

Hosea

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In these mornings messages I want to open w up with you the so-called Minor Prophets. Now, the term Minor Prophets leads many people to neglect these books. It sounds as though they are books of lesser importance. Actually, ~~th3-~~ the word here simply means ~~shere~~ shorter. These books are as a whole shorter than what we call the Major Prophets. In with the Major Prophets we include Jeremiah's other work, Lamentations, which is shorter than most of the so-called Minor Prophets. But these Minor Prophets so-called consist of twelve books ~~which-~~ with tremendous variety. Some of them are easy to understand, some of them are very difficult to understand. They deal with all sorts of subjects. They are arragged in general in a chronological order, as they stand in this grouping of twelve books. The first of them, Hosea, has 14 ~~de-~~ chapters as ~~comparte~~ compared with the Major Prophet, Daniel, which has only 12. However, the ~~ea~~ chapters in Daniel are longer so that actually it is a longer book than Hosea. Hosea is a book ~~with-is-~~ which is often difficult for people to get into or understand. As a matter of fact, these last 3/4s of the book is very difficult to understand because it seems to consist of a summary of many sermons that Hosea gave, and it does not have the running continuity that some books seem to have. The first three chapters read very continuously and are much easier to understand. The Book of Hosea has, I believe, as its key & word the word know. This word occurs 15 times in this comparatively small book. We do not have this word in the last verse of the book. But we have the thought there. Let's look at the last verse. Hosea 14:9 "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 trnasgressors shall fall therein." Who is wise and he shall understand these things. Many people have the idea that Christianity is a & religion for the ignorant. Well, Christianity is areligion ~~is~~ which has a message for all kinds of people. That's one of the most marvelous things of Christianity. It meets the needs of the wise and of the ignorant. It meets