

Hosea

Original Historical Setting

Author: Hosea

Written: Mid-700's B.C.

Audience: Israelites living in the Northern Kingdom (also called Ephraim or Samaria)

Occasion: Hosea's message that the people of Israel had been unfaithful to the LORD was illustrated through his tragic marriage to Gomer who left him and became a slave to later be bought back by her husband.

Timeline:

~793 BC – Jeroboam becomes Israel's king

~755 BC – Hosea begins prophetic ministry

722 BC – Israel destroyed by Assyrians

~715 BC – Hezekiah begins reign in Israel

World Events that occur simultaneously

776 B.C. – First recorded Olympic Games in Greece

753 B.C. – Rome founded by Romulus

700 B.C. -- European nomads invent the saddle

Features and Structure

- Hosea can be divided into two main sections:
- **Outline**
 - Ch 1-3 – Narrative about Hosea's unfaithful wife, Gomer
 - Ch 4-14 – Prophecies against an unfaithful nation, Israel

Key text(s)

1:9 – You are not My people and I am not your God

4:6 – My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge

8:7 – They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind

Memory Verse: Hosea 12:6

Genre/Literary style

Prophecies with a few narratives written mainly in Hebrew poetry

What to look for

- Notice that Hosea's prophecies contain the three main elements of Biblical prophecy:
 1. Call to people to turn back from sin or face divine judgment
 2. Predictions of near events such as the fall of Samaria
 3. Predictions of far events such as the coming of an ideal peace time.
- Notice that Hosea utters approximately 150 statements concerning the sins of Israel. More than half of them deal with the sin of idolatry.

Interesting facts

- Hosea's name (which means, "help", "helper" or "savior" in Hebrew) is almost identical to the names of Jesus (Greek) and Joshua (Hebrew) which means "Yahveh saves." Hosea saved his wife from slavery. Joshua saved Israel from defeat. Jesus saved the world from the consequences of sin.
- Hosea is the first of the Minor Prophets...so named, not because they are less important, but because they are shorter than the major Prophet books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel.
- You can remember the two prophets who prophesied to the northern kingdom of Israel by the first letters in their names: "H" for Hosea and "A" for Amos...spelling "Ha" which is how Israel responded to their warnings.
- Hosea and Gomer have 3 children appropriately named by God as signs to Israel: Zereel-"God scatters" Lo-Ruhamah – "Not pitied" Lo-Ammi – "Not My people."
- You sign Hosea's name: 