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Moon's "Hosea" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Moon, J. N. (2018). *Hosea*. Apollos Old Testament Commentary, 21. London, England: IVP Academic. 253 pp. \$40.50. ISBN 9780830825202

If Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Samaria, why does he mention Judah, the Southern Kingdom, so often, and were the words entirely his, or did others edit and redact parts of the book? Joshua N. Moon, who is Fellows Tutor at Anselm House at the University of Minnesota, addresses these and other vital issues concerning the book of Hosea. In this masterful commentary, Moon follows the pattern of the other books in the Apollos Old Testament Commentary series. He begins each passage of scripture by offering a new translation and follows with critical notes on the text. He then addresses the form and structure of the passage and proceeds to comment on the elements of exegesis of the verses. He concludes each passage with an explanation that connects the text to the modern reader. Moon then moves on to the next group of verses and repeats the process. By following this procedure, Moon looks at each passage from several different academic perspectives to arrive at a clear understanding of each set of verses. With meticulous care, Moon identifies the threads that bind these approaches together.

Moon believes that the book of Hosea records the actual words of the prophet and that there is no evidence that they were altered by later writers to make them apply to the situation in pre-exilic Judah after the demise of Samaria. Dr. Moon concludes that Samaria was Hosea's intended audience and that he primarily addressed the Northern Kingdom. The prophet included references to Judah mainly because of its proximity to Samaria. Moon states that theology is inherent to any reading of Scripture, including Hosea. A commentator, Moon believes, must go beyond critiquing or analyzing a passage of scripture but also listen for Jesus as the One who is speaking. The book of Hosea is a message about God's work to reconcile the world to Himself.

Hosea is a masterly work of scholarship especially suitable for upper level theology students and faculty who possess a solid knowledge of Hebrew and ancient Middle Eastern history. The book is well documented with a bibliography and indexes of Scripture references, authors, and subjects.

Reviewer

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