

The Faithfulness of God

Hosea 7:1-16

- We are in the middle of the book of Hosea and the prophet is warning the nation of Israel that impending judgment is near especially for the Northern Kingdom which was made up of ten tribes of Israel, and often called Ephraim for short. The Assyrians are fast approaching their assault upon the Northern Kingdom but in their pride and self assurance they're simply ignoring all the messages from God.

V1-16

- In chapter 6:1 we read that if Israel returned to The Lord and repented He would heal that which was torn, He would bind that which was stricken, He would revive and raise up that which had been struck down, that they may pursue God's knowledge, and therefore receive God's blessings, but here we see they refused.
- **V1-5** when God would have healed Israel they continued to sin willfully and without shame, almost daring God to follow through with His threats against them. As they openly commit > Fraud, Robbery, Lies, Adultery, Drunkenness. Becoming so desensitized to their sin that they stopped believing that what they were doing was wrong, but notice not God, He still felt the same way about sin as He always.
- **V2** says they stopped considering in their hearts what God said about sin, that He remembers all their wickedness, and that those sinful deeds are now coming back around for payment. **Ps 103:12, Is 43:25, Mic 7:18-19, Heb 8:12**, when we confess and forsake our sins God forgives us of all our sins, remembering them no more.
- But you have to confess, repent, and go in another direction for that to happen, you cannot just say God knows my heart and continue to commit the same sin thinking God will just gloss over it. Israel did that and it caused their hearts to become hardened toward God's Word and forget what He said, deceiving themselves into falsely believing that He was now okay with them living and behaving like this.

- Before we leave this section I want to examine real quick the sins that they were committing as a society, as they look very familiar to what we see today. **1. Fraud 2. Robbery 3. Lies 4. Adultery 5. Drunkenness.** People today think God turns a blind eye toward all sins except murder, thinking He doesn't care if I cheat someone, or steal, lie, have sex with someone who is not my spouse, drink, look around everyone's doing it, if God didn't like this then the world is doomed exactly.
- This is what God sees everyday and night, and man ignores, celebrating this type of behavior, and God has a photographic memory as He remembers our tears putting them in a bottle > **Ps 56:8**, He writes our words of praise for Him in a book > **Mal 3:16**, and He doesn't forget my sacrifices I make for Him and others > **Heb 6:10**.
- **V6-7** Hosea says Israel's sin and corruption is like a heated oven, its lust rages like a hot flaming fire, you know when an oven or grill is hot anything that touches it is going to get burned. So the Kings, princes, judges, leaders, have all been corrupted by the sins listed in this chapter as none have called upon The Lord for help.
- **V8-9** Israel was meant to be a light to the other nations pointing them to God > **Ex 19:6**, but instead of Israel pointing other nations to The Lord, they let those nations lead them away from The Lord, thus God calls them a cake unturned. Have you ever had a half baked cake, that when you bite into it the batter runs out, nasty, also if you eat too much of something that's half cooked you will have a terrible stomach ache, as it will make you sick and miserable, causing everything else to be thrown up.
- The saddest part about all of this is God says Israel is weak and doesn't know it, the reference to the gray hairs implies that death is much closer than he knows and he is oblivious to it. One of the saddest things is when everyone can see something is not right with someone and yet they don't realize it themselves, they're in denial.
- **V10-12** here is why "**pride**" pride blinds, it binds, and it causes you to grind, just ask Samson, he ended up having his eyes poked out, his hands and feet in chains, and working in the prison for the enemy because of his pride, as he wouldn't listen to truth. God says the pride testifies to Israel's face and he ignores it, refusing to turn to The Lord, instead like a silly bird he relies on Egypt and Assyria the two nations that will eventually come and overthrow him, taking his land and enslave his people.

- **V13-16** Israel eventually saw their problem but not their sin, and many people are like this, they see okay I have a problem but instead of turning to The Lord they run to people who are not following The Lord. Israel seeks help but not from God, they are described as a faulty bow that won't shoot an arrow straight, so everything that comes from Israel misses the mark, because they are like a treacherous bow, and therefore they are like a useless but dangerous weapon wow!
- How many people are like Israel that will cry out with their voices instead of repenting in their hearts. Which leads them to seek help from those who make their situation worse and not better, think about it Israel runs to the very nations that had either previously enslaved them, or eventually will, this is very sad!