

Hosea 1:1-11 “An Introduction To The Book Of Hosea”

7-7-21

I. Author: Hosea, Son Of Beeri

1. An Israelite From The Northern Kingdom
2. He Ministered In The Days Of 4 Kings Of Judah, And 1 King Of Israel
 - Judah: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah
 - Samaria: Jeroboam II
3. Ministry Between 760-720 BC
4. Primary Spoke To Israel (Northern Tribes)
5. Not Just A Prophet, But An Author And A Poet

II. A Difficult Calling

1. Called By God To Marry A Prostitute And Start A Prostituting Family
2. Called To Prophecy Destruction At A Time When It Is Least Believable
3. An Atmosphere Of Polytheistic Syncretism
4. An Atmosphere Of Ignorance Of The Lord’s Word

III. The Historical Background – Prov 28:2

1. What’s The Problem, Hosea?
 - In The First Half Of The 8th Century, Israel At The Height Of It’s Prosperity
 - Long, Stable Reigns In The North And The South
 - Jeroboam’s Reign In Israel – 793/791-752/750 Bc (41 Years) - 2 Kings 14:23
 - Uzziah Reigned In Judah For 52 Years - 2 Kings 15:2
2. The Situation Dramatically Changes
 - Jeroboam’s Son Zechariah Assassinated After 6 Months - 2 Kings 15:8-10
 - Shallum Assassinated After One Month – 2 Kings 15:13-16; Hos 1:4
 - Menahem Reigns For 10 Years – 2 Kings 15:17; Hos 8:4
3. Assyria Takes The Scene
 - Tiglath-Pileser III Rules Assyria & Begins Expansion Policy – 745 BC
 - Menahem Is Succeeded By His Son Pekahiah - 2 Kings 15:22-26
 - Pekahiah Reigns Two Years And Is Assassinated By Pekah – 2 Kings 15:27
 - Pekah “Reigns” 20 Years – 2 Kings 15:27; Hos 5:5
 - Pekah Forms An Alliance With Damascus Against Assyria
 - Uzziah’s Son Jotham Becomes King: 751/750 BC – 2 Kings 15:33
 - Rezin And Pekah Begin Taking Judah’s Land - 2 Kings 15:37
 - Jotham Is Succeeded By His Son Ahaz – 735/734 BC
 - Rezin And Pekah Move Against Ahaz - 2 Kings 16:5-9; Is 7:1-9; 2 Chr 28:1-21
4. Ahaz Appeals To Assyria For Help - 2 Kings 16
5. Assyria Invades Phoenicia, Philistia, Damascus, Israel: 734-732 BC – 2 Kngs 15:29
 - Samaria Reduced To A “Rump State” - 732/731 BC
 - Pekah Is Assassinated By Hoshea - 2 Kings 15:30
6. Tiglath-Pileser III Dies In 727 BC And Is Succeeded By Shalmaneser V.
 - Hoshea Stops Paying Tribute, Appeals To Egypt: 726-724 BC - 2 Kings 17:4
 - Shalmaneser Responds By Moving Against Samaria – 2 Kings 17:4-6
7. The Fall Of Samaria – 722 BC

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IV. Characteristics Of The Book

1. Literary Features
 - Metaphors And Similes
 - Paranomasia Or Wordplays
 - Allusions To Prior National History
2. The Text Of Hosea
 - Among The Most Difficult In The Old Testament.
 - True For Both The Hebrew Ot And The Greek LXX
3. Pericope Divisions
 - Evidence – 2/3 Of The Book
 - Curses – 1/4 Of The Book – Lev 26, Dt 28-32, Dt 4
 - Blessings – Less Than 1/10 Of The Book
 - No Promises That Hold Hope For Avoiding God’s Wrath.
 - All Blessings Are For The Distant Future
4. Often Difficult To Distinguish Between The Political And The Religious
5. Notable Vocabulary To Watch For
 - Prostitute And Prostitution
 - Return
 - Loyalty
 - Abandon
 - Love
 - Know/Acknowledge

V. Other Themes

1. The Frequent Mention Of Egypt And Assyria In Poetic Parallel
2. The Identity Of God’s People Through Narrative
 - The Period Of The Ancestors: The Promise Of The Future
 - The Wilderness Period: Israel As God’s Household
 - Life In The Promised Land: From Joshua To Hosea’s Day
3. The Household Of God
 - God Is Depicted As Both A Husband And A Father
4. Covenant And Marriage
 - Marriage Is Looked Upon As A Treaty Covenant
5. Promises And Obligations
6. Blessings And Curses

VI. The Relationship Between Hosea And Jeremiah

1. Jeremiah Has Been Called Hosea’s Spiritual Son.
2. Themes Jeremiah Takes From Hosea
 - Hesed – Faithfulness, Loyalty
 - Israel As An Unfaithful Wife
 - Israel As A Son
 - The Knowledge Of God
 - God’s Controversy With His People

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