:1-2:17 – The Day of the LORD in Judgment
 - A. The Call to Lament 1:1-2:11
 - B. The Call to Repent 2:12-17
- II. Joel 2:18-3:21 – The Day of the LORD in Grace
 - A. The Promise of Salvation 2:18-32
 - B. The Promise of Justice 3:1-16
 - C. The Promise of Restoration 3:17-21

Notice the gospel flow of thought through the book: lamentation over sin followed by repentance from sin results in salvation and a restored relationship with God.