

Hosea 7 - Israel is like a silly dove

1/8/2020

The prophet had called the nation to *return unto the Lord* in the last chapter, 6:1. Sadly this chapter outlines their contrary response and lists the sins that will result in their judgment.

- v 1 God's arms were graciously opened to *heal Israel*, yet they persisted in *falsehood*.
Falsehood is bearing false witness, a violation of the 9th commandment, Ex 20:16.
thief - John 10:1 & 10 *robbers* - John 10:8 and Mal 3:8-10
 - v 2 They are spiritually dull to the fact that God sees and remembers unconfessed sin.
Especially when *their doings have beset them...i.e.* they are openly practiced.
see Jer 17:1-2
 - v 3 The nation degenerated; there were corrupt leaders taking bribes from ambitious, scandalous, power-hungry lying gossips. Proverbs 29:4 & 12 (commandment #8)
 - v 4 *adulterers* (commandment # 7)...*as an oven* (i.e. "in heat", burning with lust)
leaven = a type of sin see Rev 2:20 & 2 Kings 9:30
 - v 5 *our king* historically: king Menahem of Israel, 2 Kings 15:17-21
scorners Psalm 1:1 & Pr 29:8
 - v 6-7 These two verses describe the *scorners* of verse 5 with whom Menahem had made an alliance. These *outlandish* men were both godless and prayer-less.
 - v 8 Israel disobeyed God's command to be separated from the heathen.
Exodus 33:16 Joshua 23:6-7 (Deu 7:1-6)
- Ephraim is a cake not turned* = they're half-in/half-out. They focus on the physical work of building their Jewish land but ignore the spiritual labour. They appear as a religious Jewish nation outwardly, but as Jesus said *are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness* (Matt 23:27).
- v 9 Foolish friends *devour*, drain and age you; they don't build, strengthen and renew.
Proverbs 13:20 *...a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*
Read Jeremiah 5:4-5 for good, practical advice.
 - v 10 ***key verse*** *...they do not return to the Lord.*
They ignored the call of 6:1.
To live without God is to live without hope (Eph 2:12).

v 11 God uses a similitude to describe his nation, they are...*like a silly dove*.
Doves, whether or not they migrate, will return to the same nesting site year after year (source: Diamond Dove website). Israel, like silly doves...'flew the coop'!
They looked to *Egypt, and Assyria* rather than the Lord God of Israel.
The result was recorded by Jeremiah 100+ years later in Lamentations 5:6.

spiritually : Today's church has foolishly *called to Egypt* : i.e. Alexandria has provided the poison of corrupt manuscripts used to write modern perversions.
Assyria typifies the childish charismatic spirit of living by visions, dreams, tongues, feelings, and frenzied worship services rather than doctrine.

v 12-13 These verses describe the manner of God's judgment.

(1) The Cause - *because they have transgressed against me*, v 13.
God does not judge without a reason.

(2) The Catch - *I will spread my net*, v 12.
God will catch up with sinners; they can't outrun Him.

(3) The Chastening - *I will chastise them*, v 12.
This beats judgment and perdition.

(4) The Condemnation - *Woe unto them!* v 13
This is the curse of God's judgment.
The cause = Isa 28:1 & 10:1

(5) The Crushing - *destruction unto them!* v 13
God's judgment is severe; not a 'slap on the wrist'.

v 14 Carnality leads to first to prayerlessness, then to rebellion.

v 15 God has both limited and liberated his people over the years, yet they did not reflect upon and consider his workings. Deu 32:7, Ecc 7:14

v 16 Hosea repeats the charge of verse 10.
Israel's leaders (prophets, priests, princes, kings) were like a *deceitful* (ie faulty) bow that could not send arrows to 'hit the mark'.

... *this shall be their derision in the land of Egypt*
spir: When a believer turns from God and his word, unbelievers will mock and ridicule their worldly behavior. The world is watching the church and expects us to behave better.

references:

Analytical Bible Expositor, Vol 9 John G. Butler, 2013, LBC publ.
KJV Study Bible Editor: Jeremy Howard, 2012, Holman publ.