

HOSEA

A Brief of Progress on the Study Hosea 4-14

Object: To Find the Controlling Principle or Theme

Jerome says that Hosea speaks in detached sentences. The great commentator, Matthew Henry says, "In some places Hosea should be called Hosea's Sayings and not Hosea's Sermons because they are without connection. Is this true? We must say that Hosea has a choppy style but that chapters 1 - 3 are a unit and chapters 4 - 14 are also a unit with a controlling theme becomes very clear when one carefully studies through the book.

I have gone through the book dozens of times looking for this theme. One method used was as follows. I traced the relation of God with Ephraim by coloring the sinful condition of Israel in blue, the pronouncement of judgement by God in red, admonition to Ephraim in green, and promised or past blessings in yellow.

Also have gone through the book listing all metaphors and similies frequently used through these chapters of Ephraim, Israel or Judah.

I have gone through noting every place where the omniscience of God is explicitly brought out, also places where Israel's pride is pointed out as the basis of her problem, or where the lack of spiritual knowledge and understanding.

My conclusion thus far for the controlling theme of chapters 4-14 is this. A spiritual understanding lacking and therefore flagrant sin. Compare Christ's use of Hosea 6:6 several times, "I desire mercy not sacrifice", as the heart and kernal of His teaching to the Pharisees. I think this verse