

LETTER 48  
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**PREDICTION OR ANALOGY  
IN HOSEA 11:1**

The problem which you have raised about Hosea 11:1 is one of the most difficult in the entire field of predictive prophecy. If we should take every historical statement we find as being predictive of something in the future our whole interpretation would dissolve into chaos. I have not yet found a satisfactory answer to this problem but feel that probably the solution is along the line of an analogy rather than an actual prediction. Israel is the child of God called to be His servant to fulfill His work. Just as this work cannot be fulfilled by Israel as servant because of Israel's sin, but must be fulfilled by the true Servant of the Lord, who represents Israel, similarly Israel is God's son only as a means by which His unique Son is to be brought into the world. In view of this it is altogether natural to expect to find many points of close analogy between the experience of Israel and the experience of Christ, especially in such an outstanding feature as the coming of Israel out of Egypt....

Incidentally, it perhaps should be mentioned that the book of Hosea after the first three chapters is one of the most difficult books of the Old Testament. I believe that it has probably a unified structure with a reasonable outline, but this is not at all obvious.