

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro: What is prophecy?

a. Definition:

forth-telling, not fore-telling
delivering the word of God
encouraging people to change their hearts and works
(speaking of the past, the present, and the future)

“Years ago I was at an event about some social issue at which there was a discussion between an Old Testament scholar and an engineering professor. Their conversation got nowhere because they understood the word “prophet” differently. The biblical scholar used it to talk about critics of society, while the engineer thought it meant someone who tries to foretell the future.

The Old Testament scholar was closer to an understanding of biblical prophets. They were men and women concerned with speaking the truth to the societies they lived in about the way things were. They were “forthtellers” who, as we say, were “Telling it like it is.” That sometimes meant harsh criticism which took the form of “Change your thinking and your actions, or bad things will happen.” So forthtelling could lead to foretelling of disaster.” – from Westminsterakron.org

b. What about Hosea? Why do you think Hosea came out as a prophet to the land of Israel?

speaking against the kingdom of Israel (7:3-7)
speaking against the rituals (4:11-14)
speaking of God’s love (11:8-9)

3. Let us read Ch. 9 and have discussion

- a. What does “the land of the Lord” imply in verse 3?
- b. What kind of question is it in verse 5?
- c. How do you understand “the prophet is a fool” in verse 7?
- d. Verse 8 has different translations. How shall we understand it?
- e. How do you understand verse 14?

4. Closing Prayer