

FEATS Facilitators Guide
Module 6 – Deuteronomy and the Prophets
Homework for Learning Session 2

The Bible is a unified book, and not merely a collection of books. While the books of the Bible have many authors and were written over hundreds of years, when read together, we find strong unifying themes and stories that run from Genesis to Revelation.

In our previous session, we became acquainted with Deuteronomy, which serves as kind of the tent pole of the Old Testament. The previous books of the Torah lead to it, and balance of the OT chronicles Israel's challenge of living up to it.

This month we will focus on the pre-exilic prophets Hosea and Amos. Our goal is to understand the style and context of these books, and we'll learn how these books develop the themes we addressed in Deuteronomy: covenant, wealth, and power.

This may be different from your previous experiences. When Christians read the Prophets, if they read them at all, it is usually with the goal of sifting them for references to the coming of Jesus. While we do find that, this approach misses the real purpose of these wonderful books.

Homework Assignments

Read Hosea and Amos 3 times each. As you read, develop notes for each book to enable you to answer and discuss the following questions:

- What is this book's literary style? (Examples: How does it use repetition, sentence structure, catch phrases? Is it economical or expansive in its use of space?)
- What are the main issues each prophet addresses. (Be sure to include how Hosea speaks to his historical context by integrating the information from Dennison's essay below).
- How does each book address the theme's we developed in Deuteronomy: covenant, wealth, and power?
- Make an outline of Hosea 4, focusing on the function of each part of the chapter. This is an example of a prophetic *rib* (pronounced "reeve") or lawsuit, which is a foundational element of the prophets.

Also, read and be able to discuss the following essays:

- James T. Dennison, Jr, “What Should I Read on Hosea” at <http://www.kerux.com/documents/Keruxv12n1a2.asp>
- Ch. 10 – “The Prophets: Enforcing the Covenant of Israel” in Fee and Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*

