

**Leaders Breaking Bad
The Legacy Left Behind by Fallen Angelically Inspired Leadership
Hosea 7:3 – 16**

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If you are like me, as we get more mature, we find ourselves teaching our kids and grandkids the same lessons. Not once but over and over again.

If you have lived long enough, you also see that same thing being reflected in the culture. No one seems to learn anything from one generation to the next. The teaching is taking place, but the learning is not happening.

When I was growing up, we had just finished our involvement in a long unpopular war, but did we learn? Korea – Vietnam – Iraq – Afghanistan.

Ecclesiastes 1:9–11

“What has happened before will happen again. What has been done before will be done again. There is nothing new in the whole world. “Look,” they say, “here is something new!” But no, it has all happened before, long before we were born. No one remembers what has happened in the past, and no one in days to come will remember what happens between now and then.” (GNB)

As we look at Hosea 7, we are going to encounter various actions that have been taken by unbelievers who are being misled by the fallen ones. They believe they are the first with the ideas, just like the culture today.

We tend to separate ourselves from the current culture when we study the Bible, I'm guilty of this as well, because that was then, this is now. The word of God is current, much more so than we give it credit to be.

The tactics being used by the fallen ones hasn't really changed that much either. Terms may be different, but actions are incredibly similar, and the path still leads to the pit.

We are going to see incredible similarities between the Israel of 720 BC and our culture of the 21st century.

The intelligent evil that exists in the unseen realm has been around thousands of years using proven tactics to mislead and maximize the number who follow them, and not the Lord. Nothing is truly new.

As we wrapped up last time, we were given insight into an ongoing investigation taking place. This investigation was of the two nations, Israel, and Judah, but there was more of a focus on Israel. We learned an amazing thing about this investigation.

Every time YAHWEH wants to bless Israel, He uncovers yet more sin which prevents Him from doing so. That is the picture being drawn for us by Hosea. We know that God knows everything so the thought of Him doing an investigation and finding more sin seems to be strange to us. This is called an anthropomorphism.

At times, God explains His actions in human terms to help us understand His activity, since blinded and sinful men just will not get it...ever. So, to help with understanding, He talks in terms that are understandable to His audience.

ANTHROPOMORPHISM refers to descriptions of God's being, actions and emotions (more properly anthropopathism) in human terms. God is invisible, infinite and without a body, but human characteristics are frequently ascribed to God in order to communicate information about his nature or acts. (Ferguson and Packer 2000, 30)

Hosea 7:2

"And they do not consider in their hearts That I remember all their wickedness. Now their deeds surround them; They are before My face." (NASB 2020)

We know the future that God has in store for His people. They will be regathered, and that is currently happening, yet, as prophesied, predominately in unbelief.

It seems like His people have forgotten about who it is they are dealing with. "They do not consider."

Clearly, YAHWEH loves His people Israel and Judah, but as we saw in verse 2, "a practical disbelief of God's omniscience and government was at the bottom of all their wickedness...As if God could not see it, though he is all eye, or did not heed it, though his name is Jealous, or had forgotten it, though he is an eternal mind that can never be unmindful, or would not reckon for it, though he is the Judge of heaven and earth." (Hentry 1994, 1477)

If we understand who God is and know about His attributes, then we know how incongruous this is; especially for a group of people who are known by His name and exist only because of a miracle of God. There is a serious sin problem with the people, and that leads YAHWEH to make an opening statement about the political leadership of Israel. The opening statement is one that rings true about in our culture today and speaks to the leadership today, in business, religion and in politics. Our culture is just as broken as the one in Israel we are studying.

Hosea 7:3

"With their wickedness they make the king happy, And the officials with their lies." (NASB 2020)

The Kings of Israel were uniformly corrupt and evil...all of them. Not one King was what you would consider to be a good or Godly king. This meant that the lower levels of leadership who were busy emulating their boss were also corrupt. It was what was rewarded.

That in turn, as we have already seen, spilled into the false religion of the people and impacted their business and personal relationships. There is a remnant, but it is not large at all.

Politicians and government officials survive by brute force, manipulation, or public endorsement. King and princes in Samaria are no different. What works is right! Within that climate, Israel's rulers approve whatever it takes to get the job done. As a result, wickedness becomes a necessity and deceit a virtue. King and princes approve the results and the means used to achieve them. (Guenther 1998, 135)

The king is shown to be corrupt because he is pleased by corruption. An existing weakness of his is played upon, magnified, and taken advantage of—a weakness shared by the inner ring of the powerful. (Beeby 1989, 85)

Of course, none of that goes on in the current administration in Washington or in any business today.

If the people are as wicked or even more so than the king, then everyone is happy. Why so many different rulers in Israel? The diagnosis is provided by the Lord. They are wicked, like the people and everyone is scheming to get ahead of the next person and do away with them if need be.

Israel is an early example of a cancel culture. We have seen glimpses of that culture type throughout history. Whenever someone stands up for the Lord, there will always be those who want them canceled.

Before I go any further though I need to issue a warning, any similarity in our study to current leaders, politicians, political parties and cultural actions are purely coincidental...right.

The diagnosis from the Lord.

Hosea 7:3–7

“With their wickedness they make the king happy, And the officials with their lies. They are all adulterers, Like an oven heated by the baker, Who stops stoking the fire From the time the dough is kneaded until it is leavened. On the day of our king, the officials became sick with the heat of wine; He stretched out his hand with scoffers, For their hearts are like an oven As they approach their plotting; Their anger smolders all night, In the morning it burns like flaming fire. All of them are hot like an oven, And they consume their rulers; All their kings have fallen. None of them calls on Me.” (NASB 2020)

In Israel, it was not about shepherds taking care of the sheep anymore. What the people needed or wanted no longer was the issue. It was now all about the acquisition and retention of political power at any cost. In this diagnosis, “the thought then is that one king after another comes to the throne through acts of wickedness and crime.—And in their treacheries, princes. Secret intrigue, involving faithlessness to both fellow-man and God. Since they are all adulterers; king, princes, and people.” (Harper 1905, 295)

Leaders in Israel had no problem with canceling you, like Jeroboam I did with all the Levites (1 King 12:31). Holiness didn't pay like sin does.

When leaders become overly enamored with their own sense of self-worth, mixed with the sin nature and power, you have a recipe for disaster. This did not begin in Israel, and it has not ended either. In business, government, anyplace where leaders can quash accountability, this becomes a problem.

Lord Acton remarked in a letter to Bishop Mandell Creighton in 1887: “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men.” (Gottwald, et al. 2014, 413)

Those being led tend to either rebel or conform. The sin nature is strong and a leader who pushes that direction tends to have those who line up behind them.

The people of Israel had no problem going along with their leaders in canceling anyone who worshiped YAHWEH. In Judah, they joined with the King in forcing believers to leave their jobs and their homes and move to Judah where YAHWEH worship was still politically acceptable (2 Chronicles 11:14 – 17).

The people of Israel went along with their leaders and blindly followed their lead by engaging in changes to their lifestyle; embracing prostitution, various sexual sins, the worship of the false gods of fertility while participating in human sacrifice (Jeremiah 19:5).

Behavior that was previously abhorred became accepted and then ultimately emulated by leaders looking to appease their base.

When national leadership changes took place and a new King took power in Israel, it was accompanied by the entire prior administration and leadership being canceled with prejudice (killed) (1 Kings 15:28 – 30) and replaced.

Jails started to fill up with political prisoners and those who worshipped YAHWEH were included as part of that (1 Kings 22:27).

Oppression of this nature, as always, resulted in deep political divisions in Israel as loyalties became divided (1 Kings 16:21 – 24) increasing the violence in the nation. There were those who wanted to move even further into sinful practices and those who did not.

Because of the deep division, an incredibly poor excuse for a King, Ahab, came to power who supported everything God was against. At times it appeared he was nothing more than a puppet of his wife, Jezebel as well as his advisors (1 Kings 21:15 – 16).

Ahab along with his wife advanced the worship of Baal and the lifestyle changes required to go along with that. The administration publicly supported those priests who worked for Baal. Ahab's administration went out of their way to cancel and destroy YAHWEH worshippers leaving only a few (1 Kings 19:18) who remained faithful to YAHWEH. One strong prophet, Elijah, spoke out and continuously announced judgement after judgement on the King.

Meanwhile, Israel sustained drought, high prices, military degradation, and religious confusion because of judgments from YAHWEH.

God used men such as Elijah, Micaiah and Elisha to sound the alarm and the need to repent, but the nation followed their leader's guidance and went further into sin. Things which had been subject to criminal sanctions before, were no longer. In fact, those activities had become politically supported and touted as appropriate to a new lifestyle supported by the leadership (1 Kings 18:29 – 33).

I could continue, suffice it to say that if you worked for the King, and a headcount reduction was needed, it usually meant your head...literally. Changes in administrations meant death for many, and by the time of Hosea this was the norm and not the exception.

What we find revealed to us by Hosea is an Israel that has leadership that does nothing to stop the increase in crime or evil. They are active participants in it because it makes them money. "The picture of the oven that needs no stoking once the fermentation has begun, tells its own story of self-propagating passion..." (Kidner 1976, 70)

Hosea 7:5–7

"On the day of our king, the officials became sick with the heat of wine; He stretched out his hand with scoffers, For their hearts are like an oven As they approach their plotting; Their anger smolders all night,

In the morning it burns like flaming fire. All of them are hot like an oven, And they consume their rulers; All their kings have fallen. None of them calls on Me.” (NASB 2020)

We do not know which of Israel’s Kings is referenced or what the special day is. It could be a birthday, an anniversary of ascension to the throne, we are not told. But the action takes place on that special day.

The King is celebrating with those who are not his true supporters, but they are scoffers, members of the deep state. They are all plotting against the King and their hearts are burning with conspiracy and intrigue. All during the night they become even more angrier than when they started.

By morning, the conspiracy is complete, the anger is full, and the King is assassinated. “They are all hot as an oven seems to characterize the closing decades of Israel. Shallum, who killed Zechariah, was in turn killed by Menahem. Four of Israel’s last six kings were murdered.” (Pfeiffer 1962, Ho 7:6)

Having examined the history of the leadership of the nation and found them wanting, God’s attention turns back to the nation. They are no better than their leadership. None of the leadership had called on YAHWEH so where is the nation in all this? Following those who were supposed to be their shepherds.

Jeremiah 23:1

““Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD.” (ESV)

God took all of this very seriously.

Hosea 7:8–9

“Ephraim is himself thrown about with the nations; Ephraim has become a round loaf not turned over. Strangers devour his strength, Yet he does not know it; Gray hairs also are sprinkled on him, Yet he does not know it.” (NASB 2020)

We start off with a baking analogy. A baker in Israel would use a heated stone for baking or cooking. It was not unusual to make small cakes on such a surface. In order to completely cook a cake, you would first cook one side, then flip it over to cook the other side so the entire cake would be done.

What God is saying here is that Ephraim, the northern Kingdom of Israel, is no better than a half-cooked cake. Raw on one side and cooked on the other, not worth being used for anything except for trash. This is another way of saying that Israel was not hot or cold, they were religious, they were lukewarm. Shades of the Laodicean church.

Ephraim has gone away from YAHWEH, they are no longer salt or light, they are no longer pointing anyone to God, they are now no better than the surrounding nations.

Someone who is lukewarm, someone who gives God a nod but that is about it, is no better than a pagan. They are both headed in the same direction.

Towards the end of their existence, the northern kingdom engaged in alliances with nations that they had no business working with. They also tried to force an alliance with Judah resulting in Judah paying off Assyria to attack Israel. They were hot and cold in their foreign affairs too, just like in their relationship with YAHWEH.

Israel had mixed in false gods from other nations which devoured their strength.

Hosea 7:8–9

“The house of Israel is intermingled with the nations. The house of Israel is intermingled with the nations. The house of Israel is like a cake which is eaten before it has been turned. The nations have plundered their wealth, but they are unaware. Weakness has also overtaken them, but they do not understand it.” (Cathcart, Maher and McNamara 1990, Hosea &:8-9)

The point was probably that Israel was experiencing loss of political autonomy. This loss was epitomized by the tribute payments that were an excessive drain on its wealth and economy (cf. 2 Kings 15:19–20; 17:3). (Chisholm 1985, 1395)

False religion, murder disguised as a religious act, sexual sin disguised as a religious act, a priesthood on the take and national leadership looking for a buck didn't help.

From the time of Tiglath-pileser III's accession (745 B.C.) until the fall of Samaria over two decades later, Israel had been in the midst of diplomatic turbulence and international intrigue. Moreover, the Assyrian campaigns of 734–732 resulted in the loss of much of Israel's traditional territory. It is possible that the description of Ephraim as advanced in age reflects the view that the next step after the loss of its former territories will be death. (Dearman 2010, 209)

Hosea 7:10–12

"Though the pride of Israel testifies against him, Yet they have not returned to the LORD their God, Nor have they sought Him, despite all this. So Ephraim has become like a gullible dove, without sense; They call to Egypt, they go to Assyria. When they go, I will spread My net over them; I will bring them down like the birds of the sky. I will discipline them in accordance with the proclamation to their assembly." (NASB 2020)

This sounds a lot like what we read in 2 Kings 17

2 Kings 17:1–4

"In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah began to reign in Samaria over Israel, and he reigned nine years. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, yet not as the kings of Israel who were before him. Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria. And Hoshea became his vassal and paid him tribute. But the king of Assyria found treachery in Hoshea, for he had sent messengers to So, king of Egypt, and offered no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore the king of Assyria shut him up and bound him in prison." (ESV)

When King Hoshea came to power in Israel, the nation was near the end of their rope. They no longer had military power as they did under Jeroboam II, the political leadership of the nation had been eviscerated by murder and intrigue, and now, to prevent further war since the army was no longer capable of defending the nation, Hoshea becomes a vassal of the Assyrian Empire paying them tribute. They are paying Assyria money to keep Assyria from attacking them. Assyria was running an international protection racket plundering the wealth of Israel and other nations as well. Pay to play for real.

For some reason, King Hoshea though decided to align with Egypt and cease making payments to Assyria. This usually means he is now paying Egypt instead. And this is better for him how?

Hosea 7:11

"So Ephraim has become like a gullible dove, without sense; They call to Egypt, they go to Assyria." (NASB 2020)

What about doves? Gullible? I think that is being kind to the dove.

I have several doves that live in the front yard. They have done so for years. They like to hang out on the front porch most of the day, but they are rather dumb. If I go out to get in the car, they will walk, not fly away from me and they always walk right in front of the car. This has been going on now for years. I have also watched them lay eggs while perched on the gutter of the house 10 feet off the ground. Not healthy for the egg to say the least.

If a hawk shows up, they try to hide, on the porch, in clear view of the hawk. Every so often, the dove loses, and I have a pile of feathers to clean up.

It is this kind of behavior that the Lord says the nation of Israel is practicing. They are doing things that make no sense. Moses said this was to be expected as an end point once the covenant was rejected.

Deuteronomy 28:28–29

“The LORD will also subject you to madness, blindness, and confusion of mind. You will feel your way along at noon like the blind person does in darkness and you will not succeed in anything you do; you will be constantly oppressed and continually robbed, with no one to save you.” (NET)

Israel is out of control. “Yahweh promised to bring Israel under His control and to subdue it, as when a hunter throws a net over birds. He would chasten them in harmony with what He had earlier proclaimed to His people when He gave them the Mosaic Covenant (cf. Lev. 26:28).” (Constable 2003, Ho 7:12)

Again, the message is one of discipline, not destruction. It is discipline in alignment with what had been announced to them by Moses.

Deuteronomy 28:15

“But if you ignore the LORD your God and are not careful to keep all his commandments and statutes I am giving you today, then all these curses will come upon you in full force.” (NET)

God is telling His people through Hosea that He will snare them and frustrate their attempts to get outside help and instead make them captives. This is the definition of “full force.”

Hosea 7:13–16

“Woe to them, for they have strayed from Me! Destruction is theirs, for they have rebelled against Me! I would redeem them, but they have spoken lies against Me. And they do not cry to Me from their heart When they wail on their beds; For the sake of grain and new wine they assemble themselves, They turn against Me. Although I trained and strengthened their arms, Yet they devise evil against Me. They turn, but not upward, They are like a loose bow; Their officials will fall by the sword Because of the insolence of their tongue. This will be their derision in the land of Egypt.” (NASB 2020)

This is not good news for Israel. Israel recognizes that there is a problem in their society. They know it needs to be remedied, but they are not seeking God as part of the solution. “When God’s hand is against man, he easily sees he has a problem but often does not see it as sin against the LORD. So when Israel had problems, they wailed upon their beds, but not to the LORD. They sought remedies, but not from the Most High.” (Guzik 2000, Ho 7:13-16)

This is treachery we read of here in Hosea. “The theme of the accusation is the incredible treachery of Israel against the God who has been their strength in the past and would even now redeem them.” (Mays 1969, 110)

God speaks about their overt rebellion against Him, and His willingness to redeem them, but not only has Israel turned against Him, they lie about who He is by seeking help from others.

If we know that God can do anything and He has offered to protect us, why would we go anywhere else? Saying you belong to Him and then turning elsewhere is turning against God. It is not seeking alternative options. It is rebellion. It is treachery.

Yes, this takes faith, and we have a serious example for us in Ezra as he returns from Babylon to Jerusalem. He traveled with treasure and people, and a total reliance upon God for protection.

How much do we trust Him?

Ezra 8:21–23

“And there by the Ahava Canal, I gave orders for all of us to fast and humble ourselves before our God. We prayed that he would give us a safe journey and protect us, our children, and our goods as we traveled. For I was ashamed to ask the king for soldiers and horsemen to accompany us and protect us from enemies along the way. After all, we had told the king, “Our God’s hand of protection is on all who worship him, but his fierce anger rages against those who abandon him.” So we fasted and earnestly prayed that our God would take care of us, and he heard our prayer.” (NLT)

Israel though sought help from Egypt as well as from fallen members of the heavenly host, their so-called gods.

Hosea 7:14

“And they do not cry to Me from their heart When they wail on their beds; For the sake of grain and new wine they assemble themselves, They turn against Me.” (NASB 2020)

Israel was not turning to the Lord to meet their needs, they were wailing and possibly meeting together with someone else in mind, Baal possibly. There is more to this though.

As the god of wind and weather Baal dispenses dew, rain, and snow (KTU 1.3 ii: 39–41; 1.4 v:6–7; 1.5 v:8; 1.16 iii:5–7; 1.101:7) and the attendant fertility of the soil (KTU 1.3 ii:39; 1.6 iii:6–7, 12–13 [note the metaphor of ‘oil and honey’, for which see also the Hebrew phrase ‘a land flowing with milk and honey’ in Exod 3:8, 17; Lev 20:24; Deut 26:9; cf. Amos 9:13; Ps 65:12]; KTU 1.4 vii:50–51). Baal’s rule guarantees the annual return of the vegetation; as the god disappears in the underworld and returns in the autumn, so the vegetation dies and resuscitates with him. (Herrmann 1999, 134)

The people of Israel bought this hook line and sinker.

Israel turned away from God for help with crops and herds and turned to the fertility cults that they prostituted themselves with. This verse makes it sound like a large gathering is taking place and that may be the case, but the Septuagint infers something else is happening, more in alignment with Baal worship.

Hosea 7:14

“And their hearts did not cry to me; rather, they howled in their beds. They used to gash themselves for corn and wine.” (Lexham Press 2020, Hosea 7:14)

Cutting yourself to draw the attention of a god is not something sanctioned by the Torah. It is forbidden.

Acts of self-mutilation were a Canaanite device to attract the attention of the gods and to add to the effectiveness of prayers to them (cf. 1 Kgs. 18:28). Since such behaviour was forbidden to true worshippers of the LORD (Deut. 14:1), those who engaged in it incur divine displeasure because they turn away against me. (Mackay 2012, 219)

Deuteronomy 14:1

“You are children of the LORD your God. Do not cut yourselves or shave your forehead bald for the sake of the dead.” (NET)

In order to see better crops, Israel has turned to the practice seen in Baal worship and they are now cutting themselves. They are literally shedding blood, sweat and tears for their crops and herds. This is done in direct disobedience to the Law and the conclusion of YAHWEH is “they turn against me.” This is deemed to be treachery by God on the part of His own people who are seeking a solution from every source other than Him. Receiving judgment from God has the people recognizing who it is from but seeking a solution elsewhere.

Taking this verse apart we see the following.

The nation is no longer looking to YAHWEH from their heart, they have turned to rituals and their heart is now with the false gods involved in their fertility cults. This is evidenced in that they are engaging in the ritual wailing associated with Baal worship and in the same phrase we see they do this on their beds, implying they are also engaging in sexual activities at the various shrines in Israel.

As an added incentive to get the attention of their god, they are also cutting themselves. The picture is one of wailing and bleeding while engaged in prostitution.

Hosea presupposes the knowledge that tîrôs (wine) is one of the blessings given by yahweh; this knowledge appears to have been lost in the northern kingdom, having been replaced by Baalism (2:10[8]) and its rites of self-mortification in response to a failed harvest (cf. 7:14, “they gash themselves for grain and wine,” with the conduct of the prophets of Baal in 1 K. 18:28).

Because the people have forgotten the true gift of the produce of the land, Yahweh will withhold (among other things) his tîrôs—his and not Baal’s (Hos. 2:11[9]; 9:2). (Fleischer 2006, 656)

Hosea 7:15–16

“Although I trained and strengthened their arms, Yet they devise evil against Me. They turn, but not upward, They are like a loose bow; Their officials will fall by the sword Because of the insolence of their tongue. This will be their derision in the land of Egypt.” (NASB 2020)

God reminds Israel that He is the one who is the loving parent here, not Baal. He is the one who taught them to trust Him and is the one who prepared them for battle.

As a result of the judgments beginning to fall on them, the nation should return to YAHWEH. They do not.

This is compared to preparing for battle but using faulty equipment like a loose bow that will not launch an arrow at all. Today we would compare it to being given a rifle but no rounds to fire. Ineffective to say the least. The situation is bad, so bad that even those they wanted to ally with now speak of them with derision. “He is saying that Egypt will begin to mock them and ridicule them for the way they are acting.” (McGee 1997, 641)

As God moved, the people made a false start towards Him. It was hypocrisy though because at the end of the day they fell back into their patterns of behavior officially blessed by the culture. There was no real repentance at all. They cried to the Lord, but not from the heart as the heart was moved by all the activities associated with Baal.

We see this in our culture all around us. When things go south, suddenly folks want to seek the Lord.

We saw this dramatically on 9/11 but one month later, things were back to normal.

At the beginning of the pandemic there was real fear in some as this disease appeared to have nothing that could stop it or mitigate it.

Satan took advantage of it and used mask or no mask, meet or do not meet as a means to divide the church and push many away from the Lord.

As a result, many have now turned away from the Lord and churches are closing left and right. Satan used this as a wedge in the church.

That is what the enemy does. Cause confusion. Many political leaders took advantage of this.

The sin of the princes of Israel. That which is charged upon them is the rage of their tongue, quarrelling with God and his providence and with all about them when they are crossed. Princes think they may say

what they will, and that it is their prerogative to huff and bluster, to curse and rail, and to call names at their pleasure, but let them know there is a God above them that will call them to an account for the rage of their tongues and make their own tongues to fall upon them. (Hentry 1994, 1479).

In Israel, it was the leaders who lied about God and drove the people to seek answers elsewhere. “The princes are mentioned as the originators of the enmity against God, and all the misery into which they have plunged the people and kingdom. מַרְיָ , fury, here defiance or rage. Defiance of tongue the princes showed in the lies which they uttered concerning Jehovah (v. 13), and with which they blasphemed in a daring manner the omnipotence and faithfulness of the Lord. (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 73)

As believers in Jesus Christ, we know that we are living in the last days. Jesus is returning very soon yet there are leaders running around lying about all of that and telling us we can have our best lives now. We have political leaders urging us to comply with their demands in order to be truly safe, yet we know that there is only true safety for us at the cross of Christ.

These same political leaders after touting their faith, turn around and embrace lifestyle changes that are in direct conflict with being a follower of Christ.

We are busy running around like a bunch of doves seeking an alliance with nations who want nothing more than to destroy us and make us their slaves.

Just as God was calling Israel back to Him, a call they ignored for the most part; He is doing the same today.

Romans 10:9–10

“If you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised him from death, you will be saved. For it is by our faith that we are put right with God; it is by our confession that we are saved.” (GNB)

Seeking God’s face is done by praying to Him. The prayer is simple.

Lord, forgive me, I agree with you that I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died on the cross for my sin and then rose from the dead. Jesus be the Lord of my life.

That’s it. It is no more complicated than that.

ABC’s of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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