

## **BIBLE MYSTERY AND BIBLE MEANING OLD TESTAMENT**

### **Lesson 15**

#### **The Northern Kingdom**

#### **Hosea • Amos • Jonah**

#### **Habakkuk, Haggai, and Zechariah**

#### **The Northern Kingdom**

Illusions are quite deceiving. Material wealth and power often look a lot larger and stronger than they are. Israel's consciousness had fallen deep into this illusion. Though Jeroboam ruled a kingdom that was in the size and the majesty of David, it was to be short lived. Though there was wealth it was a minority that enjoyed it. Middle class was suffering greatly and the poor were in dire straits. Homes were seized and many people were sold into slavery. Assyria's armies had gathered and Israel was right in their path as the Assyrian armies moved towards Egypt. At best the people worshiped Jahvah outwardly with many expensive gifts and performing rituals and ceremonies.

In time most of the upper classes were deported and the remaining population in time intermarried with the Assyrians. They became known as the Samaritans, named after the former capitol Samaria.

A commonality that we see among these prophets is faith; a knowing that God is at work as Life. In this faith they have the clarity of Christ Mind. They are not influenced by man's opinions and facts. Their faith is in knowing that the activity of God has been and will always be at work. It is the first thing first. Their abundance is in hearing God Mind expressed in the wisdom that is the way and the principle of all that is.

For it is the principle and Law that created the visible in six days. It is the Goodness of God; perfect in expression, moving forth in the motionless Love, Grace, Peace, and Knowledge; expressing in the Joy of Infinite and Divine Harmony.

By now in these lessons you can see God is changeless. The creative expression of each person is personal and yet impersonal. The Truth remains the same. It is a contiguous conjecture that abides in the time of the people's needs and their need to learn. Truth is infinite and changeless. We, His children, are always changing, reshaping, and molding, hopefully, into a higher state of God Mind.

The Principles and Laws of the Divine Source do not alter in their structure, including increasing or decreasing. All that is has always been. We grow in the receptivity of attraction to these Truths and what will be... will be. This is simply because God is the infinite and eternal motionless motion, The I Am that I AM, the One Power, Perfect and Complete.

*On the last day, at the highest step of stupendous creative process, God created man in His own image and likeness. – Max Ballard*

*I have said, "Ye are gods..." – Psalms 82:6*

## Hosea

Hosea, a prophet of Israel, whose name means divine mind / God Consciousness saves. Hosea was a deliverer and his prophecy was the unfaithfulness of Israel. He was a contemporary of Amos in Israel, and of Isaiah, Micah in Judah, and Jeroboam II, the king of Israel.

This book focuses on how God Mind is changeless. When we choose a different path we will suffer in lack brought on by our short comings. In this state of mind we build walls of great limitations, shutting ourselves out from Life (God). We suffer by our taking back our will (our duality) as we choose to live in a consciousness of Idolatry. A very important part of this book is that we can return to the God Consciousness that we have forsaken. In this important Truth when we return, we return to the "I AM; God all Good". In other words we return to that which we already are one with in creation. Separating ourselves from the oneness is error thinking and the results will be the suffering that comes from erroneous living.

Hosea came at a time when Israel needed a prophet to bring them out of darkness. The consciousness of Israel, on a sociological level, had succumbed to a consciousness of injustice, lust, greed, and drunkenness. It was the way of the king and from the crown swept a life full of idolatry.

In chapters one and three, as the story is told, Hosea married Gomer. They had three children:

1. Jezreel which means "God scatters," a prophecy of Israel's doom.
2. Lo-ruhamah which means "Not pitied".
3. Lo-ammi which means "Not my people".

Note: Lo is the reverse of EL. Their names were a warning to the people of Israel.

Gomer was unfaithful to Hosea. She was a product of Israel's unfaithfulness to God. She was banished from Hosea's house (consciousness) and she continued to live the immoral life of a harlot.

Hosea redeemed her, keeping her in a secluded place where she could strengthen herself and find the restoration in God Mind before returning to his home. This was not man's law to do so; it was Hosea's being in the Grace and Goodness of God Mind.

Gomer's falling from grace was no different than Israel having become a harlot idol; worshipping false gods, placing great limitations before God, and succumbing to sensuous pleasures and a self-centered un-quenching thirst for the desires that can never be fulfilled. It is in this abandonment of God Mind that our lust storms out of control in all areas of our lives, i.e. money, power, sex, consumption, greed, drunkenness, sloth, envy, vengeance, jealousy, etc.... However like Gomer, Israel was not beyond redemption.

For nearly a decade Hosea tried to bring Israel back from its self-made bondage.

He taught God's just and loving goodness. It is through times of redemption that a deep inner strength will be built within, creating a foundation that is of steadfast love and knowledge of God.

*"For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings."* --Hosea 6:6 (Also quoted by Jesus Christ in Matthew 9:13 and 12:7)

Here in Hosea 11 and 14 we see the beauty and love that always prevails. We see how we inflict ourselves with the suffering that stems from duality and believing in separation. We also see the redemption; re-finding ourselves in God's Love, but the healing can only take place through forgiveness. It is in the forgiveness we find mercy and the road back to well-being, but only if we are open and receptive to it. Still that is not enough. We must practice it in our daily living, for it is our daily bread. We must nourish ourselves in God's being as "I AM" so that we too can live as "I am".

*I have said, "Ye are gods..." – Psalms 82:6*

## Hosea 11

*When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.*

*As they called them, so they went from them: they sacrificed unto Baalim, and burned incense to graven images.*

*I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them. I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them.*

*He shall not return into the land of Egypt, but the Assyrian shall be his king, because they refused to return.*

*And the sword shall abide on his cities, and shall consume his branches, and devour them, because of their own counsels.*

*And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the most High, none at all would exalt him.*

*How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? how shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? how shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together.*

*I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: for I am God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee: and I will not enter into the city.*

*They shall walk after the LORD: he shall roar like a lion: when he shall roar, then the children shall tremble from the west.*

*They shall tremble as a bird out of Egypt, and as a dove out of the land of Assyria: and I will*

*place them in their houses, saith the LORD.*

*Ephraim compasseth me about with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit: but Judah yet ruleth with God, and is faithful with the saints.*

## **Hosea 14**

*O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.*

*Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.*

*Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.*

*I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.*

*I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.*

*His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon.*

*They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon.*

*Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found.*

*Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.*

## **Amos**

Amos was burdened with the heavy load of The North Kingdoms sins. Amos was outraged by the violence that was done to the justice and righteousness of God. Passages that describes the prophecy of Amos' are found here in 5:14-24;

### **Amos 5: 14-24**

*Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.*

*Therefore the LORD, the God of hosts, the Lord, saith thus; Wailing shall be in all streets; and they shall say in all the highways, Alas! alas! and they shall call the husbandman to mourning, and such as are skilful of lamentation to wailing.*

*And in all vineyards shall be wailing: for I will pass through thee, saith the LORD.*

*Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light.*

*As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.*

*Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.*

*Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.*

*Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.*

***But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.***

Amos had eyes to see and ears to listen. He was a herdsman and a farmer turned prophet from Takoa, the southern kingdom of Judea just eleven miles south of Jerusalem. There is no information regarding any formal education or entering into a priesthood.

Often when one carries a burden such as his, that in and of itself can be a great education into understanding life and how the many live. Amos had a great understanding of Israel and Judah. He also knew that Assyria was a great threat, and Israel due to its wickedness, was in denial. This left them susceptible to the Assyrian armies. Though of Judea, his prophetic work was done in the Northern Kingdom. He was slightly before Hosea.

Despite Amos' vision of Israel's impending doom he, like Hosea, did all he could to have Israel hear the Truth and perhaps salvage itself from such future suffering.

Change is always the key to life. Here the many had become like a container of rotted fruit, because of their hypocrisy, greed and callousness. They had become numb to the many warnings that would normally jolt a person / nation back into itself true innate self.

With time the prophecies of Amos came to be and the destruction of Israel came to be.

Again we see how the Laws of God do not change. How we use them can bring great abundance into our lives or horrible destruction. These warnings are always about our misuse of God Principle. Like always begets like. When we practice His Laws, what we express is what we attract. If one really needs to blame God, then blame God for the Laws. However it is the foolish mind that choose to waste its time in such un-godly thoughts. When our faith is directed to and pulls from the negativity of man's sub-conscious ideals (Duality) stemming from ignorance, functioning from a barbaric and primitive state of awareness, then we will know only lack and we will suffer.

His Laws have a safety net. To continue to use them in negative and greedy ways, these Laws will surface as impending doom, simply because they come out of Love. A loveless-ness practice will only create an abomination of false gods and false sense of security. His Mercy and Grace give us a lot of space to get it right. To ignore the warnings only leads to deeper and deeper self-destruction.

The Word has been with us since before time itself. Many have come to teach us, warn us, redeem us, and even shelter us from the wickedness so that we may be born anew. We have always been given

the Grace to “work it out”. Still man gets complacent and full of himself over and over again and we are taught over and over again.

Even the Word was made flesh here on earth, and still we struggle. Always there is the Restoration, the Forgiveness, and the Love that is God.

## **Amos 9: 11-15**

### **The Restoration**

*For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.*

*All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, which say, The evil shall not overtake nor prevent us.*

*In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:*

*That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this.*

*Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.*

*And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.*

Amos' writings are a great teaching in cause and effect and that like begets like. In addition, these lesson reaffirm, as we walk in the light we will not succumb to the darkness. Amos, as the other prophets, are a fine example of Jesus' statement, “Resist not evil”.

## **Jonah**

The story of Jonah is one of understanding law and yet how often we decide to attempt to work outside of law, to ignore the law. This is nothing more than an impossible attempt to try to separate ourselves from God. God is love and law, and we cannot be separated.

Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria and settled as early as 6000 B.C.E. Our story was written around 350 B.C.E. The historical significance can often be a consideration for this story takes place well after the Assyrian capture of the northern tribe of Israel. The Assyrians had deported Hebrew leaders in an attempt to rule the remaining people. It was also during this time that the twelve tribes of Israel ceased to exist.



In this story, Jonah was depicted as irritable, unpleasant and cynical; and yet he is also described as “a servant of the Lord.” *“Arise, go to Nineveh and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.”* (Jonah 1:2) This story is an allegory in which the author shows a delightful sense of humor throughout, for we are dealing with a reluctant spokesperson in Jonah. The Hebrew people had an exclusive attitude concerning God, and yet our story deals with a lesson that can often present itself more frequently, judgment.

George Lamsa in his book Idioms in the Bible explains that the first verse “The word of the Lord came to Jonah” (Jonah 1:1, 3:1) is a Middle Eastern way of saying that Jonah was in a vision. In the initial vision he becomes defiant and takes passage on a ship going in the opposite direction. A storm arises that is so severe that it upsets everyone on the ship. Divine guidance is a blessing and, when we choose to ignore God, we can expect a continual storm. God cannot be ignored; it is our responsibility to see as God sees, wholeness and perfection. Not Jonah, he disregarded God’s instruction, and if we choose to try to separate ourselves from God then we have opened ourselves to a life filled with peril. It can directly impact everyone around us, for we do not live in a vacuum. Jonah prefers to be thrown overboard to perish in the sea, and yet he is saved by a fish.

In chapter 2 Jonah shows a clear understanding, “I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction, And He answered me...*Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, And You heard my voice...Then I said, I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple...I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.*” God is always with us and yet a good portion of the time we only reach out in desperation. Out of Sheol or darkness we turn within to the Holy Temple, we know that God is all there is. We know there is only one source, GOD. To give thanks is our recognition that God has provided and is always providing, and that we accept our spiritual wellbeing for our Heavenly Father waits patiently.

Chapter 3 begins with the same phrase, *“The word of the Lord came to Jonah,”* and yet this is followed by the instruction to “Arise and go to Nineveh.” Is Jonah still in a vision, or does he proceed to Nineveh? Yet, everything that happens in our lives occurs because of what we are holding in mind.

In our story, Jonah continues to Nineveh and speaks to the people, and they turn to God. When we are directed, by God, to serve another we must realize that our task will move forth with an appropriate outcome. We need only open ourselves to the guidance within. The people of Nineveh are open to receive and yet once again Jonah is distraught.

Jonah once again positions himself above Nineveh, and still continues to hold onto the past beliefs. He simply does not want to accept all that is happening. Looking down on Nineveh, his judgment of the past actions still veils the need to accept and forgive each and every person, and every previous situation. God provides Jonah with a vine to protect him from the relentless heat, and of course he is also given a worm. The worm devours the vine and once again he is exposed to the heat.

Life is an amazing adventure, one of fantastic growth if we but allow ourselves the continued opportunity. Our minds are strong and creative and so often lead us on a variety of adventures, such as Jonah’s vision. At this point in our journey we realize that Spirit knows our needs and desires, and our need for a further understanding of the Creative Genius presents itself in a variety of experiences.

We are an extension of Spirit and can see everything as good or we can continue to hold resentments, to judge others. The lesson of Jonah is clearly one of judgment and overcoming this obvious assessment with the ability to let go and move on. He is given the perfect opportunity to assist the Assyrians in their spiritual growth, and yet delays his own when he chooses to hold on to the past.

## **Habakkuk, Haggai, and Zechariah**

### **Habakkuk's faith in the darkest hours of destruction.**

Habakkuk's faith is in believing God's perfect plan against what seems absolute doom and total despair. His name represents to embrace and or cling to. He did not fully understand God's plan or even celebrate it. However he embraced it fully. It is a dark time. Judah had been warned over and over. All the signs to change had been ignored. The nation had brought upon themselves, by their own demise, deep suffering and turmoil. It was a time of self-destruction. Judah's ungodliness had become such an intricate part of their consciousness that the Babylonians (a wicked consciousness) fell upon them and brought Judah into ruin.

Even in this state of consciousness it is only temporary. The Babylonians would with time come to ruin. Duality cannot forge its path in Life as a true power. Its power is an illusion. Its strength is really man's weakest state of being. God is All Life and God is All Good. What begins in duality has no beginning, so it has no being in God Consciousness. It is error manifesting as error, so it has no purpose in Life. It creates a baffling and insidious state in man's consciousness because it is a false concept of life. We can create and we can conceive. When, however, we create and conceive erroneous, ill-gotten ignorance, it cannot truly exist. It is not God Life. It will blast forth with a bang and then vanish into the shadows of never-being. It is the anti-Christ, the non-life...it is nothing in God Mind. To partake in it is to suffer. We will suffer with "gnashing of teeth" as long as we babble in it, dabble in it, endure it, fight with it, and resist it (resist not evil).

***\*There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.***

***-Luke 13:28***

***\*Gnashing of teeth/ weeping and wailing – Matthew 8:12, 13:42, 13:50, 22:13, 24:51, and 25:30***

### **Haggia calls to the people to rebuild the temple.**

After the fall of the Babylonians, once again a cleansing has taken place and the exile from wickedness had ended. A new state of mind emerges back through the Holy Land (consciousness).

Still human error interferes with God Consciousness. Building sixteen years and still the temple is not completed. How often we let our mind go astray into the limitations of life creating and partaking in the



strife of error thinking. We creating new blockages and walls which slow us down from our true innate selves.

Haggai's name represents festive and rejoicing. His path in God Mind was to keep the fire burning in the new found Holy land. He was to stir things up in the courageousness of God, ever present Goodness, to rebuild and finish the temple.

First the temple must exist within. An outer temple has little value if the expression for its being is not sincere. Our temple within is the guiding force and the strength of our ability to rise up in Christ Mind and be in the image of our Heavenly Father, for He wishes it so. As mentioned earlier, "Know Ye are gods!" It is with Divine authority from God that we are allowed to be of His Nature. To Speak with His Words, to demonstrate and practice in His name, so that we may all witness unto one another. It is in His authority that we have His permission to be as one in His name.

Haggai's faith and strength in the Holy Land endures with a passion that is unmeasurable. He moves the people, raising their consciousness into a rejuvenation that moves Joshua the high priest and Zerubbabel the governor of Jerusalem, along with the people into completing the building of the temple.

Haggai's powerful message / sermons called the people to rebuild the temple and they responded. Haggai knew with all his heart, mind, body, soul, and strength that the newly rebuilt temple would be filled with God's glory, and so it was. Haggai prophesized that God would bless the people and forgive their past sins and so it came to be.

His faith in God was his power. In this powerful grace he shared it with the masses and they were receptive to it.

## **Haggai 2:15-19**

### **A Blessing**

*An now, I pray you, consider from this day and onward, from before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the LORD:*

*Since those days were, when one came to an heap of twenty measures, there were but ten: when one came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty vessels out of the press, there were but twenty.*

*I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye turned not to me, saith the LORD.*

*Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of the LORD'S temple was laid, consider it.*

*Is the seed yet in the barn? yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: from this day will I bless you.*

## Zechariah

Zechariah began his prophetic ministry slightly after Haggai, within months. He is also called to inspire the people to finish building the temple. Zechariah's approach was about a great future. He told the people one day the Messiah would inhabit the temple. This was a powerful purpose for the people. They approached the project with great zeal. This was a different ministering than Haggia. Haggia was more on rebuke and redemption, whereas Zechariah was more of encouragement. Both worked well together.

Here we can see this within ourselves. Our need is to build a temple, our higher consciousness. Our need is to grow more in the image and likeness of the Heavenly Mother / Father in Christ Consciousness, to become less of the flesh and more Christ like. We grow in the nature of discipline and encouragement, and stay steadfast to receive the Joy of Grace through the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

When we go astray it is through the Wisdom of suffering that brings us back to the Wisdom of the Holy Land. It is not about good or bad or right or wrong. It is about staying with God, through all trials and errors. It is a period of stretching, of becoming more in the image and likeness. Like Job, if we do not shut God out, then our suffering will be blessed with the Wisdom that we need to learn. It is there we can look back and see that we have grown.

Of Zechariah's prophecies, he tells of Jesus Christ coming to Jerusalem on what is now known as Palm Sunday. He also tells of the death of Jesus, the scattering of his disciples, and the return of Christ Jesus.

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.*

-Zechariah 9:9

*Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.*

-Zechariah 13:7

*And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

*In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the*

*valley of Megiddon.*

*And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart;*

*The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart*

-Zechariah 12:10-13

*And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.*

*And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:*

*But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.*

*And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.*

*And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.*

-Zechariah 14:5-9

## Assignment

1. What is power in a world of duality as to the Power of God within us?
2. What is the commonality of all these prophets?
3. How is Hosea's wife, Gomer, an incarnation of Israel?
4. Give your interpretation of Hosea 11 and 14 in less than one hundred words.
5. What is your interpretation of Amos 5:14-24?
6. Why are the Laws of God changeless? Why is the flesh always changing?
7. What is the phrase that repeats in Jonah, and why?
8. What is your understanding of the worm devouring the vine in Jonah?
9. What did Jonah need to learn?
10. How are Habakkuk, Haggai, and Zechariah tied in together?

11. Interpret Haggia's' blessing 2:15-19, in less than fifty words.

12. Elijah (*Elias*): Read Malachi 4:5-6, Matthew 11:14, Luke 1:17. After reading these three, read Matthew 17:3. Write what this means to you.