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Hosea 7

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Hosea 7.

Topics.

- Israel does not think the LORD remembers their evil.
- By their evil they make the king and princes glad by their treachery
- Ephraim is a cake and he knows it not.
- Ephraim is like a dove silly and without sense, calling to Egypt.
- Woe to Israel, because they do not call upon the LORD from their heart.
- Israel returns to the LORD, but not from their heart.

INTRODUCTION: Hosea has been called the “death-bed prophet of Israel” because he was the last to prophesy before the Northern Kingdom fell to Assyria (about 722 B.C.). His ministry followed a golden age in the Northern Kingdom, with a peace and prosperity not seen since the days of Solomon. Unfortunately, this prosperity led to moral decay, and Israel forsook God to worship idols. So God instructed Hosea to marry a prostitute, whose unfaithfulness to her husband would serve as an example of Israel’s unfaithfulness to God. Hosea then explained God’s complaint against Israel and warned of the punishment that would come unless the people returned to the LORD and remained faithful to him. The book shows the depth of God’s love for his people, a love that tolerates no rivals.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: “Map Locations and People of the Bible,” and the title: “Bible Dictionary” on Website Menu.

HOSEA 7:1-3

Israel does not think the LORD remembers their Evil.

- **Hosea 7:1-3:** When I would heal Israel, the iniquity of Ephraim is revealed, and the evil deeds of Samaria; for they deal falsely; the thief breaks in, and the bandits raid outside.
²But they do not consider that I remember all their evil. Now their deeds surround them; they are before my face. ³By their evil they make the king glad, and the princes by their treachery.

Ephraim: became such a leader in the new Northern Kingdom (the ten tribes in the land of Samaria) that in addition to their more common name Israel, the kingdom also became called Ephraim. Israel’s sins are like a cancerous virus they are so rampant that the entire nation is being destroyed by them. At the present moment the people live and do as they please without any thought toward God. When God heals Israel their iniquity and every evil act will be revealed. This is a principal of salvation, even today no one can be saved without being aware of their sin before God. One of the purposes of the Holy Spirit is to convict of sin. Without acknowledging sin, there can be no repentance and without repentance there can be no salvation.

By their evil they make the king and princes glad by their treachery: this most likely means that leaders of Israel are so corrupt they willingly take bribes and most likely rob from their own people and oppress the poor and the feeble to gain the king’s favour and give him and the princes what they want. Every sin (and there are multitudes) Israel has committed is constantly before the Holy Face of God and the people have no remorse over it. They could be likened to misters and pastors today who secretly have affairs and yet stand behind the pulpit every

week proclaiming the word of God without any sense of wrongdoing before the Lord. The King and the leaders do not even mourn over the people's wickedness or treachery toward God in fact it appears King and his rulers use Israel's wickedness to their own advantage and for their own gain.

HOSEA 7:4-7

Sins of Israel.

- **Hosea 7:4-7:** They are all adulterers; they are like a heated oven whose baker ceases to stir the fire, from the kneading of the dough until it is leavened. ⁵On the day of our king, the princes became sick with the heat of wine; he stretched out his hand with mockers. ⁶For with hearts like an oven they approach their intrigue; all night their anger smolders; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire. ⁷All of them are hot as an oven, and they devour their rulers. All their kings have fallen, and none of them calls upon me.

Sins of Israel:

- They deal falsely; stealing is rampant and the gangs raid the streets (v1).
- Not only do married couples commit adultery, but the people also commit spiritual adultery against God by worshipping idols and pagan gods.
- Kings are corrupt and their leaders drink an excess of wine and join in with mockers, meaning they join in with those who deliberately intend to make somebody look foolish or ridiculous.
- The people are full of anger and disobedient to rulers (understandable when you have corrupt kings and rulers).
- No-one calls on the LORD or seeks after Him, but look to idols and pagan gods.

HOSEA 7:8-10

Ephraim is a Cake and He Knows it Not.

- **Hosea 7:8-10:** Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples; Ephraim is a cake not turned. ⁹Strangers devour his strength, and he knows it not; gray hairs are sprinkled upon him, and he knows it not. ¹⁰The pride of Israel testifies to his face; yet they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him, for all this.

Ephraim is a cake not turned: when a cake is not turned it means that it is not cooked and only half baked. In this context it carries the idea that though Israel is God's people they are not committed to the relationship.

Grey hairs are sprinkled upon him: grey hairs are a sign of old age and feebleness in this context it carries the idea that Israel as a nation has lost the power, authority and strength that they would have if they did right before God, even strangers are diminishing the might they once had and they do not even realise it. These verses shine a spotlight on the power of pride the people of Israel are so full of pride, that they are totally unaware of the fallen condition they are in. Pride when it is full blown blinds an individual, a government, a secular or religious organisation of their fallen condition before the LORD and how far they have moved away from his will.

HOSEA 7:11-12

Ephraim is like a Dove silly and without Sense, calling to Egypt.

- **Hosea 7:11-12:** Ephraim is like a dove, silly and without sense, calling to Egypt, going to Assyria. ¹²As they go, I will spread over them my net; I will bring them down like birds of the heavens; I will discipline them according to the report made to their congregation.

Ephraim is like a dove, silly and without sense: a dove is a harmless bird it does not attack or have claws to defend itself in this context it carries the idea of Israel totally lacking power and strength to defend itself against its enemies. They are silly without sense because they are looking to idols and pagan gods for blessing instead of the Lord their God and because they are looking to Egypt and Assyria for protection rather than to God. Eventually both Israel and Egypt were conquered by the Assyrians and then they were conquered by the Babylonian Empire and later Media Persia ruled them all. This is why God says they were silly and without sense looking to secular nations for protection when it is God who controls the secular nations.

HOSEA 7:13-14

Woe to Israel, they do Not call upon the LORD from their Heart.

- **Hosea 7:13-14:** Woe to them, for they have strayed from me! Destruction to them, for they have rebelled against me! I would redeem them, but they speak lies against me. ¹⁴They do not cry to me from the heart, but they wail upon their beds; for grain and wine they gash themselves; they rebel against me.

To help understand these verses imagine a married billionaire being deeply in love with his wife, but she strays from him with other lovers. He wants to love her, but when he talks about it she tells him lies, all she wants from him is financial security, but he wants her heart. This is the relationship between God and Israel, they have turned to other lovers (idols and pagan gods) all they want from God is their farms and business to prosper and material blessings, but God wants their heart.

This shines a brilliant spotlight on the following truth: "The ones who will make up God's treasured possession are not those who follow him for what they can get from Him, but those who give Him their heart."

HOSEA 7:15-16

Israel returns to the LORD, but not from their Heart.

- **Hosea 7:15-16:** Although I trained and strengthened their arms, yet they devise evil against me. ¹⁶They return, but not upward; they are like a treacherous bow; their princes shall fall by the sword because of the insolence of their tongue. This shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.

The people of Israel return to the LORD, but not from their heart, they only pray to Him for what they want. They are praying for their cities, farms and livestock to prosper, they only want God for the blessings He has the power to give to them, but their corrupt lifestyle testifies that their heart is far from Him. It could be likened to some in the Christian faith today who teach a prosperity and success Gospel and attract large congregations who simply follow God because they want what they can get from God (i.e., success and worldly riches and material possessions).

They spend hours in prayer, but they are praying for food, houses, money, and prosperity and healing, but they don't want to know God Himself. They want the blessings, but are not interested in knowing the King and Saviour who blesses or living a lifestyle that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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