



Class 9 - Isaiah, Hosea, Joel

Old Testament Seminar - Immanuel Church

Isaiah

Introducing Old Testament Prophecy

- Counseling Scenario
- Forthtelling and Foretelling
- Seven Tips for Interpretation
 1. Discern the immediate context
 2. Discern the kind of oracle employed
 3. Study the balance between the historical and predictive
 4. Determine what kind of language is being used
 5. Place the text in its place in redemptive-history
 6. Be aware of recurring and sweeping themes
 7. Consider New Testament usage

Introducing Isaiah (Isaiah 1 & 2)

Chapter 1:

Chapter 2:

Principle 1: Know the Structure

- Isaiah 1-39

- Isaiah 40-66

Principle 2: Be Alert for Recurring & Sweeping Themes

1. Pride (2:11; 5:21)
2. Trust (chs. 1-39)
3. God as the Holy One (ch. 6)
4. God as the Sole and Incomparable Ruler of Creation and History (chs. 40-48)
5. God as the Sole Redeemer (54:5,8)
6. The Remnant (10:20-21; 11:1-2; see chs. 56-59)
7. The Servant (42:1; 49:1-6; 50:4-9; 52:13-53:12)
8. The Conqueror (59:15-21; 61:1-4; 61:10-62:7; 63:1-6)
9. New Jerusalem — the Bride (62:3-5)

Principle 3: Consider the NT Authoritative Interpretation

1. Jesus Is the Promised Messiah (Rom. 15:12)
2. Jesus Is the Holy One (Jn. 12:41)
3. Jesus Is the Promised Redeemer (Lk. 3:4-6)
4. Jesus as Suffering Servant (Matt. 12:17-18)
5. Jesus as Conqueror (Rev. 22:12)

A Study Outline for Isaiah

- i. Historical Jerusalem and the failure of the Davidic kings (chs. 1-39)
 - a. Chapters 1-5: Prologue. Darkness gathering around the people of Israel.
 - b. Chapter 6: Isaiah's call to the prophetic ministry.
 - c. Chapter 7: Historical narrative concerning trust # 1 — Ahaz

- d. Chapter 8-11: Two prophecies of woe to Israel and Judah foretelling destruction but ending with a prophecy of the coming Messiah
- e. Chapter 12: Song of praise to God.
- f. Chapters 13-27: Three cycles of prophecy against the nations surrounding the two kingdoms of Israel.
- g. Chapters 28-35: A series of six poems, each starting with the word “Woe.” The Lord upbraids his people for looking for security in Egypt. Israel’s main problem is not political, but spiritual.
- h. Chapters 36-39: Historical narrative concerning trust # 2 — Hezekiah
- ii. Eschatological Jerusalem and the triumph of the Servant and Conqueror (chs. 40-66)
 - a. Chapters 40-42:17: Consolation to Israel and the nations
 - b. Chapters 42:18-44:23: Israel’s Two Problems; God’s Two Promises
 - c. Chapters 44:24-48: A great deliverance (Cyrus)
 - d. Chapters 49-55: A greater deliverance (Suffering Servant)
 - e. Chapters 56-59:13: Ethical sermons: the needs and sins of the Lord’s people
 - f. Chapters 59:14-63:6: The coming conqueror
 - g. Chapter 63:7-66: Paradise regained — the new heavens and earth

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.

This material is adapted from a course with the same name developed by Capitol Hill Baptist Church. It has been modified for our purposes and has been condensed to fit our time schedule. The original version is available on their website at <https://www.capitolhillbaptist.org/resources/core-seminars/series/old-testament-overview/>