

ABSTRACT

FROM FAILURE TO FERTILITY:
STRUCTURE AND SIGNIFICANCE IN HOSEA 14:2–10

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The Book of Hosea ends, as Zeev Weisman puts it, with ‘a song of repentance with a liturgical tone’, which describes Israel and YHWH’s return to each other (14:2–10). Scholars concur that the prophecy’s content falls into two halves. Vss. 2–4 deal with Israel’s return to YHWH while vss. 5–9 describe YHWH’s wrath that has turned away from Israel. V. 10 has been understood as a conclusion, either of the prophecy or of the book. Further division into subsections has been suggested based on parallels in contents and language between parts of the text. However, these parallels are not consistent throughout the structure of the passage, and their significance for understanding the main burden of the prophecy is unclear. In this study we show how the recurring expressions and synonyms used in this text lend it a consistent and systematic structure from which its meaning emerges.