

Paging Through the Scriptures

The Prophet Hosea

Hosea 1-3

1. The Historical Setting:

Hosea prophesied in the waning days of the northern kingdom of Israel and lived through the time of its destruction by Assyria.

2. General Comments about Hosea

One of the unique features of Hosea is that it contains some of the most difficult Hebrew in the Old Testament. This makes the task of properly translating and interpreting the text more difficult even before you even consider the reality of Hosea's marriage as a tragic lived-out-parable. Even with this difficulty, it is also noted by many scholars that Hosea is a book that is thoroughly biblically grounded. That is to say that much of Hosea's words are explicitly grounded in what God has already said in His Word. There is a wealth of imagery and descriptions within Hosea, and many of them are related to God and His interaction with His people.

3. The Basic Theology of Hosea

The basic theology that Hosea brings to bear in this book is previewed by his marriage and his children. Hosea is a gut-wrenchingly clear picture of just how bad Israel has treated the Lord and His promise to continue to love and care for them even after they have suffered the shame of their sin.