

An open Bible lies on a wooden surface in the foreground, its pages filled with text. The background is a vast, open landscape under a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The sky is filled with scattered, light-colored clouds, and several birds are seen in flight against the blue and orange hues of the sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

# Chronological Bible Study

Week 21:

**Loving Pursuit of the Unfaithful**

2 Kings 12-14

2 Chronicles 22-25

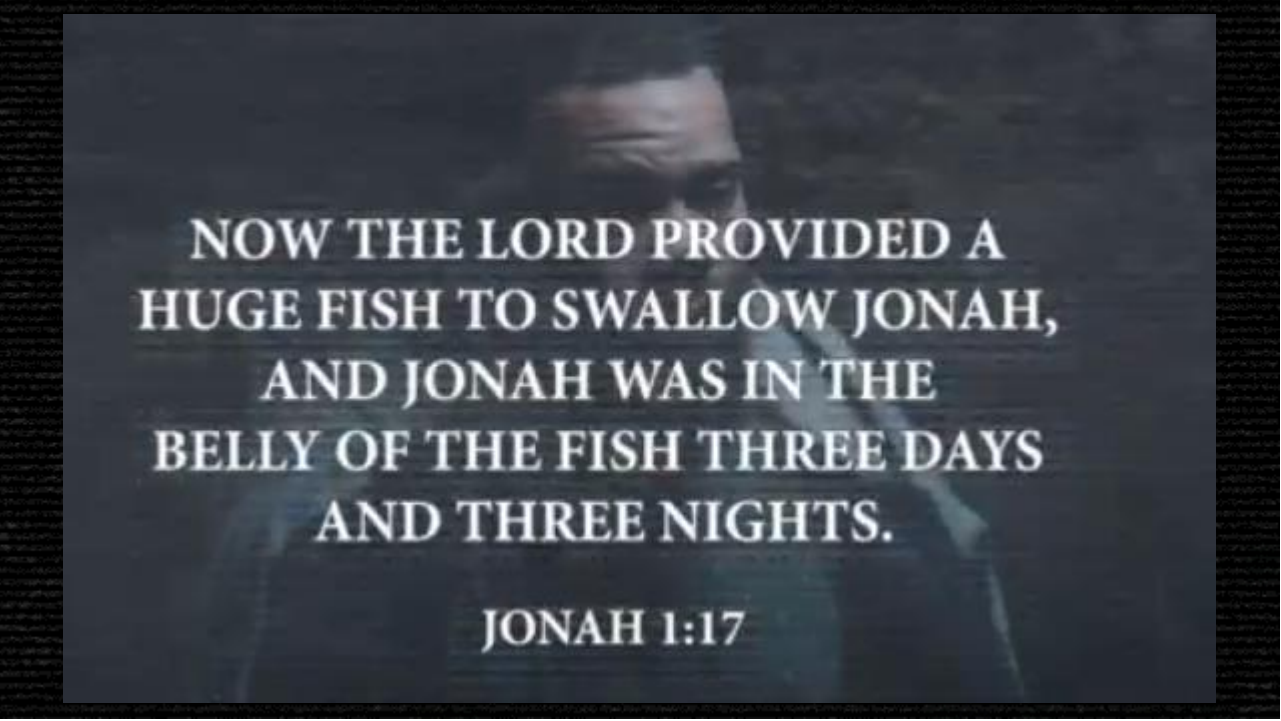
Jonah

Amos

Hosea

# Jonah's Prayer

[Video Link](#)



**NOW THE LORD PROVIDED A  
HUGE FISH TO SWALLOW JONAH,  
AND JONAH WAS IN THE  
BELLY OF THE FISH THREE DAYS  
AND THREE NIGHTS.**

**JONAH 1:17**



## **Introductions**

Is there a day in the next three months or so that you are anxiously anticipating?

# Questions?

# Comments?

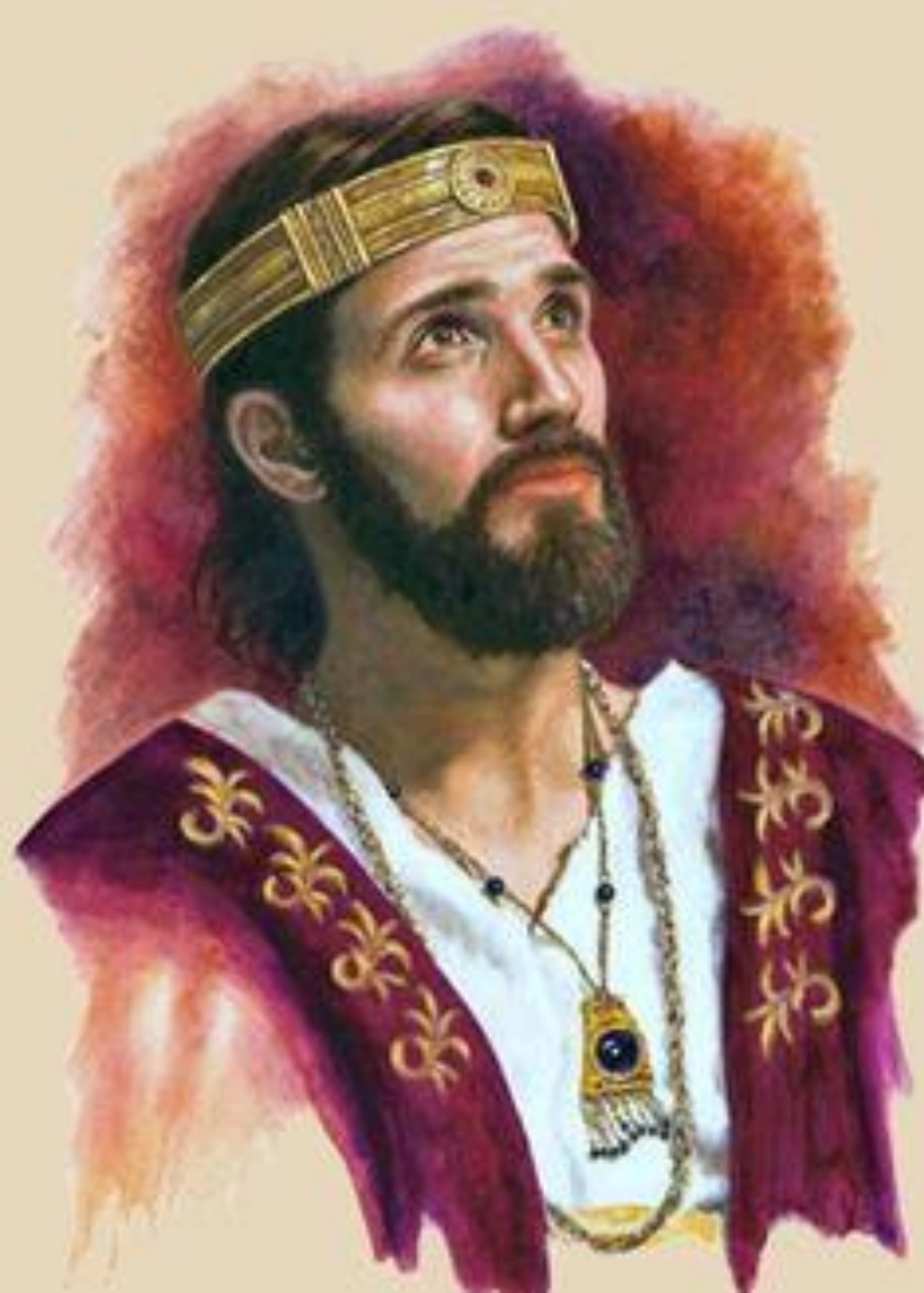
## **Summary of This Week's Readings**

Jehru's Dynasty in Israel  
Rulers in Judah  
The Book of Jonah  
The Book of Amos  
The Book of Hosea

# Who was King Jehoahaz?

- Son of Jehu, King of Israel
- Lived 814-798 BC
- Contemporary of King Joash in Judah
- Reigned for 17 years and considered an evil king because he allowed idolatry
- Battled with Hazael and Ben-Hadad of Aram
- Four-fold movement in the story: evil, oppression, entreaty, salvation
- His son Joash and grandson Jeroboam II followed him and completed the dynasty of Jehu.





## Amaziah of Judah

- Lived 822 BC-769 BC
- 9<sup>th</sup> King of Judah and son and successor of Joash who reigned for 29 years.
- Began his rule as god-fearing, but later established idol worship in Jerusalem after defeating Moab.
- Challenged Joash, king of Israel (grandson of Jehu) to a battle and was defeated.
- Israel invaded Judah and plundered the temple.



# Jonah

[Video Link](#)





# The Book of Jonah

- The author is unknown
- Most likely written in 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> century BC
- There was a prophet Jonah son of Amittai during the reign of Jeroboam II (793-753 BC)
- Historical fact or parable?
- 2 Kings 14:25 identifies Jonah and important to background of the story
- Purpose was to encourage repentance, show that prophecies of judgement can be conditional, shows how Jews should view Gentiles, and explore God's complex relationship between justice and mercy.

*As the crowds increased, Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation. [LK 11:29-30]"*

# Jonah is Sent to Ninevah

- Located in the modern-day city of Mosul in Iraq
- Capital of the Assyrian empire and largest city in the world for decades
- Jonah goes to Joppa to get far away from God
- Jonah almost drowns, God rescues him, and Jonah then thanks God for his rescue and obeys God's command to go to Ninevah





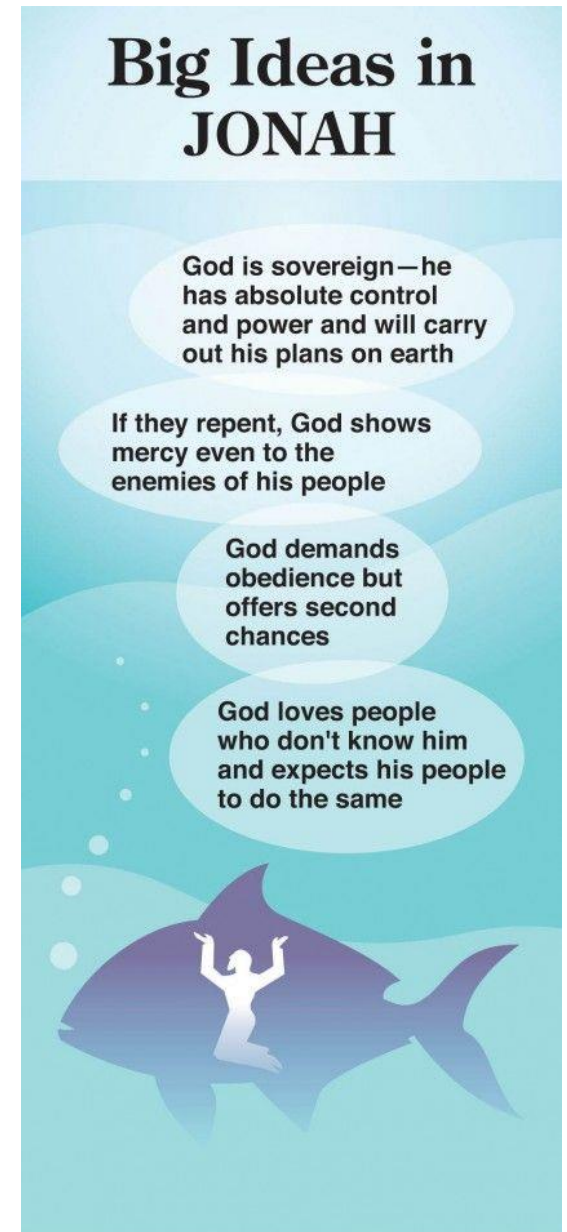
A painting depicting the biblical story of Jonah. In the foreground, an elderly man with a long white beard, wearing a brown robe and a blue sash, sits on a green cliff edge, looking down. To his right, a large, gnarled tree stands on the cliff. In the background, a large, reddish-brown fish is visible, with its mouth open as if about to swallow someone. The sky is a pale blue, and the landscape below the cliff is a vast, green valley with rolling hills and a small white building in the distance.

# Jonah's Anger at God's Compassion

- Jonah was thankful for his being saved, but resentful to God for forgiving the Ninevites.
- Jonah did not want God to pardon the Ninevites
- Jonah again prays
- God challenges Jonah's anger at His compassion.
- Jonah has passionate concern for a mere plant but is hardhearted toward the city of Ninevah
- Do we understand God's mercy toward everyone?

# Jonah and the Attributes of God

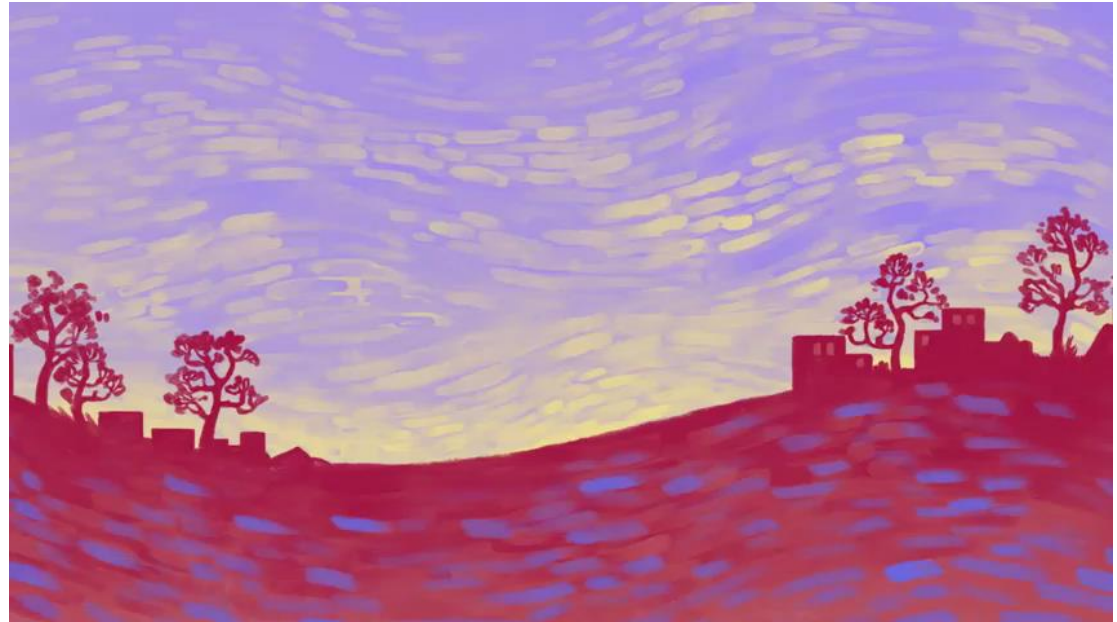
- God brings glory to himself by using elements, animals, and even the choices of men to accomplish his perfect will.
- God does not require the efforts of man to call the elect, but he uses imperfect vessels so his sovereignty, immutability, goodness, and righteousness can be magnified.
- God brings his salvation to a sinful and rebellious people
- God is deeply involved in the details of lives of his creation.





# How to Read Prophetic Books

[Video Link](#)





## Amos

- 8<sup>th</sup> century BC prophet from Judah to Israel during the reigns of King Uzziah (Azariah) in Judah and King Jeroboam II in Israel.
- Amos means Burden Bearer in Hebrew.
- Was a contemporary of Jonah.
- Israel and Judah were in a time of economic prosperity at the time Amos preached, yet treated the poor badly.
- He was a shepherd and fig gatherer.



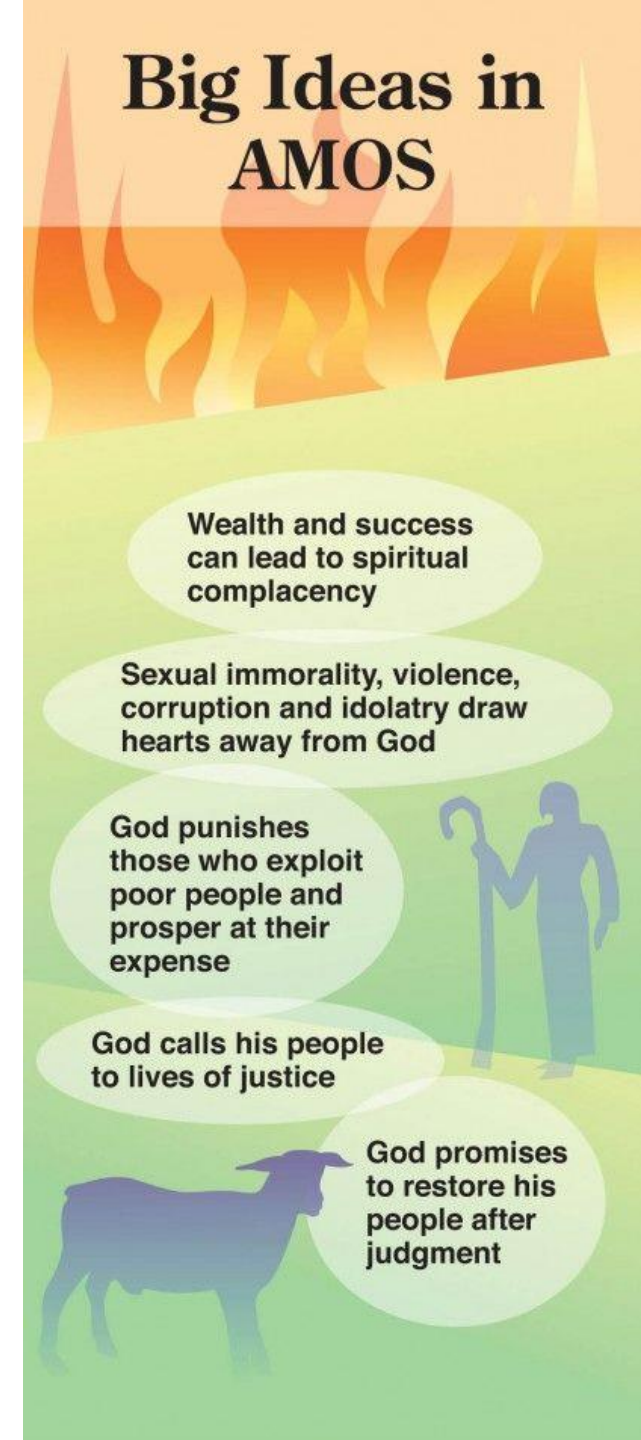
# Amos

[Video Link](#)



# Key Themes







- Social Justice
- True Religion
- “The Day of the Lord”



- Judgment will come to Israel
- Israel's unique position as God's chosen people will not spare them
- A remnant will survive
- Israel and the rest of the world will have a glorious future
- Beyond divine chastisement lies restoration

## Amos's Visions

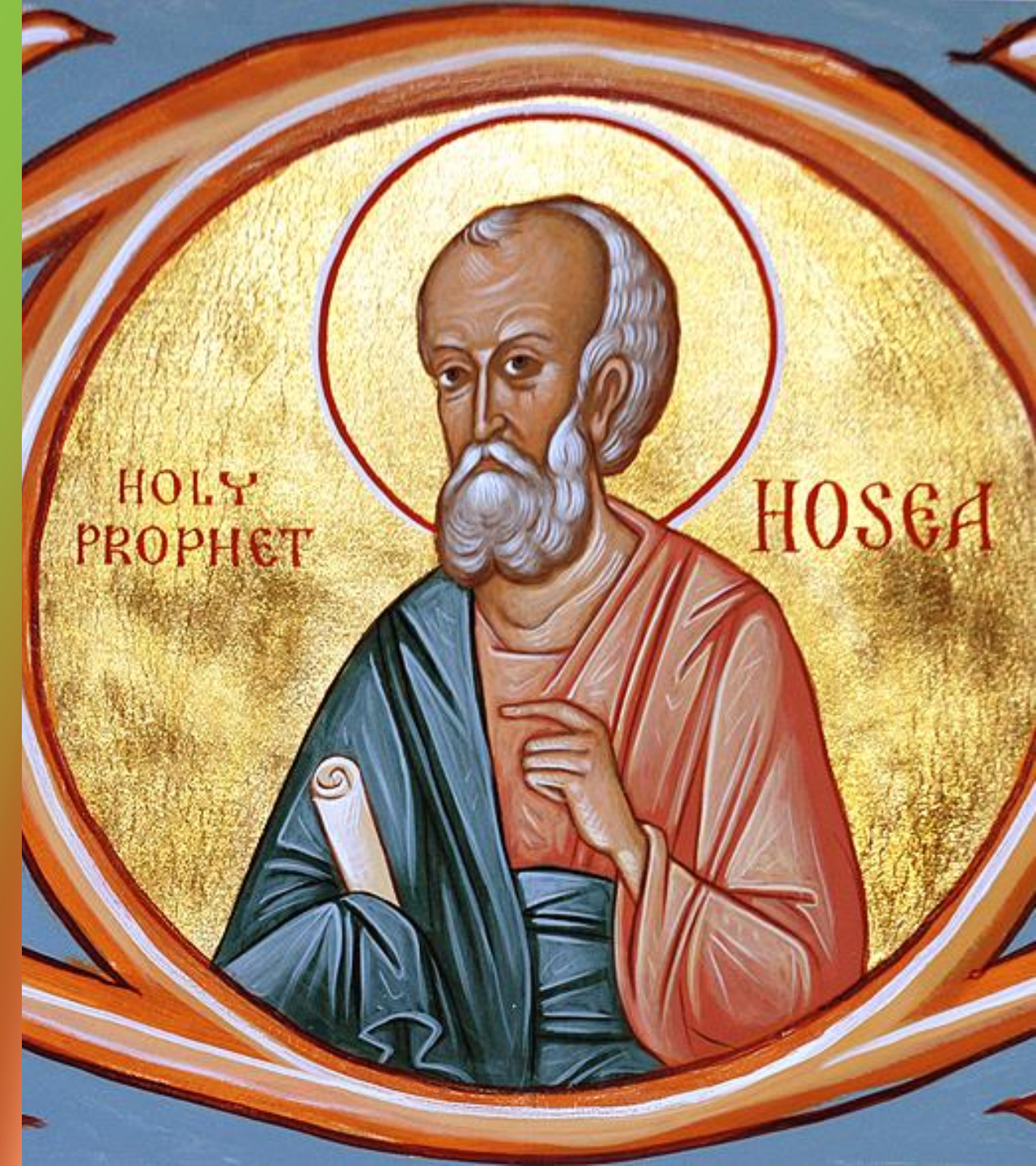
*Amos 7-9*

Vision		Outcome
<b>Locusts</b> —God sends swarms of locusts that devastate Israel's crops		Amos prays and God relents on sending judgment <i>7:1-3</i>
<b>Fire</b> —God sends fire that dries up the water and devours Israel's land		Amos prays and God relents on sending judgment <i>7:4-6</i>
<b>Plumb line</b> —God compares Israel to a wall built true to plumb; God's people fail to meet his standards		God destroys Israel's high places and sanctuaries <i>7:7-9</i>
<b>Basket of ripe fruit</b> —God declares that Israel is ripe for judgment		God sends death, destruction and darkness to Israel; God refuses to answer his people <i>8:1-14</i>
<b>The Lord by the altar</b> —God tells Amos to strike the tops of the temple pillars		God destroys the Israelites, who are crushed by the collapsing temple or killed by the sword <i>9:1-10</i>

# Day of the LORD

[Video Link](#)





# Hosea

- Northern kingdom prophet
- Preached c760 – 722 BC
- Marriage used to symbolically deliver prophetic message. Marital infidelity used as a way to depict Israel's unfaithfulness.
- Last call for Israel to repent and know God
- Audience initially Israel, but also the people of Judah and the long-term future of all of God's people
- Key to the story that moves from covenant betrayal to punishment to restoration.
- Provides a legal indictment or covenant lawsuit of Israel, who is charged with unfaithfulness and absence of the knowledge of God.
- The story is a call to know God and be in intimate relationship with Him.

# Hosea

[Video Link](#)



# Key Themes

- Warnings to Israel and Judah to obey God
- God will rebuild his people from a remnant and renew covenant with them
- A new age will be characterized by true faith and obedience to God's word

## Big Ideas in HOSEA

God's relationship with his people is compared to marriage

God loves his people despite their unfaithfulness

Idolatry among God's people is like prostitution

The Israelites' continuous refusal to acknowledge God will result in their exile

After exile, when the Israelites repent, God will restore them to the land



# Israel's Unfaithfulness -- Israel is Like:

- A prostitute
- An unloved daughter
- A rejected wife and mother
- A wife denied her marital rights
- Neglected children
- A stubborn heifer
- Illegitimate children
- Incurably sick people
- Criminals
- A blazing oven
- A senseless dove
- Grapes in the desert
- Wanderers
- A spreading vine
- trained heifer
- A beloved child
- Fearful birds
- Mist, chaff, smoke
- A child without wisdom
- A lily
- An olive tree





**NO CLASS NEXT WEEK:  
3/4/2024**

**Readings For 3/11/2024:  
The Fall of Israel**

- Micah 1-7
- 2 Chronicles 27-28
- 2 Kings 17-18
- Isaiah 10:5-12:6; 15-16; 18:1-20:6; 22:15-25; 28-32:20

# Closing Song

[Video Link](#)



# Loving Pursuit of the Unfaithful

20 FEB – 26 FEB 2024

2 KI 13-14; 2 CH 22-25; JNH 1-4; AMOS 1-9; HOS 1-14

Week 21

The history of Israel and Judah continues to be told through the eyes of their kings and the history of David’s royal line in the history of Judah through the chronicler. God’s blessing come from obedience to the Mosaic covenant, and judgement results from disobedience. God, however, has great mercy and stands with His people. If people humbly repent, God promises to restore them. The book of Jonah tells the story of a rebellious prophet who questions God’s mercy toward His enemies. Amos reminds us that our success and power, which comes from God, should be used to serve others. Hosea reminds us that we serve a God who is full of love, compassion and grace. God’s faithfulness is stronger than our failures.

## Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: 2 KI 13:1-14:22;  
2 CH 22:10-23:21  
Day 2: 2 CH 24:1-25:28  
Day 3: 2 KI 14:23-29; JNH 1:1-4:11  
Day 4: AM 1:1-6:7  
Day 5: AM 6:8-9:15  
Day 6: HOS 1:1-6:11  
Day 7: HOS 7:1-14:9

## Outline

Israel and Judah [Day 1-3]  
Jonah – A reluctant missionary [Day 3]  
Amos – A stand against materialism [Day 4-5]  
Hosea – Heal and save [Day 6-7]

## Key Characters

Jehoahaz	Joash
Elisha	Amaziah
Amos	Jonah
Hosea	Gomer

## Key Locations

Israel	Samaria
Judah	Bethel
Assyria	Ninevah
Tarshish	

## Key Terms

Blessings	Discipline
Injustice	Judgement
Rebellion	Repent
Prophets/Prophecy	Sin
Social Justice	
Unfaithfulness	

## Key Verses

Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in loving kindness and one who relents concerning calamity. [JNH 4:2]

But may I not care about the great city of Nineveh, which has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot distinguish between their right and their left, as well as many animals? [JNH 4:11]

But let justice flow like water, and righteousness, like an unfailing stream. [AM 5:24]

“Behold the eyes of the Lord God are on the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth; Nevertheless, I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob”, declares the Lord [AM 9:8]

Yet the number of the Israelites will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or counted. And in the place where they were told: You are not my people, they will be called: Sons of the living God [HOS 1:10]

Then the Lord said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes (HOS 3:1)

## Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

2Ki13: Jehoahaz ruled Israel and they were oppressed by Hazael. Jehoash ruled and Elisha told him to strike the ground. Then Elisha died.

2Ki14: Amaziah ruled Judah and did right. He challenged Jehoash but Judah were defeated. Jeroboam ruled Israel and restored the borders.

2Chr22: The people made Ahaziah king. He did evil and was killed by Jehu. Athaliah destroyed the royal family but Jehoshabeath hid Joash.

2Chr23: Jehoiada gathered the Levites and anointed the king's son as king. Athaliah was killed. The people tore down the temple of Baal.

2Chr24: Joash ruled and did right while Jehoiada lived. The priests collected money to repair the temple. Joash was killed by his servants.

2Chr25: Amaziah ruled in Jerusalem. After he slaughtered the Edomites he bowed down to their gods. He challenged Jehoash and was defeated.

Jnh1: The LORD sent Jonah to Nineveh. Jonah fled by ship. A storm arose and the men threw Jonah into the sea. A great fish swallowed him.

Jnh2: Jonah prayed: "I cried out in my distress. Waters surrounded me. You brought me up from the pit!" The fish vomited him onto dry land.

Jnh3: So Jonah went to Nineveh and said, "Nineveh shall be overthrown!" The people fasted and wore sackcloth. God relented of the disaster.

Jnh4: Jonah was angry and said, "O LORD, take my life." A plant sheltered Jonah but it died. The LORD said, "Should I not pity Nineveh?"

Am1: The LORD says: "I will punish Damascus. The remnant of the Philistines shall perish. I will send fire upon Tyre, Edom and Ammon."

Am2: "I will send fire upon Moab and Judah. I will punish Israel. They sell the poor for a pair of sandals. The mighty shall flee naked."

Am3: Does a lion roar when it has no prey? The LORD reveals his plans to the prophets. "On the day I punish Israel, I will punish Bethel."

## Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Am4: "You cows of Bashan will be led away with hooks. I withheld the rain. I overthrew some of you. Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"

Am5: "Fallen is virgin Israel. Seek me and live. You shall not dwell in your houses. I despise your feasts. Let justice roll like waters."

Am6: Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, who are not grieved over Joseph. The LORD declares: "I will raise up a nation against you."

Am7: The LORD showed me locusts, fire and a plumb line. Amaziah told Amos, "Flee to Judah." Amos said, "You shall die in an unclean land."

Am8: The LORD said: "The end has come upon Israel. I will not forget your deeds. I will send a famine of hearing the words of the LORD."

Am9: The LORD said: "Strike the pillars until the earth shakes. I will sieve the house of Israel. In that day I will restore my people."

Hos1: The LORD told Hosea, "Marry an adulterer for the land has prostituted itself." Gomer had sons. The LORD said, "You are not my people."

Hos2: "Your mother has been unfaithful. I will expose her lewdness. Now I will speak tenderly to her. I will betroth you to me forever."

Hos3: The LORD said to me, "Go, love your wife again as the LORD loves Israel." So I bought her back. For Israel will return to the LORD.

Hos4: The LORD has a charge against Israel: "There is no faithfulness. They have left God to play the whore. The rulers love shameful ways."

Hos5: "Hear this, O priests, O king! Israel shall stumble in his guilt. Ephraim is crushed in judgement. I will leave until they seek me."

Hos6: Come, let us return to the LORD. On the third day he will raise us up. "I desire steadfast love, not offerings. Israel is defiled."

Hos7: "The sins of Ephraim are revealed. They are like a heated oven. They call to Egypt, go to Assyria. Woe to them for they have strayed!"

## Loving Pursuit of the Unfaithful

20 FEB – 26 FEB 2024

2 KI 13-14; 2 CH 22-25; JNH 1-4; AMOS 1-9; HOS 1-14

Week 21

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Hos8: "A vulture is over Israel. The calf of Samaria shall be broken. The LORD will punish their sins. For Israel has forgotten his Maker."

Hos9: Rejoice not, O Israel! The days of punishment have come. "I will bereave them. I will drive them from my house." God will reject them.

Hos10: Israel is a rich vine. The LORD will break down their altars. "Nations shall be gathered against them." It is time to seek the LORD.

Hos11: "When Israel was a child, I loved him. But the sword shall devour them. How can I give you up, O Ephraim? I will bring them home."

Hos12: "Jacob fought with God. Ephraim has said, 'I am rich.' But I am the LORD. I spoke through the prophets." The LORD will repay Ephraim.

Hos13: "They make idols of silver. But I am the LORD. I will tear them open. Ephraim's sin is stored up. Shall I redeem them from death?"

Hos14: O Israel, return to the LORD. "I will heal their apostasy. They shall blossom like the vine. Whoever is wise, let him understand."

## Teachings About God

- God loves and is faithful to his people, even when they are unfaithful to Him.
- God is jealous of his people who lust after other gods.
- God must judge unfaithfulness.
- God desires faithful love, not sacrifice.
- God is absolutely sovereign.
- God reveals himself and his plans to prophets.
- God judges all: pagan and people of God.
- God has a wonderful future for his people.
- Jonah reveals God as sovereign creator.
- God is loving and compassionate.
- Each human life is valuable to God.
- God is sovereign over nature.

## Teachings About Humanity

- God’s people were unfaithful and broke covenant with God.
- Gomer’s adultery and Israel’s idolatry paint dark portraits of human shame and sinfulness.
- Hosea’s tragic marriage to Gomer is a great love story in Scripture.
- Disloyalty to God is sin, as is lack of concern for the needs of others.
- People often do the wrong thing.
- Peace and prosperity can be threats to living like God’s people.
- Jonah’s prayer of thanksgiving when in the fish shows great trust in God.

## Teachings About Salvation

- God’s unfaithful people must respond to his covenant love and repent or face severe judgment.
- Both Peter and Paul applied Hosea’s message of God’s inclusion of Gentiles among his people (1 PE 2:10; RO 9:25-26).
- Humanity will be salvaged by God.
- Salvation is a matter of undeserved forgiveness.
- Those whom God saves respond to hearing the Word of God.

## Reflections of Christ/Holy Spirit

- Hosea’s note about Israel’s exodus from Egypt foreshadowed Jesus’ coming from Egypt “Out of Egypt I called my son.”
- The high standards of God’s righteousness provided in Amos were a passion with Jesus, who came to fulfill God’s righteous requirements.
- As Jonah was in the belly of the fish for 3 days, Jesus was in the earth for 3 days and then was resurrected.
- Jesus affirmed Jonah being swallowed by a fish and the repentance of Ninevah.

## Literary Genres/Techniques

- Hosea includes genres of prophecy, poetry, and historical narrative, written in Hebrew.
- Amos includes prophecies and narrative, written mainly in Hebrew poetry.
- Jonah is written in compact narrative and considered by many as a parable or allegory of God’s love.
- Kings and Chronicles is written as historical narrative.

## Author/Date of Writing

- Hosea prophesied during the last decades of the northern kingdom of Israel (753-715 BC) when Assyria was becoming a world superpower. The book was written c 715BC by Hosea. Hosea was a contemporary of Isaiah and Micah. It was written to the Israelites in the Northern kingdom.
- Amos was a prophet during the reigns of Jeroboam II of Israel (793-753 BC) and Uzziah of Judah (792-740 BC). The Israelites of the Northern Kingdom were the audience.
- Jonah was written c 780BC. He was a contemporary of Amos. It was written to the people living in Samaria.

## What did I learn about God?

- Why is wholeheartedness so important to God? Is a little faith better than no faith at all?
- God's pursuit of Jonah is quite revealing. What does it reveal about A) the justice and mercy of God? B) the gifts and call of God? C) Human fear and faith? D) God's claim to judge all the earth?
- How do you picture the God of Hosea? How did Israel experience His discipline? What are some of the early warning signals that God will discipline? What are the consequences of failing to heed these?
- How does God view Israel's love and worship (HOS 6:4-6)? What does it mean to truly "acknowledge God" in our dealings with others?

## What did I learn about human nature?

- What was Athaliah's plan for herself after the death of her son (2 CH 23)? What does this tell you about her character? If she had been successful in her scheme, what would have happened to God's covenant with King David?
- What is the balance between "trusting the Lord" and "taking matters in your own hands" as a Christian? Should we ever involve ourselves in violent revolution? How does the story of Athaliah and Joash (2 CH 23) help you discern?
- In the end, Joash's religious reforms were only skin deep (2 CH 24). What should he have done to bring about a deep, long lasting revival in the people of Judah? What can we do to bring about renewal in our own community? What persecution (and blessing) might we get in return?
- Does Amos have the proper credentials to speak for God? Why should the people listen to him? How are the sins of Israel's neighbors similar? How are they different? Which of these sins are prevalent today?
- What is the difference between pride and confidence? How can we develop confidence without pride?

## What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Is it easier to seek God when you are prospering or struggling? Have things gone well for you in times of sin? Poorly in times of prayer?
- When have you "run away" from God – refusing to do something you know he's telling you to do? Where can you escape him (PS 139:7-12)? What "storms," then and now, bring you back?
- Jonah didn't care for the people of Nineveh. Who do you struggle to reach out to? People of a different religion? People of a different denomination? People of a different ethnic background? People in a different social class? Who do you see as people God is calling you to reach? Your family? Your neighbors? Your co-workers? Others?
- Amos leveled his criticism at enemies of Israel and Israel itself. How do you respond when enemies are criticized? When friends are criticized? When you are criticized? What sort of issues do you sense God is pointing out as wrong today? Are they personal, individual sins or do they delve into the way society treats other people and other nations?