

February

Ruth, Hosea, Song of Solomon

February 1 – Ruth 1 – Naomi and Ruth - What do we know about “the days when the judges ruled”? Why did Mahlon and Kilion marry Moabite women? What triple tragedy occurred for Naomi and her daughter’s in law? What was Naomi’s solution to this problem? What was Ruth’s solution? What made the difference between Ruth and Orpah? How do we see this same difference in people around us today?

February 2 – Ruth 2 – Godly romance - What danger would a young, widow be taking in gleaning in a stranger’s field? What if she was not an Israelite? V.3 says, “as it turned out” – do things “just happen by chance”? or what does this mean? What do we know of Boaz? Why is Boaz so interested in Ruth? What does this teach us about God’s love for all people?

February 3 – Ruth 3 – Kinsman-redeemer – What is a “kinsman-redeemer”? How was Naomi a “match-maker”? Is this good? What does it mean to “spread the corner of your garment over me”? (v.9) How did Boaz and Ruth both show discretion?

February 4 – Ruth 4 – Covenant marriage – What was involved in the marriage to Ruth? What is prophetic as to the blessing of the elders and those at the gate who made it legal? (v.11-12) Note also v.12 with v.18-22. (Who might have written the book of Ruth?)

February 5 – Ruth 1-4 - Jesus’ relatives - Since the book is so short, take, read it all at one time – getting the whole story at once. “Watch” God’s hand of guiding that blessing in the lives of Naomi, Ruth, Boaz and every one of us!

February 6 – Hosea 1 – The Family - Oh, what a difference from the story of Ruth! What a burden God called Hosea to bear! Why did God call Hosea in this way? What were the names of the children? And what was God’s promise in spite of the prophecy through the names of the 3 children? What is “the day of Jezreel”?

February 7 – Hosea 2 – Israel as “mother” - Keep in mind that Hosea (husband) represents God, and Gomer (wife) represents Israel. How was Gomer unfaithful? How was Israel unfaithful? After punishment, what does God promise to do for his unfaithful “wife”? When is “in that day”?

February 8 – Hosea 3 – Reconciliation - What was significant about the amount Hosea paid to get Gomer back? How could Hosea “love” her again? Hosea wrote before the Assyrian captivity, he wrote to the Northern tribes – although the message applied to Judah as well (later, the Babylonian captivity). What promise of hope is in the midst of so much unfaithfulness?

February 9 – Hosea 4 – Charge against Israel – As you read this charge against Israel – how would it read to America today? What is meant by “My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge”? (v.6) What is the threat for those who reject God’s law? What responsibility did the priests have? Who are the “priests” today?

February 10 – Hosea 5 – Judgment against Israel – What is the prostitution that God is talking about? (see v.4, 13) How is that same prostitution going on in America today? What does God threaten to do to them? (v.14-15) What is the purpose for God’s judgment on them? What does this say to us in America today?

February 11 – Hosea 6 – Unrepentant! – How was Israel further sinning by what they expected from God? What does God say about their false expectations? (v.4-5) What does America expect of God in our day? What does God say to Israel about true repentance? (v.6) How does this apply to us today?

February 12 – Hosea 7 – Ephraim (N. Israel) – What would happen when God sought to “heal Israel”? What did God desire of His people? (v.7, 10, 14) What is America’s relationship with God? What is your relationship with God?

February 13 – Hosea 8 – Reap the Whirlwind – What does it mean to “sow the wind and reap the whirlwind”? Although they built many altars, how was it that they were altars for sinning? (v.11-14) What does this mean in America today?

February 14 – Hosea 9 – Unfaithful Israel – What was the result of unfaithfulness to God? How were the people of Hosea’s time receiving his words? (v.7-8) How often Hosea writes of God “remembering their wickedness and sins”? This is a serious warning! What does this teach us about Jesus? Why does God “hate” His people? (v.15) What “holy wrath” does Hosea share with God? (v.14, 17)

February 15 – Hosea 10 – Call to Repentance – How was Israel’s heart “deceitful”? (v.2) Why do they say “we have no king”? What will happen to their “king”? (v.6-7) Who or what is “king” in America? What is the solution for Israel’s problems? (v.12) But what have they done? (v.13-15) No wonder they wish the mountains and hills to fall on them! (v.8)

February 16 – Hosea 11 – God’s love – with v.1, see also ex. 4:22-23 and Matt. 2:15. Note all that God had done for His son, “My people:, and God’s tenderness.

February 17 – Hosea 12 – History re-called – recall all the references to Jacob in these verses / recall that Israel is Jacob’s covenant name – what is the significance of re-calling for them all about “Jacob”? Again (11:10 and 12:9) what is God’s constant reminder of what He has done for His people?

February 18 – Hosea 13 – Laying down the law – compare this chapter with Exodus 20. What threat does God make for those who “become proud and forget the Lord their God”? After the threat, what is the wonderful promise? (v.14 – see also 1 Corinthians 15:55-57)

February 19 – Hosea 14 – Blessings Follow Repentance – “Return” is the message of the prophets. Compare this true repentance with the false repentance of ch. 6! What is the only source of faithfulness? (v.8)

February 20 – Song of Solomon 1 – Expressions of Love – with 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kgs. 11:3) to which wife was Solomon writing this? Or was he writing it for a different reason?

February 21 – Song of Solomon 2 – The Fruit of love – apples and raisins; fig trees and vines – what does all of this have to do with God’s love for us?

February 22 – Song of Solomon 3 – A New Movement of Love – Note the repetition (2:7; 3:5; 8:4) – what does this phrase mean? Who does the searching? Why is this so important?

February 23 – Song of Solomon 4 – Beauty described – How does this compare to what the world say is “beauty” today? Has the definition of “beauty” changed through the centuries? If so, how and why? What reaction would wives have if their husbands said these words to them?

February 24 – Song of Solomon 5 – Compared to a garden – The garden imagery really started in ch. 4 – Note the wonderful smells of the garden, and the wonderful discoveries.

February 25 – Song of Solomon 6 – Sensuous attractions – “Absence makes the heart...” With v. 8-9, how would Solomon choose a favorite?

February 26 – Song of Solomon 7 – Physical beauty – How has the sinful world cheapened the beauty that God created?

February 27 – Song of Solomon 8 – Guardian brother – PDA (public display of affection) v.1 – no disgrace of showing affection in public. With v.4 b, see again 2:7, love is not to be artificially stimulated. Why is pornography so prevalent in society today?

February 28 – Song of Solomon 1-8 - God’s love for us. This precious kind of love is God’s gift to mankind – in Christian marriage (not multiple marriages as Solomon!)