

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 413 – When He Would Have Healed Through Their Derision (Hosea 7:1-16)

1. When God would have healed Israel, what did Israel not consider?

They did not consider that their doings were known to God: *“(1) When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood; and the thief cometh in, and the troop of robbers spoileth without. (2) And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness: now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face” (Hosea 7:1-2).*

- God wanted to bring about the spiritual well-being of His people (**Ezekiel 18:30-32**).
- What He wanted and what they wanted was not aligned (**Luke 13:34-35**).
- Their iniquity was discovered (**Isaiah 28:1**, and **Hosea 4:17; 12:1; 13:1-2**).
- The wickedness of Samaria (**Isaiah 9:8-9**, **Jeremiah 23:13**, and **Hosea 8:5-6**).
- Falsehood (**Micah 7:1-7**).
- Robbers, as discussed in the previous chapter (**Hosea 6:9**).
- There was a long history of not considering things in Israel (**Deuteronomy 32:28-29**, **Isaiah 47:7**, and **Jeremiah 5:31**).
- What they were not considering is that God remembered their wickedness (**Jeremiah 14:10**). He also remembered the other side (**Jeremiah 31:20**).
- They needed to know that God knew what was going on (**Proverbs 5:21**, **Proverbs 15:3**, **Isaiah 29:15-16**, **Jeremiah 16:17**, **Jeremiah 17:10**, **Jeremiah 23:24**, and **Hebrews 4:13**).

2. How did they make the king glad?

Their wickedness: *“They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies” (Hosea 7:3).*

- The king of Israel, at this time (**Hosea 1:1**), was evil. Therefore, no surprise here (**II Kings 14:23-24**).

3. In regard to Israel, what did the Lord say they all were?

Adulterers: *“They are all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, who ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened” (Hosea 7:4).*

- Their spiritual adultery (**Jeremiah 3:6-8**) was inflamed as the oven of a baker (**Hosea 7:6-7**).

4. What do we learn about the princes in Israel in this context?

They were predators not looking to the Lord: *“(5) In the day of our king the princes have made him sick with bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand with scorners. (6) For they have made ready their heart like an oven, whiles they lie in wait: their baker sleepeth all the night; in the morning it burneth as a flaming*

fire. (7) They are all hot as an oven, and have devoured their judges; all their kings are fallen: there is none among them that calleth unto me” (Hosea 7:5-7).

- The day of the king may have been some feast day (**I Samuel 25:36**).
- We can see what was going on a bit more through the pen of Isaiah (**Isaiah 5:11-12**).
- Think about the error of the princes (**Habakkuk 2:15-16**) and the king (**Proverbs 31:4-5**).
- Of course, we are aware of all the problems with alcohol in general (**Proverbs 20:1, Proverbs 21:17, Proverbs 23:20-21, Proverbs 23:29-35, Isaiah 5:22, Hosea 4:11, Matthew 26:41, Luke 21:33-34, Galatians 5:16-21, I Thessalonians 5:6, Titus 2:1-14, I Peter 1:13-16, and I Peter 4:1-5**).
- Their predatorily nature is exposed here (**Proverbs 4:14-17, Jeremiah 5:26-27, and Micah 2:1**).
- None called unto God (**Isaiah 9:13, Isaiah 43:22, Isaiah 64:7, and Jeremiah 23:14**) as a result of their pride as the context reveals (**Hosea 7:10**).

5. What happened as a result from Ephraim mixing himself among the people?

Strangers devoured his strength: “(8) Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned. (9) Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not” (Hosea 7:8-9).

- God originally intended His people to be separated from others (**Deuteronomy 7:1-14**).
- They did not hearken to that at this point or even after Babylonian captivity (**Ezra 9:1-2 and Nehemiah 13:23-27**) and here we see the result. They needed to repent of this (**Ezra 10:1-17**).
- Older men should have been wise (**Job 321-8**).

6. What testified to the face of Israel?

Their pride: “And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all this” (Hosea 7:10).

- Their pride testified to His face (**Hosea 5:5**).
- They revolted more and more (**Isaiah 1:5**).
- When pride cometh... Shame and destruction (**Proverbs 11:2 and Proverbs 16:18**).
- To his face, personal, and will receive just recompense (**Deuteronomy 7:10, Deuteronomy 32:35, and Isaiah 59:18**).

7. Was it helpful for God’s people to turn to Assyria and Egypt for help?

No: “(11) Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart: they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria. (12) When they shall go, I will spread my net upon them; I will bring them down as the fowls of the heaven; I will chastise them, as their congregation hath heard. (13) Woe unto them! for they have fled from me:

destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me. (14) And they have not cried unto me with their heart, when they howled upon their beds: they assemble themselves for corn and wine, and they rebel against me.

(15) Though I have bound and strengthened their arms, yet do they imagine mischief against me. (16) They return, but not to the most High: they are like a deceitful bow: their princes shall fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue: this shall be their derision in the land of Egypt” (Hosea 7:11-16).

- In summary, here is a message we see throughout the Old Testament. They VAINLY turn to someone for help, just not to God (**II Kings 18:21, Isaiah 30:1-7, Isaiah 31:1-3, Isaiah 36:1-6, Jeremiah 37:5-10**).
- Erringly, they trusted in the strength of men rather than of God (**Psalms 118:8-9, Proverbs 21:30-31, Isaiah 2:22, and Jeremiah 2:18; 36**).