

A Study Guide for “An Introduction to Hosea” by Duane A. Garrett

The Prophet and his Times:

- 1) There was not much known about the person of Hosea, but what is the one thing that we know for sure?
- 2) Hosea ministered during the reign of what kings? Which of these kings were able to “extend the borders of Israel while restoring the prosperity of a nation”? What was happening prior to, and then what happened immediately after, the death of this king?

The Authorship of Hosea

- 3) What are the two different perspectives on the authorship of Hosea and with which one does the author agree?
- 4) How do some scholars account for the interpolations that do exist? What does the author think about them?

The Hebrew Text of Hosea

- 5) What are the two major renditions of Hosea 5:2a and how do they compare in accuracy? What do scholars say about whether Hosea is poetry or prose?

The Imagery and Style of Hosea

- 6) The author discusses the striking images and metaphors that Hosea uses, what are some of these images and metaphors? What are some of the names he uses for God? How could the length of declarations be described in Hosea and how do they influence the text?

Form Criticism and Hosea

Form criticism: a method of textual analysis, applied especially to the Bible, in which the origin and history of certain passages are traced by isolating their literary forms, as miracle story, saying, or apothegm, on the assumption that they were fixed by oral tradition prior to compilation in written form.

- 7) What does Wolff conclude when he applies form criticism to the biblical text? How does Stuart disagree? Despite the disagreement, what can we know for sure?

The marriage to Gomer

8) The author provides a brief outline of the various interpretations of Hosea's relationship with Gomer. Look over and understand these different interpretations as a great deal of the remainder of the article will be discussing their validity.

9) How does the author reject the first argument that the Hosea-Gomer narrative is parabolic and non-historical?

10) How does the author reject the second argument that the Hosea-Gomer narrative is referring to two different women?

11) What does the author think about the third argument, specifically sections A and C? What is the most striking, but intentional aspect of the author's interpretation?

The Theology of Hosea

12) What is the main metaphor in Hosea and what does it represent?

13) In addition to the main metaphor Hosea contains a great deal of condemnation, who does Hosea Condemn?

14) Hosea alludes and makes connections to what part of the Bible?

15) How does the book of Hosea end? Why is this both expected and surprising at the same time?