

# The Book of Hosea

## Chapter Seven

- I. Review
  - A. Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel who prophesied of its fall to Assyria.
  - B. Chapters 4-14 contain messages of the coming judgment upon Israel
  - C. God's indictment against Israel is across three groups: Israel, the nation and people; Ephraim, the ruling class or princes; and the priests. All these have failed in their duties to serve God.
  - D. Chapter Seven continues thoughts from Chapter 6, such as the use of the word "robbers" in 6:9 and 7:1
- II. Chapter Seven
  - A. vs. 1 - once the Lord had helped Israel in one area, another deeper and greater sin was exposed.
  - B. vs. 1 - thief and robbers - this is showing a breakdown of society, anarchy
  - C. vs. 3 - The leaders were encouraging and supporting the downward slide
  - D. vs. 4 - the picture here of the oven is this: that as a preheated oven is prepared for baking, so their hearts are prepared for wickedness. This is premeditated evil.
  - E. vs. 5 - "the day of our king" - probably a celebration of the king's birthday or coronation. The king on this day embarrassed the nation and himself with his behavior. I think this probably refers to an historical event familiar to the hearer in the day.
  - F. vs. 6 - The people had prepared themselves for evil.
  - G. vs. 7 - the pervasiveness of the wickedness
  - H. vs. 8 - Wonderful imagery here:
    - 1. "mixed himself" - whether by marriage or customs, the watering down of the Jewish identity
    - 2. "cake not turned" - think of a pancake that you never flip over
  - I. vs. 9 - they are unable to see their own condition.
  - J. vs. 10-16 - picture a people desperate not to turn back to God when they know that is the answer.
  - K. vs. 11 - Desperate for help they turn to pagan powers (2 Kings 17:4, 2 Kings 15:19)
  - L. vs. 12-16 - This is some of the strongest language we have seen so far. God has had enough of His people's rebellion and unfaithfulness.
  - M. vs. 16 - deceitful bow - I think we have enough hunters around to appreciate a gun no sighted in properly...