

HOSEA

AUTHOR:

Hosea the prophet wrote the book of Hosea. His name actually means “salvation”.

DATE:

The book of Hosea records the events from approximately 753-715 BC. It was written in about 715 BC.

AUDIENCE:

Hosea wrote to the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

CONTEXT:

“Hosea began his ministry during the end of the prosperous but morally declining reign of Jeroboam II of Israel. He prophesied until shortly after the fall of Samaria in 722 B.C.”¹ During this time the people were fickle, they would turn to God but would then go back to living lives of sin and worship other idols. The last six kings of Israel were extremely wicked and did not desire to honor or serve the Lord.

PURPOSE:

Hosea is an amazing picture of God’s selfless and unending love for His continually sinful people. It is the story of Hosea, and how God calls him to marry a prostitute. Yet, it is so much more. It is the picture of God’s forgiveness of His people and His love and desire for them to return to Him. It illustrates that there are consequences for sin—Israel fell to Assyria because of their disobedience.



¹ Life Application Study Bible