



Minor Prophets Hosea - Micah



Reading the Bible Together September 2015

What is 'In Sync' Bible Reading?

'In Sync' encourages us to read together through the Bible, and then reflect together on what we have read from God's Word. We consider the main message and the key themes of a whole book (or books) of the Bible, and then we can share with others what we have learnt through our Bible reading.

'I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.' (Psalm 119:16)

Questions to consider

Reading the Bible does not have to be an intellectual study. Anyone can read the Bible and by God's grace understand it. The main thing is that we pray for God's help as we read.

Here are some questions to help you think through what you are reading:

1. What have I learnt about God and about Jesus?
2. What does this teach me about humanity and myself?
3. What has most encouraged me from this book?
4. How does this teach me to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul and mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
5. How does this teach me to love my neighbour as myself? (Matt 22:37-40)
6. Is there anything else I should learn here to be 'equipped for every good work' (2 Tim 3:17)

What can we expect?

There are 12 minor prophets in the Old Testament. The prophet was God's spokesman - warning the people of Israel of their unfaithfulness, announcing God's judgment, calling for repentance, and foretelling a better and brighter future. The minor prophets ministered in the days when Israel was divided into Israel (northern kingdom) and Judah (southern kingdom).

Hosea

Hosea ministered to Israel in turbulent times (750-710 BC) when the nation was under threat from the Assyrians who invaded in 722BC. In the first 3 chapters, the troubled marriage of Hosea and Gomer describes the unfaithfulness of idolatrous Israel. Chapters 4-14 are more difficult to read and understand.

Joel

A dominant theme in Joel is the 'day of the Lord'. The book also contains the promise of the outpouring of the Spirit fulfilled at Pentecost.

Amos

In Amos, we find oracles against 8 surrounding nations (1-2), judgement speeches against Israel (3-6), and 5 visions with the final one announcing salvation (7-9). Other than idolatry, the other main issue provoking God's judgment is social injustice.

Obadiah

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament. Obadiah ministered in Jerusalem sometime after 586BC. Obadiah pronounces Edom's doom.

Jonah

Jonah is the most well-known of the minor prophets. The book encourages us to consider the compassion of God and his concern for the world.

Micah

The theme of Micah is judgment and forgiveness. Some of his oracles of salvation picture a future golden age with messianic prophecy.

In-Sync for October : Wisdom Books