

## Hosea 7:3-16| *The Character of an Unrepentant Nation*

**Introduction:** In his commentary on Psalm 81, Matthew Henry writes: “*We cannot look for too little from the creature, nor too much from the Creator. We may have enough from God, if we pray for it in faith. All the wickedness of the world is owing to man's wilfulness. People are not religious, because they will not be so. God is not the Author of their sin, he leaves them to the lusts of their own hearts, and the counsels of their own heads; if they do not well, the blame must be upon themselves. The Lord is unwilling that any should perish. What enemies sinners are to themselves! It is sin that makes our troubles long, and our salvation slow.*” This statement is a great summary of the situation that the nation of Israel is in in this passage, they are a divided nation that has given themselves over to sin. Although God repeatedly calls them to repent, they continue to plunge themselves deeper and deeper into depravity (2 Kings 17:7-13). God has expressed his willingness to heal Israel, but they continue to show their sinfulness to him (7:1).

**Context:** (vv1-3) ---Unrepentant Israel is a lawless society of liars, thieves, and robbers  
They have deceived themselves into thinking God does not see them, but the reality is that God does see. We must understand that our God is not limited by time and space, and he is aware of everything that goes on, which means that it is the height of foolishness to think that we can hide our sins from God. The irony is that it is sin that makes us think that God does not see our sin. Sin makes us irrational and sin perverts our perception of God. It is very convenient for a people who do not want to repent of sin to conceive of a god that is oblivious to sin (Psalm 10:4). Such a god is an idol because the true God cannot be ignorant of sin. The true God is everywhere and knows everything: (See Proverbs 15:3; Psalm 11:4; 90:8)

Proverbs 5:21 For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and the LORD examines all his paths.

*Through the prophet Hosea, God tells Israel all about the sins that he sees them commit.*

**Main Point:** Israel is a nation that refuses to repent of her sins! ---God through the prophet Hosea provides for us in text four pictures to show us the character of a sinful nation.

### **(vv4-7) Israels sin makes them like a heated oven!**

This simile describes the sin of the priest in Israel = Not only are the kings ungodly but also the priest. Ever since (4:4) the priests have been the subject. When Hosea says “they” and “them” in in (vv3-7), he has the priest in mind because along with the ungodly kings, they are guilty of being at the center of the conspiracy against God. Instead of seeking to the true worship of Yahweh as is their job description, they were becoming politically bias and helping wicked kings secure the throne rather than advancing Gods agenda, which is to make sure he is worshipped correctly and because of their spiritual compromise, Hosea says (vv4) =”They are all adulterers” ---That is spiritual adultery meaning that these priest transgressed the covenant they have with God to make covenants with wicked kings, this is why is (vv3), it say “by their evil they make the king glad”, they did this by willingly serving wicked kings. The sin of these priest is like a heated oven because their sin is manifest in their fiery passion to set kings up to be killed (vv5-7), most commentators agree that this is likely a referee to the assassinations 4 of the last 6 kings that reigned in the last 30 years of Israel (2 Kings 15-16).

### **(vv8-10) Israels sin makes them like half-cooked pancake!**

- (vv8)--This simile describes the sins of northern kingdom as a people = Hosea uses the term “Ephriam” as a signal that he is changing subjects, his focus is not on the people in the northern kingdom. Their sin is cultural compromise, they have adopted the practices of the pagan nations which is a direct transgression of Gods law; this intermingling with pagan led them into spiritual idolatry, which is why they went onto Assyrian exile (2 King 17:15-18). This sin makes them useless to God because God cannot use a nation that have given themselves over to idolatry, which is why he refers to them as “a cake not turned”; Just as no one want to eat a half cook pancake, niter does God want to use a people who want to worship idols and him. An idol worshipping nation is like a half cook pancake useless until it is turned over and fully prepared. When a nation is half committed to God, it is uncommitted to God because idolatry hinders spiritual development (vv9-10).

### **(vv11-12) Israels sin makes them like a silly dove**

Isreal’s sin makes them like a “silly dove” because like a dove, sin makes them do silly and senseless things. Sin is causing them to make flee away from God and make political allies out of spiritual enemies (vv11). They are going from pagan nation to nation seeking help. They have for gotten what the Psalmist declared: *“My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. 4Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.”* (Psalm 121:2-4). From God’s perspective this alliance is moving them backward not forward and as judgment God is going to use the Assyrians as his rod of discipline to administer correction to the Northern Kingdom (God fulfilled this promise when the Assyrians besieged the capital of the northern kingdom in 722 BC (2 King 17:17-23).

**(vv13-16) Israels sin makes them like a treacherous bow**

Israel is like a treacherous bow, the image here is of a father teaching a son to aim a bow and in return he aims the bow at his father. This is how Israel treated God: They have strayed from God (vv13). They have rebelled against God (vv13). They speak lies against God (vv13). They commit spiritual adultery against God (vv14). They conspire to sin against God (vv15). Therefore, God gave them over to foreign enemies (vv16). "Egypt" here is used symbolically by Hosea to communicate the fact that since Israel sinned the God who delivered them from slavery (Exodus 20:2, Leviticus 26:13, Hosea 13:4, Isa 43:3) that God will give them back over to slavery as judgment (2 Kings 17:10-18).

**Application**

**For the Believer** = Paul tells us that the Old Testament was written for the benefit of us who believe so that we might learn from Israel's sins (1 Corinthians 10:6-13, Romans 15:4). Israel's problem was not the nations, Israel's problem was Israel. What this tells us as Christians in 2025 is that as much as we should pray for our nation and for the salvation of unbelievers. What this text calls us to do is pray that we who believe might live faithfully before God in a godless culture. The key to revival is not the conversion of unbelievers but rather the revival of believers within the Church. When believers are on fire for God and faithful to God that is when the mission of the Church is advanced. The biggest problem in America is not liberal politicians, it is liberal churches. The biggest problem in America is not Pro LGBTQ policies but Pro LGBTQ pulpits. The biggest problem in America is not that absence prayer and bible reading in the schools, it is that the absence of prayer and bible reading is not in many churches. The biggest problem in America is not that unbelievers won't repent, it is that many professing Christians won't repent. The biggest problem in America is not that the world looks like the world, but that the Church looks like the world. We must understand that Hosea is written to the people of God not to the unbelieving nations, it is designed to call God's people to faithfulness not the unbelieving nations.

**For the Nonbeliever** = If you are here today and you don't know the lord Jesus Christ, you need to know that he is the only way to be saved and he calls all men to repent of their sin and turn to him in faith. The greatest sin you can commit is the rejection this free offer of salvation. Do not be like the nation of Israel learn from their sin of rebellion and obey God's call to believe in Jesus Christ for salvation!