

Hosea: An Introduction to Prophecy

(Week 1-January 9/11, 2024)

What is prophecy?

Prophecy is God declaring His intentions and decrees concerning His future judgements. Biblical prophecies reveal the unfolding plan of God throughout human history. Sometimes the prophecies are incredibly detailed and sometimes not.

What is the nature of prophecy? Important principles to keep in mind.

There are some factors that we need to keep in mind when reading prophecy. Although there is one message delivered, there may be many fulfillments. Some of the prophetic messages find ultimate fulfillment in the final stage of God's plan for human history and some may find fulfillment in the immediate future of the time period in which they were written.

How should we study the Minor Prophets?

A. Like any other book

B. Helpful Guidelines

1) Grammatical:

2) Historical Context:

3) Literary Context:

4) Application:

How as the Prophet called?

What were the 3 basic attributes of God the prophets emphasized?

Who were the Minor Prophets?

Why are they called Minor?

When did they minister?

Common Misconceptions about the Minor Prophets:

- 1) They are not as significant or imp. as the Major Prophets.
- 2) They only speak of judgement.
- 3) They only talk of the future and not the here and now.
- 4) They are neither relevant nor devotional.

Five Benefits to Knowing Bible Prophecy (Paul Benware)

1. Bible prophecy reminds us that God is sovereign. (Is. 40:12-26; Matt. 28:18-20; Rev. 1:18). This great truth brings insight and comfort to the believer living in this hostile world.
2. Bible prophecy reminds us that God is good. It is a precious area of doctrine to the people of God who are suffering. God has written the final chapter and the ending of the story for His children is good. (Romans 8:18)
3. Bible prophecy motivates us to holy living. Without the perspective of prophetic truth, living holy lives is far more difficult. (1 John 2:28; 3:3)
4. Bible prophecy helps us to establish proper priorities. What is important to us? The reality of future things sheds significant light on the great issues of life and helps us to see what is most important. Prophecy then can assist us in making better choices in the present as it reminds us of things that have eternal value. (2 Peter 3:10-13)
5. Bible prophecy gives us hope. If there is anyone who ought to live with a positive confidence in this world, it is the child of God. Though none of us are exempt from pain and suffering, we ought not to live in those conditions. A very real joy, pleasure, and glory are coming, as they are wrapped up in the blessed hope of Jesus' appearance. (Titus 2:13)