

WEEK 1

Hosea 1:1

Introduction:

Human author is Hosea. His name means **salvation**, and is the same Hebrew name translated Joshua or Hoshea (Numbers 13:8,16). The Greek equivalent is Jesus.

Hosea was a prophet of God in Israel (Northern Kingdom) from 755BC until the dispersion of Israel by the Assyrians in 722BC, when it seems that Hosea went to Judah and lived until his death around 710BC.

His Ministry was after that of Elijah and Elisha and followed directly after that of Amos. His contemporaries in Judah (Southern Kingdom) were Isaiah and Micah.

Hosea's ministry started while Jeroboam II was king; during a time of political and economic prosperity, but spiritual drought.

Through Hosea we see God's sacrificial love for unfaithful people.

Read: II Kings 14:23-17:41

List 10 observations about the kings of Israel and it's people during the time of Hosea:

What were some similarities and differences between the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah?

Do you think a nation's rulers are a reflection of the people or the people are a reflection of its rulers?

What impact do you think Hosea's ministry had on the nation of Israel?

What do you think Hosea's neighbors thought of him?

How do you define success in the ministries God has given you?