

## שבת שובה

*Hosea, chapter 14, verses 2 to 10 and Micah, chapter 7, verses 18 to 20 or Joel, chapter 2, verses 15 to 27*

### **Introduction**

*Connection of haftarah and Shabbat:*

The Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is treated as a special day in the calendar, and therefore the haftarah has no connection with the sidra. Rather, the selections from Hosea and Micah or Joel deal with the theme of Repentance, appropriate for the High Holy Day season.<sup>1</sup>

### **Hosea**

*The setting:*

Hosea lived in the 8th century B.C.E., and was a younger contemporary of Amos. He resided and preached in the Northern Kingdom, which bore the name of Israel. He addressed himself unsparingly to the social and religious ills of his society, though in the end he held out God's forgiveness if the people would mend their ways. (Note that the selection also forms part of the reading for Shabbat Vayeitzei.)

For more on Hosea and his time, see our *General Introduction*.

*The message:*

1. The Prophet's call to repentance. (2-4)
2. God's response. (5-9)
3. A didactic postscript. (10)