

right before them , we ~~make~~ may have the right interpretation, and we may not. We could very ~~ess~~ easily go astray. If we study it ~~for~~ from their own situation and see what they had facing them and how they dealt with it, we are more apt to understand correctly the early ~~pr~~ portions of their books or of their particular discourse , and from those we go and deal with later ~~lat~~ matters that are logically related to these. Well, now , that is the case~~x~~ in the book of Jonah. This book has been subject to a great many interpretations, ~~in~~ which take many portions of it very figuratively . But most of these interpretations can be swept aside with little difficulty ~~if~~ if we just go to the book and look ~~at~~ at it in the simplest way and ask ourselves what is the natural , ~~ev~~ obvious interpretation. There are people who say we can take ~~in~~ everything in the Bible literally . Now anybody who says that has probably never read the Bible . Because you can't take ~~every-~~ everything in any book literally . Every book has ~~in~~ many figures of ~~speeek~~ speech. Nevertheless, it is ~~thw~~ the wise approach to the Bible to say take things in their plain simple meaning and examine the literal interpretation of each word before you decide whether a particular word is a figure of ~~in~~ speech. The bulk of it as in anything else has to be literal but it does contain very beautiful figures of ~~speeek~~ speech which illumines and makes it clear rather than make it confusing. Now, this book of Joel , we are not sure when it was written. The book of Hosea ~~has-as-~~ Its first verse tells us when it was written. The Word of the Lord came to Hosea in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jerobaam the son of Joash, king of Israel." We know exactly when Hosea was written. You turn over to Amos and you find it begins, "The words of ~~Amoe-~~ ~~Amo~~ Amos who was among the herdman of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah , King of Judah and in the days of Jerobaom, the son of Joaz , King of Israel two years before the earthquake." This is exactly dated, two years before the earthquake . ~~X~~