**“The Test Of Prosperity”**

**Hosea 13:4-6**

**I. Twin Truths About Israel Prior to its Demise**

**Q -** *“Adversity makes men, Prosperity, makes monsters.”* Victor Hugo writer of *Les Misérables*

**A) Israel Experienced Renewed Prosperity**

Hosea 1:1 & Jeroboam II

*Hosea 12:8 Ephraim has said "Ah, but I am rich; I have found wealth for myself …*

**B) Israel Experienced Progressive Turmoil**

Hosea 7:6-7, 11

**II. The Test of Prosperity**

*“Let’s see if I can handle it LORD?”*

**A) What is the Result of Israel’s Prosperity?**

1) Forgot that it was God who gives the power to attain wealth

Hosea 2:8, Deuteronomy 8:11-17

2) Multiplied Idols and False Worship

Hosea 10:1, 13:2

3) They built more palaces

Hosea 8:14

4) Israel’s Sin *Increased*

Hosea 4:6-7 *… The more they increased, the more they sinned against me*

Proverbs 9:10

5) Israel longed for More Wealth

Hosea 7:13-14

**Q** - *“Measure wealth not by the things you have, but by the things you have for which you would not take money.”* Anonymous

**B) What were the Consequences of turning away from God?**

Hosea 13:6 & Hosea 11:5

1) Trusting in other nations for Help: Hosea 8:9-10

2) Erecting Substitutes for God: Hosea 8:4-7

3) Ingrained Habits became an Obstacle to return: Hosea 5:3-4

**III. How Can I Prepare for the Test of Prosperity?**

**A) Repent Now** see Hosea 10:12, 5:15

**B) Be Intentional Along the Way**

1) Increase your giving when you get increases in pay or bonuses

2) On vacation endeavor to take one day

3) Fast and Pray 1 meal a week

4) When something “good” happens - thank the LORD.

5) Memorize verses that remind you that it is God who gives prosperity: Deuteronomy 8:18; 3 John 1:2

6) Remember the Gospel: 2 Corinthians 8:9

7) Grad School Level - Life Verse: Proverbs 30:7-9

|  |
| --- |
| **Assyrian Judgment 734-701 B.C.**  **Prophet Year Location**  Jonah 793-753 Nineveh  **Hosea 750-722 Northern Israel**  3 invasions: 740-734 B.C., 722 B.C., 701 B.C.  Amos 760-750 Northern Israel (**722 Fall of Samaria** - Assyrian Exile)  Micah 735-701 Judah  Nahum 663-612 Judah  Isaiah 740-701 Judah |
| **Babylonian Judgement 605-586 B.C.**  **Prophet Year Location**  Jeremiah 626-586 Judah  Zephaniah 640-609 Judah  Joel 597-586 Judah 3 Invasions: 605 B.C., 597 B.C., 586/7 B.C.  Obadiah 597-586 Judah (**586 Fall of Jerusalem** - Babylonian Exile)  Habakkuk 605 Judah  Ezekiel 597-586 Babylon  Daniel 605-539 Babylon |
| **Restoration Period 539-400 B.C.**  **Prophet Year Location**  Haggai 520 Jerusalem Rebuilding of Temple Finished 515 B.C.  Zechariah 520 Jerusalem (**538/9 B.C. Return from Exile**)  Malachi 450-400 Jerusalem |

**DATES BOOKS Subject/Topic**

Oct 14 **Intro** 1) Intro to Minor Prophets

Oct 21 Hosea            2) This is your last chance

Oct 28 Hosea 3) No Rivals

Nov 4 Hosea    4) God’s Amazing Love

Nov 11 Amos     5) Social Justice is Godly

Nov 18 Amos 6) The Day of the LORD

Nov 25 Amos 7) Judgement & Salvation

Dec 2 **New Members Sunday**

Dec 9 Amos 8) Recognizing Hand of LORD

Dec 16 Joel              9) The Day of the LORD

Dec 23 Joel 10) The Day of the Church

Dec 30 Habakkuk    11) Righteous Live by Faith

Jan 6 Habakkuk 12) Hope: Always Rejoicing

**DATES BOOKS Subject/Topic**

Jan 13 Jonah             13) The Missionary God

Jan 20 Obadiah        14) Reveling in Disaster

Jan 27 Micah            15) Messiah & the Latter Days

Feb 3 Micah 16) What the LORD Requires

Feb 10 Nahum          17) Nineveh’s Impending Fall

Feb 17 Zephaniah    18) Judgement & Singing

Feb 24 Haggai           19) Rebuilding Project

Mar 3 Zechariah 20) Repent & Return to God

Mar 10 Zechariah 21) 8 Visions

Mar 17 Zechariah  22) Joshua the High Priest

Mar 24 Malachi 23) Return to Me

Mar 31 **Summary** 24) Minor Prophets

**Preaching Schedule**