

Hosea

Purpose: Judah may receive God's judgment as Israel, but Judah should still never lose hope of full restoration of God's people.

Outline: 1:1 – Title

1:2-3:5 – Symbolic experiences of judgment and salvation

4:1-9:9 – Prophetic announcements of judgment

9:10-14:8 – Prophetic historical reflections of judgment and salvation

14:9 – Call to consider

Author: Hosea

Date: Mid-8th century (contemporary of Isaiah and Micah). Composition of the book likely took place after the fall of the northern kingdom.

Highlights:

Hosea, like Jonah, probably lived in the northern kingdom of Israel. Hosea did his ministry in the north following Amos, around the same time that Isaiah and Micah were doing ministry in the south.

Spoken ministry is to north. Written words are for Judah to contemplate.

Hosea's ministry takes Israel from the time of prosperity to the fall of Samaria and the Assyrian Exile of the northern kingdom in 722 B.C. Therefore, there is a three-fold purpose to Hosea's ministry. 1) Warn against complacency announcing God's judgment on Israel, but in hope. 2) Explain declines and why Israel (and Judah) will suffer, but in hope. 3) Explain further declines and warn of exile, but in hope. Hosea says lots of negative things, but keeps putting in positive thoughts.

ORIGINAL MEANING...NEW TESTAMENT ELABORATION...CONTEMPORARY APPLICATION

Original Meaning of Judgment oracles

“Judah must learn the certainty and severity of God's judgment.”

New Testament Elaboration of Judgment oracles

“The church must face the possibility of judgment.”

Contemporary Application of Judgment oracles

“Avoid practices that bring judgment.”

Original Meaning of Salvation oracles

“Judah must remember God's abiding love and the hope of restoration.”

New Testament Elaboration of Salvation oracles

“The church can rest assured of ultimate and full restoration.”

Contemporary Application of Salvation oracles

“Never lose hope in Christ's Kingdom.”

Symbolic experiences of judgment and salvation (1:1-3:5)

Hosea's First Marriage (1:1-2:1)

Hosea marries Gomer at God's command (1:2-3a) [Symbolism – Israel's idolatry]

Divine Commission (1:2)

Hosea's obedience (1:3a)

Hosea and Gomer have children (1:3b-9)

Jezreel (1:3b-5) [Symbolism – Jehu's dynasty will end, begins downfall of Israel]

Birth (1:3b)

Naming (1:4-5)

Lo-Ruhamah (1:6-7) [Symbolism – God will stop loving Israel, still loves Judah]

Birth (1:6a)

Naming (1:6b-7)

Lo-Ammi (1:8-9) [Symbolism – God rejects Israel as his own]

Birth (1:8)

Naming (1:9)

Oracle of Salvation (1:10-2:1) [Symbolism – Reversals: will be my people, will have my love]

Gomer commits adultery and Hosea divorces her (2:2-13) {Partial Lawsuit}

Initial charges and warnings (2:2-4)

Accusations and Sentences (2:5-13)

Oracle of Salvation (2:14-23) [Symbolism – After divorce (exile) God will give love again]

Hosea marries (loves) again (3:1-3)

Divine commission (3:1)

Hosea's obedience and Instructions (3:2-3)

Oracle of Salvation (3:4-5) [Symbolism – Israel will return from exile]

Exile (3:4)

Repentance (3:5)

Prophetic announcements of judgment (4:1-9:9)

Case Against Israel (4:1-5:7)

Lawsuit (4:1-14)

Summons (4:1a)

Accusations (4:1b-5a)

Sentence (4:5b-14)

Torah (4:15-19)

Instruction (4:15)

Reproof (4:16-18)

Sentence (4:19)

Lawsuit (5:1-7)

Summons (5:1a)

Accusations (5:1b-5)

Sentence (5:6-7)

Punishment For Israel (5:8-9:9)

Summons to War (5:8-11)

Call for Repentance (5:12-7:2)

Invitation (5:12-15)

Hypocrisy (6:1-3)

Sentence (6:4-7:2)

Judgment Against Israel (7:3-12)

Accusations Regarding Kings (7:3-7)

Accusations Regarding Alliances (7:8-11)

Sentence (7:12)

Woe Against Israel (7:13-16)

Introduction (7:13a)

Accusation (7:13b-16)

Sentence (7:16b)

Summons to War (8:1-3)

Punishment of "Eagle" (cf. Deuteronomy 28:49)

Accusations and Sentencing Mixed (8:4-14)

Call for Mourning (9:1-6)

Call (9:1a)

Accusation (9:1b)

Sentence (9:2-6)

Coming Judgment (9:7-9)

Sentence (9:7a)

Accusation (9:7b-9a)

Sentence (9:9b)

Prophetic historical reflections of judgment & salvation (9:10-14:8) [Metaphors for how Israel was]

Grapes and Figs (9:10-17) [Exile is imminent]

Judgment (9:10-17)

Accusation (9:10)

Sentence (9:11-17)
 Spreading Vine (10:1-10) [Cult flourishing as in quiet of Hoshea's day]
 Judgment (10:1-3)
 Accusation (10:1-2a)
 Sentence (10:2b-3)
 Judgment (10:4-8)
 Accusation (10:4)
 Sentence (10:5-8)
 Judgment (10:9-10)
 Accusation (10:9a)
 Sentence (10:9b-10)
 Trained Heifer (10:11-15) [King is in power, but soon to be destroyed]
 Judgment (10:11-15)
 Accusation (10:11-13a)
 Sentence (10:13b-15)
 Growing Child (11:1-14:8) [Cult flourishes, but near end, as in reign of Hoshea]
 Judgment (11:1-7)
 Accusation (11:1-4)
 Sentence (11:5-7)
 Salvation (11:8-11)
 God's Determination (11:8)
 Restoration (11:9-11)
 Judgment (11:12-12:9)
 Accusation (11:12-12:8)
 Sentence (12:9)
 Judgment (12:10-14)
 Accusation (12:10-13)
 Sentence (12:14)
 Judgment (13:1-3)
 Accusation (13:1-2)
 Sentence (13:3)
 Judgment and Salvation (13:4-14a)
 Accusation (13:4-6)
 Sentence (13:7-13)
 Restoration (13:14a)
 Sentence (13:14b-16)
 Call to Repentance (14:1-8)
 Call (14:1-3)
 Promise (14:4-8)

Call to Consider (14:9) [Judah should contemplate how Israel's experience warns and encourages them to fidelity]

Hosea as a Moral Guidance

6:6
 God wanted mercy, not
 hypocritical worship from
 Israel.

-----Moral Principle-----→

Mt. 9:13; 12:7
 Mk. 12:33
 Jesus wanted mercy, not
 hypocritical worship from
 Israel

10:12
 Sowing righteousness will
 be a blessing for Israel.

-----Moral Principle-----→

2 Cor. 9:10
 Paul said sowing righteousness
 will be a blessing for the church.

12:8 Israel boasts falsely.	-----Moral Principle-----→	Rev. 3:17 Laodicean church boasts falsely.
14:2 Description of proper worship for Israel in future.	-----Moral Principle-----→	Heb 13:15 Description of proper worship in NT church.
14:9 Warning to follow God's ways because they are right.	-----Moral Principle-----→	Acts 13:10 Exhortation to follow God's ways, because they are right.

Hosea as Analogous to Current Events

1:6,9 (2:1) 1:10 (2:23) Hosea's children named as symbols of exile and restoration.	-----Analogy-----→	1 Peter 2:10 Romans 9:25-26 NT applies by analogy to Gentiles' acceptance into covenant.
9:7 Time of Samaria's fall as God's judgment against Israel is coming soon.	-----Analogy-----→	Luke 21:22 Jesus said that Jerusalem will be punished like Samaria for apostasy in 70 A.D.
10:8 Destruction of Samaria will be so dreadful that people will call on mountains.	-----Analogy-----→	Luke 23:30 Rev. 6:16; 9:6 Jesus uses to describe how dreadful the fall of Jerusalem (70 A.D.) will be. John uses to describe the dread of second coming.
11:1 God had called Isarel from Egypt.	-----Analogy-----→	Mt. 2:15 Matthew saw Jesus' identification with God's people in his migration from Egypt

Hosea and Historical Contingencies

13:14 Israel's restoration from captivity will be victory over the grave.	-----Historical Contingency-----→	Mt. 9:13; 12:7 Mk. 12:33 Jesus' resurrection is victory over the grave.
--	-----------------------------------	---

Original Meaning of Historical Reflection

“Judah should learn that past blessings are no protection against curses.”

New Testament Elaboration of Historical Reflection

“The Church should learn that past blessing does not protect against curses.”

Contemporary Application of Historical Reflection

“No believers should take the past as a license for sin.”