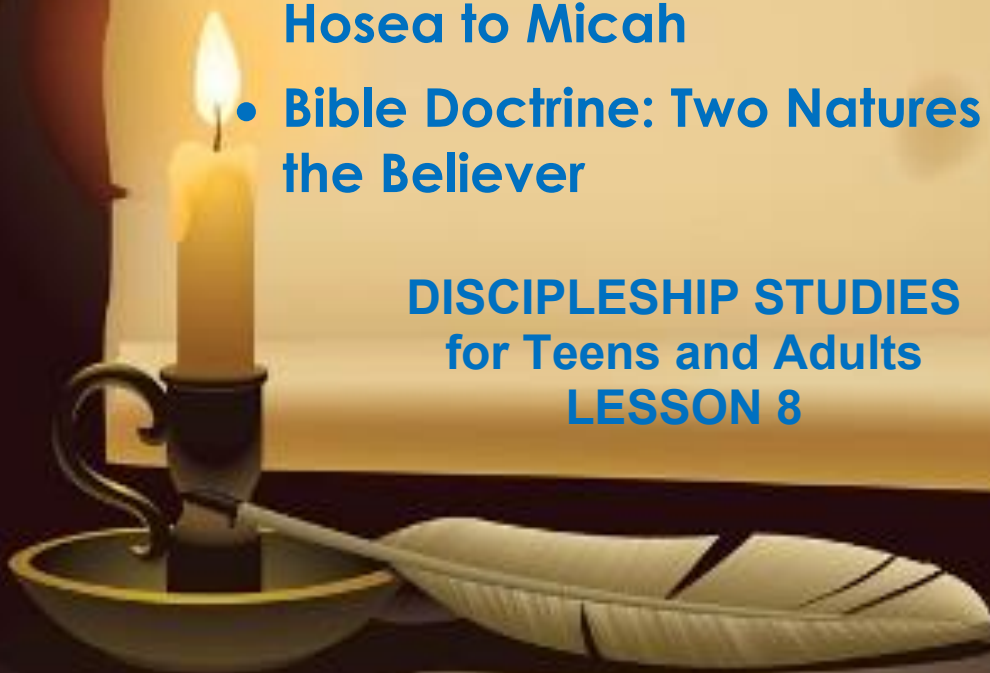


# Discipleship Lessons for Hungry Hearts

- Assurance of God's Faithfulness
- JEHOVAH TSIDQUENO
- Bible Survey: MINOR PROPHETS  
Hosea to Micah
- Bible Doctrine: Two Natures of  
the Believer

DISCIPLESHIP STUDIES  
for Teens and Adults  
LESSON 8





## CHAPTER 8

### Part 1:

### **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS:**

Most of us have experienced the devastating results of someone's unfaithfulness. We are puzzled that a friend can suddenly change and even turn against us. Betrayal hurts!. This will never happen from the Lord, Who, by His very nature, is FAITHFUL. He never changes.

Assurance of the unchanging faithfulness of God is attested in one of His wonderful names, "El Oman" which means that God is eternal and He is always the same.

*"And Abraham planted a grove in Beer-sheba, and called there on the Name of the LORD, the Everlasting God (El Olam)" Genesis 21:33*

*"For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob." Malachi 3:6*

God is also faithful despite our lack of faithfulness to Him . . . even when we sin. In the case of *Malachi 3:6* (above), the people of Israel were continuing to live in immorality and were refusing to give tithes and offerings to the LORD. The priests were even denouncing the Name of the LORD, but, because of God's faithfulness, they were not consumed or destroyed. God is faithful!

*"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your FAITHFULNESS." Lamentations 3:22-24*

*"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is FAITHFUL and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:8-9*

*"If we are faithless, HE REMAINS FAITHFUL; He cannot deny Himself." 2 Timothy 2:13*

**FILL IN THE MISSING WORDS IN THE FOLLOWING BIBLE VERSES:**

*“For I am the LORD, \_\_\_\_\_; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.” Malachi 3:6*

*“Through the Lord’s \_\_\_\_\_ we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your \_\_\_\_\_.” Lamentations 3:22-24*

*“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is \_\_\_\_\_ and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:8-9*

*“If we are faithless, \_\_\_\_\_; He cannot deny Himself.” 2 Timothy 2:13*

Not only does God promise to be faithful, one of His blessed Names is *“Faithful”*:

*“Now I saw Heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He Who sat on him was called FAITHFUL and TRUE, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.” Revelation 19:11*



**One of the Lord’s most remarkable demonstrations of His faithfulness, is His promises to the nation of Israel:**

Isaiah chapter one describes the unfaithfulness of Israel. God even referred to them as *“Sodom and Gomorrah”* (Isaiah 1:10). Because of their refusal to repent of their immorality and idolatry, the Lord cursed the nation with a terrible spirit of blindness:

*“For the LORD has poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep and has closed your eyes; the prophets and your rulers, the seers has He covered. And the vision of all has become unto you like the words of a book that is sealed . . .” Isaiah 29:10-11*

That deep spiritual sleep continues upon the people of Israel to this very day. Only a small remnant of God’s ancient people are being saved as a witness to the nation. **BUT GOD IS NOT FINISHED WITH HIS PEOPLE, THE NATION OF ISRAEL!**

*“For I will take you from among the nations, and gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean, from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I*

*put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:24-26*

Ezekiel described God’s miraculous work of transforming the hearts of the unbelieving nation of Israel in his vision of the valley of dry bones:

*“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones. And caused me to pass by them round about; and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. Ezekiel 37:102*



*So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a noise and, behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them above, but there was no breath in them . . . and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. The He said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel . . .” Ezekiel 37:7-8, 10-11*

One day the Lord is going to regather all Israel and breathe into them the spirit of life . . . they will believe in the Messiah Whom they have rejected and God will give them a new heart! **ALL OF THIS IS A GREAT CONFIRMATION OF THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD!**

#### **QUESTIONS for discussion:**

1. Has God abandoned the people of Israel? (*Romans 11:1-2*)

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2. Fill in the missing words:

*“Now I saw Heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He Who sat on him was called \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.” Revelation 19:11*

3. How has God demonstrated His faithfulness to the nation of Israel despite their unbelief and rejection of the Gospel?

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4. How has God demonstrated His faithfulness to you?

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5. One day the Lord is going to \_\_\_\_\_ all Israel and breathe into them the spirit of life . . . they will believe in the Messiah Whom they have \_\_\_\_\_ and God will give them a \_\_\_\_\_!



# NAMES OF THE LORD:

## Part 2: “JEHOVAH TSIDQUENO” “The Lord Our Righteousness”

The Lord is everything that His Name declares! One of HIS most profound names is the Name “*Jehovah Tsidqueno*” (pronounced with a silent “T”). The Lord is OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. This is especially significant when you consider that *Isaiah 64:6* declares”

*“But we are all like an unclean thing; and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”  
Isaiah 64:6*

We are all the worst of sinners on the best of days! But God not only forgives us but He declares us RIGHTEOUS in His eyes through faith in the sacrifice of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ:

*“For He made Him Who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21*

*“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of (His) righteousness . . . ” Isaiah 61:10*

The Lord revealed His Name (“*Jehovah Tsidqueno*”, “*The Lord Our Righteousness*”) through the Prophet Jeremiah. This Name was given in the context of God’s promise to one-day restore unbelieving Israel to a living faith in their Redeemer and Lord:

*“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” Jeremiah 23:5-6*

### QUESTIONS:

1. How does Isaiah 64:6 describe our own righteousness?

*“But we are all like an \_\_\_\_\_ thing; and all our righteousnesses are like \_\_\_\_\_; We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”*

2. The Lord not only forgives us, but has declared us \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The righteousness we have, is not earned but is the gift of God through \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.
4. What does the name "*Jehovah Tsidqueno*" mean? The Lord our \_\_\_\_\_
5. To provide our righteousness, Jesus became \_\_\_\_\_ for us (*2 Corinthians 5:21*). This does not mean that Jesus became a sinner, but He took the sinners place upon the cross and died as our substitute.



## THE MINOR PROPHETS

### HOSEA:

#### **Theme of Hosea: The loyalty of God's love.**

"Hosea, whose name means *the LORD saves*, carried on his ministry during the days of four different kings of Judah – Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah; and of Jeroboam II, the king of Israel. The theme of the opening chapters of Hosea's prophecy is the unfaithfulness of Israel, set forth in terms of the marriage relationship, a familiar figure of speech depicting God's relation to His chosen people. Israel's forsaking of the LORD was brought home to Hosea in the adulterous acts of his own wife, so that his personal experiences became an allegory of God's experience with Israel. She was not only unfaithful, but her sin also took its character from the exalted relationship into which she had been brought." (Scofield Bible, 1967 Edition)

#### **Key chapters:**

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1-3  | The unfaithful, adulterous wife and her faithful husband |
| 4-14 | Adulterous Israel and the faithfulness of the Lord       |

### JOEL:

#### **Theme of Joel: The prophetic Day of the LORD**

"The Book of Joel, whose name means '*the LORD (Jehovah) is God*', is difficult to date because no Israelite king or foreign nation is mentioned in it. Many think that it was written in the time of Jehoash. It describes the invasion of Judah by a plague of locusts that destroyed everything in its path and impoverished the people (1:1-2:11). In *Hosea 2:28ff*, the prophet looks far into the future at coming judgment and coming joys. The locust invasion, now only a matter of history, may be taken as a harbinger of invasions of human armies which are yet to come. Great blessings which God promises to pour out upon His people in the latter days are also described." (Scofield Bible, 1967 Edition)

#### **Key chapters:**

- 1 Chastisement of God in the form of a devastating invasion of locusts
- 2 Future invasion of Israel during the time of Tribulation ("*time of Jacob's trouble*").
- 3 The future restoration of Israel

## **AMOS:**

### **Theme of Amos: Social injustice in the land of Israel**

“Amos, whose name is related to a verb meaning *“to bear a load”*, was burdened over the sins of the northern kingdom (10 tribes) in the eighth century B.C. Whereas Hosea was crushed with a sense of the unfaithfulness of Israel to the love of God, Amos was outraged at the violence they had done to the justice and righteousness of God. The words most descriptive of Amos’s message are: *“But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.”* Social justice is inseparable from true piety (religion).” (Scofield Bible, 1967 Edition)

### **Key chapters:**

1-2	Eight prophecies of coming judgment
3-6	Sermon’s denouncing Israel’s sins
7-9:10	Visions of coming judgment
9:11-15	Promises of future restoration

## **OBADIAH:**

### **Theme of Obadiah: The judgment of Edom**

“Obadiah is completely unknown, apart from the meaning of his name (*servant or worshiper of the LORD*). The date of his prophecy is not certain, but internal evidence seems best to point to about 585 B.C., the year after the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon. Some scholars suggest a much earlier date, however, i.e. around the 9<sup>th</sup> century. The book, which in literary form is a *“doom song,”* has a single theme – judgment upon Edom, the nation descended from Esau. In Obadiah’s time Sela (later called Petra) was the capital of Edom. Its unique ruins, cut out of solid cliffs of rose-colored rock and long hidden in the arid regions south of the Dead Sea, were discovered in A.D. 1812 and stand as a silent witness of the fulfillment of the prophecy (and all prophecy).” (Scofield Bible, 1967 Edition)

### **Key chapters:**

1:1-18	Judgment of Edom
1:19-21	Restoration of Israel

## **JOAH:**

### **Theme of Jonah: The mercy of God to repentant Gentiles and the hardness of heart of God’s people**

“Jonah was a prophet of Israel who lived about the time of Jeroboam II (*2 Kings 14:25*). His name means *“dove”*, and he occupies a unique place as the first foreign missionary. The historical character of Jonah’s preservation in the great fish and his preaching to the inhabitants of Nineveh is attested by Christ, Who likened the prophet’s experience to His own burial and resurrection (*Matthew 12:38-42*). A masterpiece of condensed narration, this book has suffered from overemphasis upon the miracle of the great fish. However, neither deletion nor rationalization solves the difficulty of the miracle which remains an object of faith, not explanation.” (Scofield Bible, 1967 Edition)

## Key chapters:

- 1-2     Jonah's rebellion and God's mercy
- 3-4     Nineveh's repentance and God's mercy

## MICAH:

### Theme of Micah: The justice of God vs. the injustice of Judah

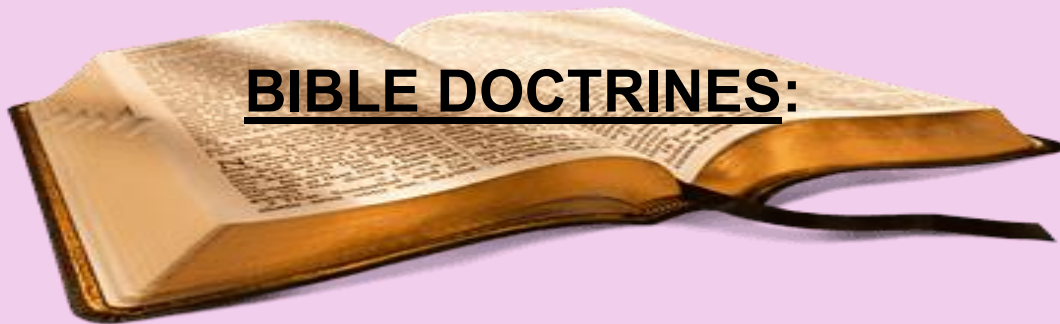
"Micah, whose name means *"Who is like the LORD?"*, prophesied in the eighth century B.C. as a contemporary of Isaiah. He came from the small town of Moresheth, about twenty miles southwest of Jerusalem. There are many similarities between passages in Isaiah and Micah (compare *Micah 4:1-5* with *Isaiah 2:2-4*). Jeremiah mentions Micah by name (*Jeremiah 26:18*) and relates him to the reign of Hezekiah, and our Lord quoted *Micah 7:6* in *Matthew 10:35-36*. Samaria, Jerusalem, all Judah, Israel, and the nations are the subject of the prophecy. Assyria is the prominent foreign power. The messages are particularly to the capital cities, Samaria and Jerusalem, as the centers of influence in the nation. God pleads with Israel and Judah to turn to Him from their sin, setting forth the Assyrian as the rod of His wrath, and He concludes with promises of future glory under the Messiah and His righteous reign." (Scofield Bible, 1967 Edition)

## Key chapters:

- 1-3     Prediction of coming judgment
- 4-5     Prediction of future restoration
- 6-7     Micah's plea for national repentance

## QUESTIONS:

1. Which of the prophets spoke of the faithfulness of God in seeking His unfaithful people?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Which of the minor prophets spoke of coming days of judgment and in particular, the Day of the LORD (otherwise known as the days of Tribulation)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Which of the prophets spoke of the great mercy of God and the hardness of heart of His own people?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the theme of Hosea? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the theme of Joel? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the theme of Jonah? \_\_\_\_\_



## THE TWO NATURES OF THE BELIEVER

### BIBLICAL DOCTRINE:

Every saved person possesses two natures: the old, sinful nature inherited through Adam, and the new nature which occurs immediately upon receiving Christ as Savior and is referred to in Scripture as being "*born again*". The new nature is really the Holy Spirit living in us whereby the very character of the Lord Jesus Christ is manifest in and through us. The Lord has made provision for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. All claims of the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural. (*John 3:3-7, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 5:16-25, Ephesians 4:22-24, Colossians 3:10, 1 Peter 1:14-16, 1 John 3:5-9, Romans 6:5-7, 11-13-6*)

### KEY VERSES:

*"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God . . . Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'" John 3:3, 5-7*

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a NEW CREATION; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17*

*"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law." Galatians 5:16-18*

The fact that every born-again person possesses two natures is very confusing unto us and is the source of ongoing inner conflicts between a desire to walk in fellowship with God vs. yielding to temptation. We experience the new birth the moment we receive Christ as our Savior, but the lingering "old man" with all its evil desires creates a life-long struggle of sin versus righteousness.

Carefully consider this more detailed explanation of this important subject:

#### 1. The Old Nature (flesh and sinful nature):

Our old sinful nature is inherited from Adam's fall and is characterized by sin, self-centeredness, and a tendency toward disobedience to God. This old nature (the flesh) is NOT ERADICATED upon salvation as the Apostle Paul expressed: *"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwells no good thing; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find." Romans 7:18*

## 2. The New Nature (spiritual nature of the indwelling Spirit of God):

The new nature is received through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and is characterized by a desire to please God, a love for the Word of God, a desire to walk in victory and righteousness, and the ability to live according to the guidance of the Spirit of God. The new nature is really the life of the Spirit of God indwelling us. Again, Paul described the new nature when he was led by the Spirit of God to pen – *“Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.” Romans 6:6*

## 3. The Conflict:

The two natures are in constant conflict with one another as described in the Book of Galatians – *“For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh; and these are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do the things that you wish.” Galatians 5:17*

The believer is called to walk in the Spirit, resist the desires of the flesh and pursue righteousness. This struggle within the believer is not a sign of defeat, but rather a part of the daily process of sanctification, where believers are progressively conformed to the image of Christ – *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son . . .” (Romans 8:28-29).*

The victory of the believer over his inborn sinful desires can only be experienced by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and walking in fellowship with the indwelling Spirit.

## FILL IN the missing words:

*“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is \_\_\_\_\_, he cannot see the kingdom of God . . . Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the \_\_\_\_\_ is flesh, and that which is born of the \_\_\_\_\_ is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’” John 3:3, 5-7*

**Note:** The phrase “born of water” is not referring to water baptism but the to physical birth. We must be born physically and spiritually!

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a \_\_\_\_\_; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17*

*“I say then: \_\_\_\_\_, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” Galatians 5:16-18*

*“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwells \_\_\_\_\_; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.” Romans 7:18*

*“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ . . . .”  
(Romans 8:28-29).*

**How does *Galatians 5:17* describe the inner spiritual conflict of the two natures that we all experience?**

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## QUESTIONS?



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