

Key to HOSEA

1. STATISTICS:

Writer, Hosea (name means "salvation"), prophet for more than 60 years to Israel (10 tribes) 790-722 B.C. Key thought, warnings of judgment, key verse, 1:2; type of book, a personal object lesson applied to the sins of the nation.

2. THEME:

The Northern Kingdom had enjoyed great temporal prosperity under Jeroboam II, but became increasingly idolatrous and morally corrupt. Hosea was called to denounce sin and warn of inevitable judgment. His experience with his prodigal wife was to be an object lesson to Israel regarding her relationship to GOD.

3. OUTLINE:

Hosea's personal object lesson (1-3)

The message of rebuke, punishment and coming pardon (4-14)

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Hosea's style is concise and abrupt; there are many figures of speech and some intermixed metaphors; but the prophet's sincere sympathy is clearly seen. The writer was described as the "prophet of divine love."

Contemporary with Isaiah (in Judah), Hosea prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

5. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

The outward prosperity under Jeroboam II sowed seeds of spiritual anarchy and decay. The princes were murderers, profligates; the priests were deceitful, shameless; the people sank to the lowest level of indecency and idolatry. It was against this condition that Hosea was called to minister.

Through the prophet's own bitter sorrow with his wife's behavior, he was able to comprehend in a measure GOD's grief over the spiritual adultery of His people.

6. INTERESTING FEATURES:

Hosea's children were named for spiritual lessons.

Among his remarkable predictions are those which foretold the downfall of Samaria; the deliverance of Judah; the punishment of Judah; the final restoration of both Israel and Judah.

7. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:

GOD has the same grief over the spiritual conditions of unfaithful Christians today. The message of Hosea is current and exceedingly pertinent.

~ end of Hosea ~

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