

To Begin.....

Hosea

Zechariah

Micah





Title of Today's Message:

Living Today with the Hope of the Future:

*The Words of Zechariah,
Hosea & Micah for Our Times*

The Key Areas We Will Be Exploring Today

For each of the books we will briefly examine:

1. Historical Context
2. God's View of Society at the Time
3. The Hope of the Future
4. The Life God Desires ("Call To Action")
5. Practical Application Today

Hosea

Contemporary with Micah – 8th Century BC.

Message directed primarily at the Kingdom of Israel

Israel (Northern Kingdom):

Israel was in decline

Assyrian pressure increased

Samaria (capital of Israel) fell in 722 BCE to the Assyrians



Hosea: God's View of Society At The Time

Hosea 4:1–2

Lack of Faithfulness, Truth, and Justice

Hosea 4:12–13

Idolatry and Immorality

Hosea 7:1–2

Deep Rooted and Unrepented Sin

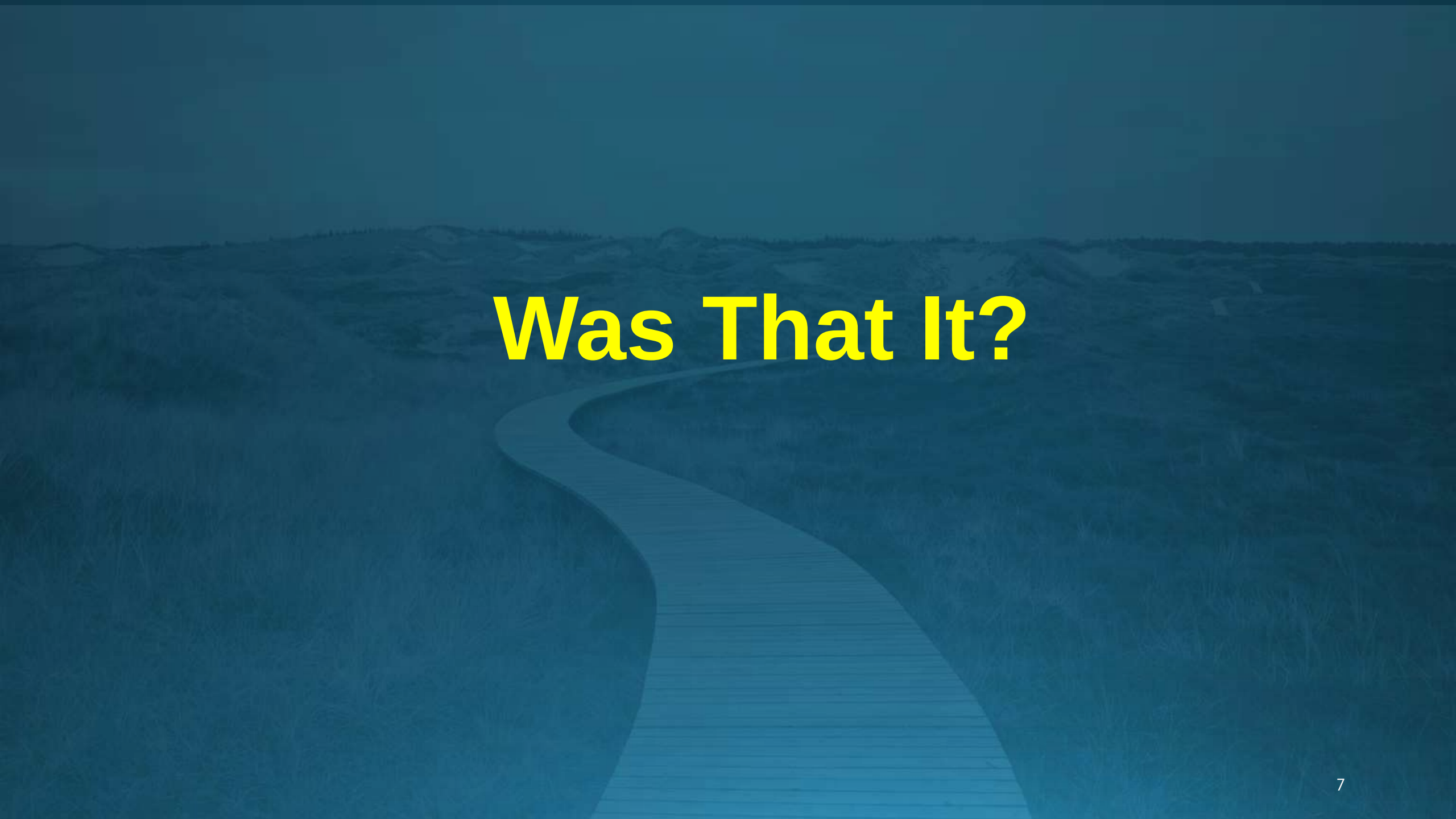
Hosea 12:7–8

Dishonest Trade and Self-Reliance

A Vision of the Future

Hosea 2:18 **New Living Translation**

On that day I will make a covenant
with all the wild animals and the birds of the sky
and the animals that scurry along the ground
so they will not harm you.
I will remove all weapons of war from the land,
all swords and bows,
so you can live unafraid
in peace and safety.

A wooden boardwalk made of light-colored planks winds through a vast, grassy field. The path starts in the foreground and curves towards the horizon. The background shows rolling hills and a clear blue sky. The entire image has a blue color overlay.

Was That It?



The Life God Desires (“Call To Action”)

Hosea 6:6 NKJV



The Life God Desires - Mercy

Hosea 6:6 NKJV

For I desire *mercy*^[a] and not sacrifice,
And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.



The Life God Desires - **Mercy**

Hosea 6:6 **NKJV**

For I desire **mercy**^[a] and not sacrifice,
And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

Mercy : חֶסֶד (chesed)

Kindness, Mercy, Steadfast Love

Describes love that is faithful and generous – even when not deserved.

Often describes God's love for His people – and calls people to show the same kindness and mercy toward others.



The Life God Desires - Mercy

Hosea 6:6 NKJV

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The Life God Desires - Mercy

Hosea 6:6 NKJV

For I desire mercy^[a] and not sacrifice,
And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

Matthew 9:13 NKJV ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, ^[a]to repentance."

Matthew 12:7 NKJV ⁷ But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.



The Life God Desires - Mercy

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The Life God Desires - **Mercy**

Luke 6:35-36 NKJV

³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, [a]hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

³⁶ Therefore be **merciful**, just as your Father also is merciful.



Practical Application Today

How Do We Show Mercy In Our Daily Lives?

Show Mercy to Those Who We Feel Don't Deserve It

Be a Constant, Caring Presence in Someone's Life

Care for the Vulnerable Without Expecting Return

Zechariah

Prophet and Priest

6th Century BC

Persian Empire

Historical Context:

Return from Exile

Economic hardship and
stalled reconstruction

Spiritual apathy and loss
of hope



Source: Blue Letter Bible <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>.

Zechariah: God's View of Society At The Time

Zechariah 5:1–4

Dishonesty and Theft

Zechariah 7:5–6

Insincere Religious Practices

Zechariah 7:9–10

Injustice and Oppression

Zechariah 8:16–17

Deceit and Unjust Practices

Zechariah 10:2

Idolatry and False Guidance

A Vision of the Future

Zechariah 14:8 - 9 NKJV

And in that day it shall be
That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem,
Half of them toward ^[e]the eastern sea
And half of them toward ^[f]the western sea;
In both summer and winter it shall occur.
⁹ And the LORD shall be King over all the earth.
In that day it shall be—
“The LORD *is* one,”
And His name one.

A vertical photograph on the left side of the slide shows a wooden boardwalk made of light-colored planks. The boardwalk curves from the bottom left towards the middle of the frame, leading into a vast, grassy dune landscape. The grass is a mix of green and brown, with some purple flowering plants visible. In the background, there are sand dunes and a line of trees under a cloudy sky.

The Life God Desires (“Call To Action”)

Zechariah 7:8-9 **ESV**



The Life God Desires - **Justice**

Zechariah 7:8-9 **ESV**

⁸ And the word of the LORD came to Zechariah, saying, ⁹ “Thus says the LORD of hosts, Render true **judgments**, show kindness and mercy to one another,

New King James Version: “Execute true justice”

Judgement/Justice = מִשְׁפָּט- (mish·pat)



The Life God Desires - **Justice**

Genesis 18:16-19 **Modern English Version**

¹⁶ Then the men rose up and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to see them on their way. ¹⁷ Then the LORD said, “Should I hide from Abraham what I am doing, ¹⁸ since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed in him? ¹⁹ I chose him, and he will instruct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He promised him.”



The Life God Desires - **Justice**

Strong's Topical Lexicon

“Covenant Faithfulness and Social Ethics Genesis 18:19 sets the program: Abraham’s children must “keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just.” Justice is therefore covenantal, not optional. The prophets expose violations—oppressing the poor (Isaiah 10:1–2), perverting courts (Amos 5:12), abusing orphans and widows (Jeremiah 22:3). Micah 6:8 distills the ethical demand: “to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.””



The Life God Desires - **Justice**

Psalm 89:14 **NKJV**

Righteousness and **justice** *are* the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.

Isaiah 1:16 -17 **NKJV**

¹⁶ “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes.
Cease to do evil,
¹⁷ Learn to do good;
Seek **justice**,
Rebuke ^[c]the oppressor;
^[d]Defend the fatherless,
Plead for the widow.



The Life God Desires - **Justice**

Matthew 23:23 **NKJV**

²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: **justice** and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

Matthew 5:6 **NKJV**

Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for **righteousness**,
For they shall be filled.



Practical Application Today

How can we render true judgements in our daily lives?

Lift Up Those In Need

Treat Others Fairly and Respectfully

Reconcile Broken Relationships

Micah

Contemporary with Hosea

Micah = “Who is like God.”

Message directed primarily at Judah
(but also included Israel)

Judah (Southern Kingdom):

Judah remained intact – but
under constant attack

Under King Ahaz of Judah
became a vassal of Assyria

King Hezekiah led religious
reforms and resisted Assyria



Source: GNU Free Documentation License / Richard J. Prins

Micah: God's View of Society At The Time

Micah 2:1-2

Land Grabbing and Oppression

Micah 3:1–3

Corruption and Exploitation by Leaders

Micah 3:9–11

Injustice and Bribery

Micah 6:10–12

Dishonest Trade and Violence

Micah 7:2–3

Moral Decay and Pervasive Sin

A Vision Of The Future

Micah 4:3-4 NKJV

³ He shall judge between many peoples,
And rebuke strong nations afar off;
They shall beat their swords into plowshares,
And their spears into [a]pruning hooks;
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
Neither shall they learn war anymore.

⁴ But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree,
And no one shall make *them* afraid;
For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

A photograph of a wooden boardwalk winding through a grassy dune landscape. The boardwalk is made of light-colored wooden planks and curves from the bottom left towards the middle of the frame. The surrounding area is covered in green grass and some low-lying plants. In the background, there are sand dunes and a line of trees under a cloudy sky.

The Life God Desires (“Call To Action”)

Micah 6:8 **NKJV**



The Life God Desires – **Walk Humbly**

Micah 6:8 NKJV

⁸ He has shown you, O man, what *is* good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justly, (*also Zechariah 7:9*)
To love [⌒]mercy, (*also Zechariah 7:9, Hosea 6:6*)
And to walk **humbly** with your God?



The Life God Desires – **Walk Humbly**

What does it mean to walk humbly?

הַצְנֵא (hatznea) from the root word: **צָנַע**
(*tsana*)

Meaning: To be humble, modest, or restrained



The Life God Desires – **Walk Humbly**

One may confuse the meaning of hatznea with the following:

- Confusing Humility with Self-Devaluation

- Using “Humility” to Avoid Responsibility or Action

- Equating Humility with People-Pleasing



The Life God Desires – **Walk Humbly**

Philippians 2:3-5 NKJV

³ *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

The Humbled and Exalted Christ

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

Living Today With The Hope Of The Future

Living Today With The Hope Of The Future

The Hope: Promised peace, safety

Hosea

Living Today With The Hope Of The Future

The Hope: Promised peace, safety

Hosea

The Hope: Living waters, Jesus Christ's reign

Zechariah

Living Today With The Hope Of The Future

The Hope: Promised peace, safety

Hosea

The Hope: Living waters, Jesus Christ's reign

Zechariah

The Hope: Righteous judgement, weapons repurposed

Micah

Living Today With The Hope Of The Future

Hosea

The Hope: Promised peace, safety

The Action: To render true **judgements**

ܡܝܫܢܐ-- (mish·pat)

Living Today With The Hope Of The Future

Hosea

The Hope: Promised peace, safety

The Action: To render true **judgements**

ሕፃህፍ-- (mish·pat)

Zechariah

The Hope: Living waters, Jesus Christ's reign

The Action: Having compassion and **mercy**

ጥፃፍ-- (*chesed*)

Living Today With The Hope Of The Future

Hosea	The Hope: Promised peace, safety <u>The Action:</u> To render true judgements מִשְׁפָּט -- (mish·pat)
Zechariah	The Hope: Living waters, Jesus Christ's reign <u>The Action:</u> Having compassion and mercy חֶסֶד-- (<i>chesed</i>)
Micah	The Hope: Righteous judgement, weapons repurposed <u>The Action:</u> Walk humbly with God: הַצְנֵעַ-- (hatznea)



Knowledge of God

Hosea 6:6 **NKJV**

⁶ For I desire mercy^[a] and not sacrifice,
And the **knowledge of God** more than burnt offerings.

“Knowledge of God” (da‘at Elohim) דַּעַת אֱלֹהִים

A deep, transformative relationship with God



Living Today with the Hope of the Kingdom

Matthew 5:14-16 **New Living Translation**

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.