

## ***Hosea 7.1-16—Covenant-Breaking & its Disastrous Effect on Self***

### **The Lord would heal Israel, vv.1, 13**

- I. The Lord's disposition with Israel is the disposition of the covenant of grace made with their father Abraham, Gen 12, 15, 17; Ex 19.4-6.
  - A. He's chastising them for their sins and He's sent prophets to charge them with wrong because they're willful in their disobedience. Yet, for all that, He stands ready to forgive them and bless them if they return to Him in repentance, vv.1, 13.
  - B. There's no place in the covenant of grace for willful sin but there is a place for the forgiveness of the sins of the penitent, Ex 34.6-7.

### **But Israel. They dealt falsely with God, vv.1, 13**

- I. In the face of God's gracious offer of covenant mercy and pardon and in the face of the wooing ministry of God's providence and God's prophets, Israel despised, rejected, and ignored God, turning with even more resolve into the ways of folly and sin, vv.1, 13.
- II. Hosea's sermons were mostly about God's coming judgment, but it was because Israel was walking willfully contrary to God, Lev 26.14-33; cf. Jer 9.3; Isa 1.4.
  - A. In the covenant of grace judgment is not God's first word—mercy is; but when His people persist in rebellion like Israel, the word of mercy gives way to words of judgment, Lev 26.23-24.
  - B. The underlying hope of the gospel is that the very covenant which chastises them is the covenant with provisions for their healing if they'll repent and return, Lev 26.40-42.

### **The disastrous effect it had upon them, v.2**

- I. Verse 2 contains the problem in a nutshell when the Lord says, they do not consider that I remember all their evil.
  - A. This is the greatest consequence of breaking covenant with God: sin deceives us into *not considering* that God sees our sins, Ps 10.11, 13.
  - B. But God does see. He sees them all and will take them all into account for judgment, Ps 10.14-15; Ps 94.7, 8-11.

### **What is their evil? v.3**

- I. They're all adulterers. None is righteous, no not one, Rom 3.10-18.

- A. Worse still, they're bent on and consumed by the spirit of idolatry, vv.3-7; cf. 5.4.
- B. *I would redeem them*, says the Lord; but *they're all adulterers* and they're *hot as an oven, on fire with their lust for idols*.
- C. Even for all their preaching about judgment, the Lord's prophets were a token of God's mercy and a sign of God's willingness to forgive them if they would turn (Ezk 18.30-32); but Israel would not, cf. Lk 13.34.

### **The disastrous effect it had upon them, vv.8-16**

- I. They're ruined, vv.8-9.
- II. They're deceived, v.9.
- III. They're stubborn and incorrigible, v.10.
- IV. They're senseless and foolish, vv.11, 14.
- V. They're rebels against God, v.14.
- VI. They're liars to God, vv.13, 16.
- VII. They're under God's judgment, vv.12, 13, 16.
- VIII. Nothing good can come from turning away from God because there's no getting around the fact that the wages of sin is *death*, death to the fellowship of God, who is goodness itself, 1Jn 1.5-6.

### **Reflections**

- I. When the Lord exposes the sinfulness of Israel the intent is to show us our own natural fallenness. This chapter is a mirror set before our eyes to show us all what we are by nature, Rom 3.10-18. And why does the Lord show us this?
  - A. To keep us humble by reminding us what we were before God saved us and what we still are in part, Rom 7.18, 21-25.
  - B. To remind us to magnify the riches of God's mercy that graciously saved us, Eph 2.1-4; Col 1.13-14; Tit 3.3-7.
  - C. So that we'd never forget the effect sin will have on us—even as believers—if we yield to it and continue in it, Heb 3.12-14.
- II. We need to be convinced that the only hope for fallen sinners is to receive a new nature from God, Ezk 36.25-27; Jn 3.3-5; 2Cor 5.17.
  - A. Be convinced of the doctrine of total depravity and that salvation is by God alone and by grace alone, Gen 3.15; Jn 3.16.
- III. How thankful we should be that this is the kind of change Christ brings to all who believe on Him, 2Cor 5.17; Eph 2.8-10.
  - A. Therefore let us rejoice in God and resolve to live for Him.