

HOSEA 7:1-7

A ROYAL MESS!

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I'd like to start today's lesson by looking back at where we've come from.

Chapters 1–3: Hosea's Troubled Marriage

God instructs Hosea to marry Gomer, whose unfaithfulness becomes a picture of Israel's relationship with God. Just as Gomer pursues other lovers, Israel has pursued Baal worship and political alliances with Egypt and Assyria. Yet despite Gomer's betrayal, Hosea redeems and restores her, illustrating God's persistent covenant love for His people.



Remember the three children Gomer bore:

Jezreel (“God scatters”) — symbolizes impending judgment for Israel’s bloodshed and the fall of the royal house (1:4).

Lo-Ruhamah (“Not pitied” or “No mercy”) — God will withdraw His compassion from Israel (1:6).

Lo-Ammi (“Not my people”) — God declares the covenant broken: “You are not my people, and I am not your God” (1:9).



Chapters 4–5: God’s Charges Against Israel

The prophecy shifts from illustration to *indictment*. God brings a formal case against Israel because there is no truth, mercy, or knowledge of God in the land. Priests, people, and kings are all corrupt. Idolatry and moral decay have spread throughout society, and the nation is heading toward judgment.

Chapter 6: Superficial Repentance

Israel briefly appears to repent, saying they will return to the Lord. However, God exposes their repentance as shallow and temporary—“*like the morning cloud.*” (6:4) What God desires is “*loyalty, not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.*” (6:6)



By the time we reach **Hosea 7**, the problem becomes even clearer: even when God seeks to **heal** Israel, their sin keeps surfacing. Instead of true repentance, the nation continues in deception, corruption, and inflamed passions. Chapter 7 shows **how deeply ingrained the unfaithfulness described in chapters 1–6 has become.**



There are three movements in this passage:

1. Hidden sin is exposed (vv.1–2)

2. Corrupt leadership is celebrated (vv.3–5)

3. Uncontrolled passion leads to collapse (vv.6–7)



I. Hidden Sin is Exposed

7 “When I would have healed Israel,
Then the iniquity of Ephraim was uncovered,
And the wickedness of Samaria.

For they have committed fraud;

A thief comes in;

A band of robbers takes spoil outside.

² They do not consider in their hearts

That I remember all their wickedness;

Now their own deeds have surrounded them;

They are before My face.



2. Corrupt Leadership is Celebrated

³ They make a king glad with their wickedness,
And princes with their lies.

⁴ “They *are* all adulterers.

Like an oven heated by a baker—

He ceases stirring *the fire* after kneading the dough,
Until it is leavened.

⁵ In the day of our king

Princes have made *him* sick, inflamed with wine;

He stretched out his hand with scoffers.



3. Uncontrolled Passion Leads to Collapse

⁶ They prepare their heart like an oven,
While they lie in wait;
Their baker sleeps all night;
In the morning it burns like a flaming fire.

⁷ They are all hot, like an oven,
And have devoured their judges;
All their kings have fallen.
None among them calls upon Me.



Hosea 7:1

“When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was uncovered...”

God’s intent is restoration, not destruction. The tragedy is that every time He moves toward healing, Israel’s sin surfaces. It’s like lifting a bandage to treat a wound only to discover deeper infection.

- **Q: What kinds of sins does Hosea point out?**

Readers for:

Psalm 90:8; Proverbs 10:9; Jeremiah 17:9



Hosea 7:2

“They do not consider in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness...”

The problem is not ignorance of sin—but forgetfulness of God.

- “I remember” = God holds them accountable.
- **Q: What does “their deeds surround them” suggest?**
- **Q: What does “they live before my face” mean?**

Readers for:

Hebrews 4:13

Luke 8:17



Hosea 7:3

“They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies.”

Corruption is institutional.

- **Q: How do kings and princes respond to wickedness?**
- Kings in Israel during this era (Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekah, Hoshea) rose through conspiracy and violence (2 Kings 15).
- Political intrigue, assassinations, and bribery were common.

Reader for:

Isaiah 1:23



Hosea 7:4

“They are all adulterers, like an oven heated by the baker...”

Adultery here likely includes:

- Sexual immorality
- Spiritual adultery (idolatry)
- Political betrayal (covenant breaking)

The oven metaphor:

- **Q:What characteristics of an oven are emphasized?**
- **Q:What might the oven metaphor reveal about how sinful desires grow and intensify?**

Readers for: Proverbs 6:27-28; James 1:14-15



Hosea 7:5

“On the day of our king, the princes became sick with the heat of wine...”

- Likely describing royal festival days.
- Drunkenness among rulers.
- **Q: What does “he joined hands with mockers” suggest?**



Hosea 7:6

“For they prepare their heart like an oven while they lie in wait...”

The oven image intensifies:

- “Their anger smolders all night.”
- By morning it blazes into action.

This likely refers to political conspiracies and assassinations. More often than not, Israel’s 19 kings were deposed by assassination. In several instances, the assassin then assumed the throne...until he was killed by the next usurper!



Hosea 7:7

“All of them are hot as an oven; they devour their rulers...”

- The oven now consumes rulers themselves.
- Political instability: kings fall one after another.
- The phrase *“none among them calls upon Me”* is the climactic indictment.

The core issue is not merely immorality or corruption—it is **prayerlessness and covenant abandonment**. We’ve seen this before: Gomer’s 3rd son is named Lo-Ammi, “Not My People.” Solutions are sought through intrigue and alliances rather than repentance.

Reader for: Matthew 23:37-38



Two final questions:

- **How does the exposure of sin actually reflect God's mercy?**
- **If Hosea were speaking to our culture today, what would he say?**



In Summary:

1. God Desires Healing
2. Sin is Self-Intensifying
3. Leadership Matters
4. Political Collapse Reflects Spiritual Collapse
5. The Root Sin: Failure to Call on the Lord



**THANKS FOR LISTENING,
AND,
KEEP COMING BACK!!**

