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Biblica Study Notes (Book Intros)

Hosea

What is the book of Hosea?

- Hosea is a book of Israel's prophets. It's a collection of messages from God and stories about Hosea's life.
- Most of the messages were about the people and leaders of the northern kingdom.
- These messages were spoken over a period of many years. Hosea prophesied when the last seven kings of the northern kingdom ruled. He prophesied from around the year 750 BC to around the year 722 BC.
- The messages talk about events from those years. This includes when Assyria took control of the northern kingdom in 722 BC. They also talk about events that haven't happened yet.
- The messages were written down as poems.
- It's thought that Hosea wrote down parts of this book. Other parts were written down by other Israelites.
- New Testament writers understood that some of Hosea's prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus' life and work.

Who was this book written for?

- For the people of the northern kingdom of Israel.

Why was Hosea written?

- To accuse the people and leaders of the northern kingdom. They had not been faithful to the Mount Sinai covenant.
- To urge them to be faithful to God. If they were faithful to him, God wouldn't bring judgement against them.
- To give them hope for their future after the time of judgement. The hope was based on God's faithful love for them.

Main ideas

- Hosea's marriage was a picture of the relationship between God and the northern kingdom.
- The covenant curses would come to the people and leaders of the northern kingdom. They would be destroyed by Assyrian armies. This would be God's judgement against them.
- God longed for his people to receive his love freely. He promised that this would happen one day in the future.

Outline

Hosea shares God's messages through prophetic actions (1 – 3).

God accuses and warns the northern kingdom (4 – 14).