

## Monday Night Discipleship: Week 24

### Overview:

1. Biblical Interpretation: Who or what determines the meaning of a text? (Part 2)
2. Longman Chapter 25 discussion:
  - a. Content: What Is Hosea About?
  - b. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Hosea and When?
  - c. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Hosea?
  - d. Connections: How Does Hosea Connect to the Gospel?

### Biblical Interpretation: Who or what determines the meaning of a text? (Part 2)

#### The Author as the Ultimate Determiner of Meaning

1. What defines this approach?
  - a. The meaning of a text ultimately comes from the \_\_\_\_\_. This approach highlights the reader's responsibility to rightly understand the author's \_\_\_\_\_ found in the author's \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. In this approach, context is key in order to understand the original, conscious-intent of the author and his/her purpose in writing/speaking.
  - c. Plummer writes, "One of the main arguments for the author-determined approach to meaning is that this method is the commonsense approach to all communication. If your friend says, 'I would like a hamburger for lunch,' and you respond, 'Why is it that you hate Caucasians?' the person would rightly respond, 'Are you crazy? Did you not hear what I said?' Any act of communication can progress only on the assumption that someone is trying to convey meaning to us and we then respond to that meaning intended by the speaker or writer."<sup>1</sup>
2. What are some objections to this approach? Plummer offers four common objections listed below.<sup>2</sup>
  - a. "*We can never access the author's thoughts, so the authorial meaning of the text is inaccessible to us.*"<sup>3</sup>
    - i. What is the meaning of this objection?
    - ii. Response:

---

<sup>1</sup> Robert Plummer, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 130.

<sup>2</sup> Plummer, 130-131.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

- b. *“An author’s worldview might be so distant from our own that we can never claim to understand his meaning.”*<sup>4</sup>
- i. What is the meaning of this objection?
  - ii. Response:
- c. *“To seek the author’s intended meaning makes the document irrelevant for modern readers.”*<sup>5</sup>
- i. What is the meaning of this objection?
  - ii. Response: What this objection fails to understand, is that there is an important connection between correct \_\_\_\_\_ and correct implications.
- d. *“To delimit meaning to the conscious intent of the human author is to deny the divine authorship of Scripture.”*<sup>6</sup>
- i. What is the meaning of this objection?
  - ii. Response: Two important things need to be addressed concerning this criticism.
    1. Human author’s intent is indistinguishable from divine intent-
    2. Overcoming the challenge of prophecy- “divine intent can and should be subsumed under an author-oriented approach to interpreting the Bible.”<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Plummer, 131.

Longman Chapter 25 discussion:

1. Content: What Is Hosea About?

a. Introduction:

- i. First of the Book of Twelve- Hosea is the first of the 12 \_\_\_\_\_ prophets.

The Book of Twelve <sup>8</sup>		
Book	Summary	Recipients
Hosea	“A message of Israel’s condemnation followed by God’s forgiveness”	Northern Kingdom
Joel	“A prediction of foreign invasion as a form of judgment by God”	Southern Kingdom
Amos	“A prophecy of eight pronouncements of judgment against Israel”	Northern Kingdom
Obadiah	“A prophecy of the destruction of Edom”	Southern Kingdom
Jonah	“A reluctant prophet who led Nineveh to repentance”	The people of Nineveh
Micah	“A prediction of judgment and a promise of messianic restoration”	Southern Kingdom
Nahum	“A prophecy of the destruction of Nineveh”	Southern Kingdom
Habakkuk	“A prophet who questioned God and praised His approaching judgment against Judah”	Southern Kingdom
Zephaniah	“A prediction of destructive judgment followed by tremendous blessing”	Southern Kingdom
Haggai	“A call to rebuild the Temple”	God’s people after the exile
Zechariah	“A messianic prophecy calling for the completion of the Temple”	God’s people after the exile
Malachi	“A prophecy of destruction followed by messianic blessing”	God’s people after the exile

<sup>8</sup> This is an adaptation with direct quotes from George Knight and James Edwards’ *Compact Bible Handbook*. Nelson’s Compact Series (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Inc, 2004), 152-153.

- ii. Familiar beginning, foreign ending-
  
- iii. Arrangement of the Book of Twelve-
  - 1. Jewish Tradition- According to Jewish tradition, the arrangement of the 12 minor prophets is based on the \_\_\_\_\_ of its composition.
  
  - 2. Thematic Arrangement- Another explanation is that the arrangement is based on their thematic \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- iv. Very difficult to interpret-

b. Outline: Hosea can be broken up into two unequal parts:

- i. Hosea's marriage illustrates God's relationship with Israel (Hosea 1-3)-
  - 1. His children-
  
  
  - 2. His marriage-
  
- ii. Israel's Adultery and God's Faithfulness (Hosea 4-14)
  - 1. First cycle of judgment and hope (Hosea 4:1-11:11)-
  
  
  - 2. Second cycle of judgment and hope (Hosea 11:12-14:9)-

2. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Hosea and When?

- a. Author: Traditionally, it is understood that \_\_\_\_\_ the prophet wrote this book that bears his name (superscription 1:1).

- b. Date: Based on the references to the different kings on the throne, it is believed that Hosea was written around \_\_\_\_\_ BC.
  
- 3. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Hosea?
  - a. Minor Prophets-
  
  - b. Two major types of oracles
  
- 4. Connections: How Does Hosea Connect to the Gospel?
  - a. Various New Testament's References-
  
  - b. Marriage a theological symbol of God's Covenant-

### **R.E.A.P.**

Hosea 2:14-23

<sup>14</sup>“Therefore, behold, I will allure her,  
and bring her into the wilderness,  
and speak tenderly to her.

<sup>15</sup>And there I will give her her vineyards  
and make the Valley of Achor<sup>[e]</sup> a door of hope.  
And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth,  
as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.

<sup>16</sup>“And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer will you call me ‘My Baal.’ <sup>17</sup>For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no more. <sup>18</sup>And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish<sup>[f]</sup> the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety. <sup>19</sup>And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. <sup>20</sup>I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.

