

Wednesday Night Supplemental Teaching

Covered this week: Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos

Ezekiel

Key Themes

- God will restore a New Israel under Davidic leadership.
- God's sovereignty over the nations.
- Relationship between the individual and the group.

Key Characters: Ezekiel

Setting: Ezekiel comes on the heels of Jeremiah's ministry. Ezekiel was carried into exile in the first major deportation in 597 BC. He ministered in Babylon to the exiles and warns Jews of the coming destruction of Jerusalem.

Key Verses:

- 12:15-16 – "They will know that I am the LORD."
- 18:30, 32 – "Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. . . For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!"
- 34:11-12 – "For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness."

Outline

- I. Prophecies against Jerusalem
 - a. Ezekiel's Vision and Call (1-3)
 - b. Object Lessons and Oracles (4-7)
 - c. Ezekiel's Vision of Jerusalem (8-11)
 - d. Object Lessons and Oracles (12-15)
 - e. An Allegory (16)
 - f. A Parable and a Proverb (17-18)
 - g. A Lament (19)
 - h. Rebellious Israel (20-22)
 - i. The Two Adulterous Sisters (23)
 - j. The Cooking Pot (24)
- II. Prophecies Against the Nations
 - a. Ammon (25:1-7)

- b. Moab (25:8-11)
- c. Edom (25:12-14)
- d. Philistia (25:15-17)
- e. Tyre and Sidon (26-28)
- f. Egypt (29-32)
- III. Prophecies of Restored Israel
 - a. Object Lessons and Oracles (33-35)
 - b. A New Heart, Dry Bones, and Two Sticks (36-37)
 - c. Gog and Magog (38-39)
 - d. The New Temple (40-43)
 - e. The Prince, Levites, and Priests (44)
 - f. The Temple Ritual (45-46)
 - g. The Boundaries of Restored Israel (47)
 - h. The Division of the Land (48)

Other Interesting Notes

- Ezekiel was a priest who was carried off into exile by King Nebuchadnezzar in 597 BC.
- Ezekiel warns Judah of its pending doom. Then he warns those who delight in Judah's fall that they should not be arrogant. God has not abandoned his people and will one day restore them.
- Ezekiel's work furthers the move toward apocalyptic literature by Israel's prophets.

Daniel

Key Themes

- The importance of faith in an increasingly hostile world.
- The sovereignty of God to protect and deliver his people.
- The future is in God's hands and under his sovereign control.

Key Characters: Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Nebuchadnezzar, Darius

Setting: Babylonian Exile (605-535 BC)

Key Verses:

- 1:20 – "In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom."
- 2:20 – "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning."
- 3:17-18 – "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."
- 6:26-27 – "He is the living God and he endures forever...He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

Outline:

- I. Daniel's Experiences
 - a. Training in Babylon (1)
 - b. Two Images (2-3)
 - i. Nebuchadnezzar's dream image (2)
 - ii. Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (3)
 - c. Two Kings Disciplined (4-5)
 - i. Nebuchadnezzar's pride and punishment (4)
 - ii. Belshazzar's presumption and punishment (5)
 - d. Decree of Darius (6)
- II. Daniel's Visions
 - a. Two Visions of Beasts-Empires (7-8)
 - i. Four Beasts (7)
 - ii. Goat and ram (8)
 - b. Two Prophecies Explained (9-12)
 - i. Jeremiah's seventy years (9)
 - ii. Events leading to the end (10-12)

Hosea -

Key Themes

- Yahweh's unchanging love for Israel.
- Yahweh's jealousy for his covenant.
- Yahweh's healing and restoration of the remnant.

Key Characters: Hosea, Gomer, Jezreel, Lo-Ruhamah, and Lo-Ammi

Setting: Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom (750-720)

Key Verses:

- 6:6 – "For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings."
- 13:14 – "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death."

Outline

- I. Superscription
- II. Hosea's Marriage to Gomer the Harlot
 - a. Children of Harlotry (1:2-2:1)
 - b. Gomer's Unfaithfulness (2:2-23)
 - c. Hosea's Faithfulness (3:1-5)
- III. Hosea's Message to Israel
 - a. Israel's Ignorance and Unfaithfulness (4:1-6:3)
 - b. Israel's judgment (6:4-10:15)
 - c. Yahweh's Faithfulness and Love for Israel (11-14)

Other Interesting Notes

- Hosea's marriage is meant to represent Israel's unfaithfulness to Yahweh and worship of the false god Baal.

Joel

Key Themes

- Analogy of the locust plague to describe the coming day of the Lord.
- The pouring out of the spirit on all people as a prelude to judgement.

Key Characters: Joel

Setting: Difficult to date (although he alludes to Isaiah, Ezekiel, Micah, and Amos)

Key Verses:

- 1:15 – “For the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.”
- 2:13 – “Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.”
- 2:28-32 – “I will pour out my spirit on all people, your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”

Outline:

- I. The Current Crisis
 - a. Description of Current Locust Plague (1:1-12)
 - b. Call to Lament the Lost Sacrifices (1:13-14)
 - c. “The Day of the Lord” Is Near: Plague as Judgment (1:15-20)
- II. The Coming Escalation
 - a. Description of Escalation of Locust Plague (2:1-11)
 - b. Call to Repent So as to Prevent Escalation (2:12-17)
 - c. The Day of the Lord Postponed: Renewed Prosperity (2:18-27)
- III. The Future Day of the Lord
 - a. Description of the Day of the Lord (2:28-32)
 - b. Judgment on Nations (3:1-17)
 - c. Prosperity of Israel (3:18-20)

Amos

Key Themes

- God holds the nations accountable for their social policy.
- Israel will not escape the judgment of the day of the Lord.
- True worship leads to social justice.
- God will restore a remnant of Israel.

Key Characters: Amos

Setting: Amos is the earliest of the minor prophets, prophesying to the Northern Kingdom during the reign of Jeroboam II.

Key Verses

- 5:14-15 – “Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts.”
- 5:24 – “Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”
- 9:11a, 15 – “‘The days are coming,’ declares the Lord... ‘I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them.’”

Outline

- I. Introduction (1:1-2)
- II. Oracles Against the Nations
 - a. Oracles Against Foreign Nations (1:3-2:3)
 - b. Oracles Against Judah (2:4-5)
 - c. Oracles Against Israel (2:6-16)
- III. Further Oracles Against Israel (3:1-6:14)
 - a. Hear this Word, People of Israel (3:1-15)
 - b. Hear This Word, Cows of Bashan (4:1-13)
 - c. Hear This Word, House of Israel (5:1-17)
 - d. Woe to Those Anxious for the Day of the Lord (5:18-27)
 - e. Woe to Those at Ease in Zion (6)
- IV. Visions of Judgment
 - a. Vision 1: The Plague of Locusts (7:1-3)
 - b. Vision 2: The Devouring Fire (7:4-6)
 - c. Vision 3: The Lord’s Plumb line (7:7-9)
 - d. Historical Interlude: Amaziah Challenges Amos (7:10-17)
 - e. Vision 4: The Basket of Summer Fruit (8:1-3)
 - f. Prophetic Interjection: Oracles of Judgment (8:4-14)
 - g. Vision 5: The Lord Standing beside the Altar (9:1-4)
 - h. Theological Exposition: On the Sovereignty of God and the Restoration of Israel (9:5-15)

Other Interesting Notes

- Amos was a shepherd and a sycamore fig farmer in the Southern Kingdom who came north to prophesy to the Northern Kingdom.