

HOSEA

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To illustrate Yahweh's love for His sinful people.

Author

Hosea, son of Beeri.

Date

Hosea was written approximately 715 BC recording events from about 753-715 BC.

Audience

The northern kingdom of Israel and God's people everywhere.

Setting

The end of the prosperous but morally declining reign of Jeroboam II of Israel.

Special Features

Hosea employs many images from daily life. Yahweh is depicted as husband, father, lion, leopard, bear, dew, rain, moth, and others. Israel is depicted as unfaithful wife, sick person, vine, grapes, early fruit, olive tree, woman in childbirth, oven, morning mist, chaff and smoke, to name a few. Yet Israel's unfaithfulness and obstinacy are not enough to exhaust God's redeeming love that outstrips the human capacity to comprehend.



Key Verses

"My people are being destroyed because they don't know me." (4:6a NLT)

"Oh, that we might know the LORD! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring." (6:3 NLT)

"Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you." (10:12 NIV)

"Out of Egypt I called my son." (11:1b ESV)

Key People

Hosea, Gomer, their children.

Key Places

Northern Kingdom of Israel, Samaria, Ephraim.