

A LOOK AT THE BOOK HOSEA

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AUTHOR

According to the book and tradition, Hosea the prophet was the author.
He was a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel.

Little is known of his life and background.
He was the son of Beerī, of whom nothing more is known.

His acquaintance with the northern kingdom gives evidence that he was probably born there.

DATE

He began his ministry during the reign of Jeroboam II in Israel (782-753 B.C.) and Uzziah in Judah (767-739 B.C.).
He continued until after the fall of the north and into the reign of Hezekiah in Judah (715-686).

BACKGROUND

Hosea began his ministry during the reign of Jeroboam II—a time of prosperity and peace.
They were experiencing no oppression.

As a result of their ease, society became corrupt.
They followed three pagan religious systems and were led in these by their priests.

Following Jeroboam II came a period of anarchy and murder by people seeking to obtain the throne.
It was not a profitable thing to be king of Israel.

During the latter days of Hosea's lifetime, Assyria became powerful and took control of Israel, forcing them to pay tribute.
Following several rebellions, Assyria destroyed Israel in 722 B.C.

Hosea wrote during this period of moral looseness, religious apostasy, and political destruction.

PURPOSE AND THEME

The primary purpose of Hosea's prophecy is to warn Israel of coming judgment and to call her to repentance.

The theme of the book is that Israel has been unfaithful to her Husband, Yahweh.

She has gone away from Him and sought other lovers.

The result of her unfaithfulness is rejection by Yahweh.

Nevertheless, Yahweh will remain faithful to her!

Because of His abiding loyal love for her, He will purchase her back and restore her to a relationship with Him.

What lessons do we learn concerning God and our life today from the study of this book?

HOSEA

Yahweh's loyal love confronts Israel's unfaithfulness

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