

personal and place names to look up in a Bible dictionary or encyclopaedia. Outline Hosea using the single criterion of judgment vs. hope. How does the arrangement of these passages suggest that these passages are to be united. Try to relate the various sections of chapters 4-14 with the events of 1-3. If Hosea's marriage represented God's relationship with Israel, there should be some degree of correlation between the two. How does Hosea describe Israel's vacillation between Assyria and Egypt? How does this fit the historical circumstances? Using a concordance (one like Strong's or Young's, with Hebrew words listed, will be necessary) study Hosea's use of *hesed*. What is the purpose of Hosea 14:9? How does this draw the book down to our day, to our lives?

In the classics, John Singer Sargent painted 12 of the biblical prophets in "The Frieze of the Prophets". One of the most intense and personal of the prophets portrayed is Hosea. Saul Raskin showed Hosea and Gomer standing near a golden calf, he faithful and loving, she uncaring.

For further study consider Kidner, Derek: LOVE TO THE LOVELESS (IVP) in the excellent series The Bible Speaks Today. Inman, V. Kerry offers introductory material and study questions (on Joel and Amos as well) in PROPHETS OF DOOM IN AN AGE OF OPTIMISM. And HOSEA by Francis A. Andersen and David Noel Freedman, is a massive new scholarly work from a refreshingly conservative perspective.

b. A synthetic outline to facilitate the work of a survey course.

I. The Family setting 1-3

- Instruction to the prophet
- character and role of Gomer
- significance of the children
- resultant discussion and pleas
- a "second" marriage

And as we have mentioned earlier...the passage, is it allegorical or literal. Is God's instruction contrary to the law? Is the information concerning Gomer causative or mere foreknowledge?

II. God's controversy 4-7

- a lack of knowledge has separated God from His people. This lack is seen as:
 - a willing oversight
 - a stubborn denial
 - a selfish act
- it is compounded by a feigned seeking of the knowledge of Jehovah.

III. The Decree 8-9

- the false gods are to be banished
- the nation of Ephraim will be destroyed
- Judah will be punished..to a lesser extent.

IV. The assessment 10-13

- chastisement is needed
- Ephraim is beyond hope