
BOOK OVERVIEW

Hosea

Author: Hosea (means “salvation”)

Date: 785-725 B.C.

Recipients: primarily Israel, the Northern Kingdom, sometimes called Ephraim; and some warnings to Judah

Key words: whoredom (14 times)

Summary: Hosea presents Israel as God’s unfaithful “wife,” who He will chasten but eventually restore.

Key verses: Hosea 3:1; 2:13-14

Notes:

Hosea was a contemporary of Amos and Micah in Israel, and Isaiah in Judah. He was younger than Amos but older than Micah.

God tells Hosea to take to himself an adulterous woman, Gomer, and her children (Hosea 1:2), as an illustration of Israel’s idolatrous relationship with idols.

Hosea does so and Gomer gives him three children; but, then, she returns to her adulterous life.

Finally, God instructs Hosea to restore Gomer to her rightful position of his wife, just as God planned to restore Israel, after they turned from their idolatry and back to Him.

A notable quote from this book: “...for they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind” (Hosea 8:7)

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