

MESSAGE TO ISRAEL AND JUDAH

During the Divided Kingdom Period, all the literature that was written took the form of messages from God to His wayward people. These fall into three groups: Messages to Israel and Judah before Israel's captivity; messages to heathen nations; and messages to Judah alone after Israel's captivity. The first group includes the messages of four prophets: Hosea, Amos, Isaiah, and Micah. Study these now:

THE BOOK OF HOSEA: GOD'S LOVE AND SINFUL ISRAEL

Hosea lived in Israel and prophesied to his own people over a period of at least 58 years, during the reign of Jeroboam II. See now how God used this home missionary:

A. God's First Messages to Hosea: Read Hosea 1

1. Why did God tell Hosea to take a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms?
Hosea 1:2

2. Why did God tell Hosea to name his wife's first child "Jezreel"? Hosea 1:4-5

3. Why did God tell Hosea to name his wife's second child "Lo-ruhamah" (which means "That hath not obtained mercy")? Hosea 1:6-7

4. Why did God tell Hosea to name his wife's third child "Lo-ammi" (which means "Not my people")? Hosea 1:8-9

5. In spite of all Israel's sins, what did God promise would happen to them? Hosea 1:10-11

B. Hosea's Dealings With His Wife: Read Hosea 2

1. What did Hosea discover that his wife had done? Hosea 2:1-5

2. Therefore, what did Hosea plan to do to her? Hosea 2:6

3. Why would he do this? Hosea 2:7b

4. What did Hosea's actions toward his wife picture to Israel? Hosea 2:8-23

2 Bible Discoveries: Literature of the OT Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
Book 3 Kingdom of Israel: Divided and Restored

C. God's Later Message to Hosea: Read Hosea 3

1. After this, what did God tell Hosea to do to his wife? Hosea 3:1

2. What did Hosea have to do in order to carry out this command? Hosea 3:2

3. What did Hosea tell his wife after this/ Hosea 3:3

4. What did this relationship picture to Israel? Hosea 3:4-5

D. God's Messages to Israel: Hosea 4 - 14

1. For what specific sins did God say He had a controversy (or dispute) with Israel? Hosea 4:6, 12b, 13

2. Against what in particular did God prophesy? Hosea 8:5-6

3. What did God say would happen to Israel? Hosea 11:5-7

4. How did God feel about this? Hosea 11:8-9a

5. What did God plead with Israel to do? Hosea 14:1

6. What did God promise to do after this? Hosea 14:4-7

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Have I broken the heart of the God who loves me, by departing from Him?
See Romans 2:4, II Peter 3:15a

2. What promise has God given me, if I will only return? John 6:37b.
