

the violation of certain precepts more or less external to man, laid the emphasis on the moral in religion. But to find the central thought in Hosea's message to be that of the power of God's love conquering the power of sin is to find something which does not appear there.

This is not an assertion that Hosea was a prophet of doom and nothing more. We do not understand him aright if we maintain that he sees in this judgment, which he so fearlessly portends, the end of all God's dealings with His people. What he seems to imply by his message is, that this judgment which is coming is the necessary self-assertion of Jehovah because of outraged love. And this further implies that this self-assertion was indispensable to the nation's salvation. What God's dealings were to be after this visitation he does not say—even if he understood. But surely what he *did* see and what he *has* said, viz., that the continued existence of his nation was not necessary to salvation, but rather that this depended upon Jehovah, was a most important message to his time, and to all times.