

**“VOICES – THE MINOR PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT”****Biblically, prophets were MESSENGERS of God**

*“The Bible asserts that God prepared his prophets for a very specific ministry. They brought the divine word to people who desperately needed to hear it.” Bill T. Arnold*

**The Minor Prophets were NOT**

1. Fortune **TELLERS**
2. Hysterical **BABBLERS**
3. Religious **FANATICS**

**The Minor Prophets WERE**

1. Deeply **DEVOTED** to God
2. Possessed a strong sense of **CALLING**
3. Revealed **URGENT** messages God had revealed to them
4. **FORTTELLERS** – They spoke of God’s truth to their own generation, pointing out the evils of their day and called the people to repent.
5. **FORETELLERS** – They spoke of God’s judgment and restoration, bad news and good news, to motivate God’s people to faithful living in the present.
6. Gifted **COMMUNICATORS** – They used a variety of literary and oral techniques to communicate their messages.

**The Essence of Their Message**

- A call to **REPENTANCE**
- A promise of **SALVATION** for those who will turn back to him

*“Although these books were written over 2,500 years ago, we’ll discover that the issues they address – political corruption, spiritual leadership, integrity and ethics, mistreatment of the poor and vulnerable, sexual confusion, war and violence, attraction to false gods and cheap happiness – are as relevant to our world as to theirs.”*

[All Scripture references from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted]

**The Problem (1:1-2)**

1. **REBELLION** = the people of God have turned their backs on God  
*“There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land.” Hosea 4:1*
2. **IDOLATRY** = the people of God have worshipped other gods  
*“They have deserted the Lord to worship other gods.” Hosea 4:1*

*“Go and marry a prostitute so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution. This will illustrate how Israel acted like a prostitute by turning against the Lord and worshiping other gods.” Hosea 1:2*

**Divine Punishment (1:3-9; 2:1-13)**

1. Loss of **RELATIONSHIPS**
2. Loss of **IDENTITY**
3. Loss of **INTIMACY**

**The Offer of Divine Hope and Restoration (1:10-2:1; 2:14-23)**

1. **RETORED** relationship
2. **RECLAIMED** identity
3. **REDEEMED** intimacy

**God’s Unrelenting Love Made Visible (Hosea 3)**

*“Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover. This will illustrate that the Lord still loves Israel, even though the people have turned to other gods and love to worship them.” Hosea 3:1*

1. A picture of God’s **UNRELENTING** love  
*“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Romans 5:8*
2. A picture of God’s **UNMERITED** grace  
*“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” 1 John 1:9*