

## INTRODUCTION FOR BIBLE STUDY 'HOSEA SPEAKS TODAY'

I was privileged to share this series of studies with the members of *Primrose Hill Congregational Church*, Netherton, U.K. in four evening sessions in 2002. It was an attempt to draw parallels between the social ills and conditions in ancient Israel in the time of the prophet Hosea, around 750 B.C., and those in contemporary Britain, of which I found many. The situation in Britain is little changed 22 years later, and I suspect in other societies, which is why I offer these studies to *Learn Your Bible* website users today.

Several commentaries were consulted, but one on which I relied heavily was written by Fredk A. Tatford in 1974, entitled '*Prophet of a Broken Home*'.<sup>1</sup> The biblical text used is from the New international Version.<sup>2</sup>

The studies were arranged in four sessions. There maybe too much material to complete in the time you have available, in which case I suggest you break the studies into shorter pieces at suitable junctures and increase the number of sessions as appropriate.

Biblical references printed in red need to be consulted where indicated. Questions to be discussed or thought about are in blue.

I hope you find these studies of Hosea as enjoyable, informative and challenging as I did when writing them. It would be a great help to me if you would let me know if you are using them, if you are finding them helpful (or not!) and any other comments, questions or criticisms you may have. You can email me at [michael@learnyourbible.org.uk](mailto:michael@learnyourbible.org.uk).

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*Learn Your Bible*  
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<sup>1</sup> Fredk A. Tatford, *Prophet of a Broken Home*, 1974, Eastbourne: Prophetic Witness publishing House.

<sup>2</sup> The Holy Bible, New International Version, Copyright 1973, 1978 and 1984 International Bible Society, and published by Hodder and Stoughton.