

The Book of Hosea

Chapter 7

Review

- We continue from the previous chapter and the indictment against the Kingdom of Israel for her sins.
- Chapter Seven continues thoughts from Chapter 6, such as the use of the word “robbers” in 6:9 and 7:1

Chapter Seven

- vs. 1 - once the Lord had helped Israel in one area, another deeper and greater sin was exposed.
- vs. 1 - thief and robbers - this is showing a breakdown of society, anarchy
- vs. 2 – our actions are ever before God. Our sins are against him – Psalm 51:4
- vs. 3 - The leaders were encouraging and supporting the downward slide
- 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.
- 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.
- vs. 6 - The people had prepared themselves for evil. Sin, of course, has gone much further than they expected.
- vs. 7 - the pervasiveness of the wickedness has taken down governmental and spiritual guidance.
- vs. 8 - Wonderful imagery here:
 - “mixed himself” - whether by marriage or customs, the watering down of the Jewish identity
 - “cake not turned” - think of a pancake that you never flip over
- vs. 9 - they are unable to see their own condition.
- vs. 10-16 – Here is the picture of a people desperate to not turn back to God when they know that is the answer. These final verses contain the strongest language we have seen so far. God has had enough of His people’s rebellion and unfaithfulness.
- vs. 10 – the pride of Israel illustrated through their actions is indictment against them.
- vs. 11 - Desperate for help they turn to pagan powers (2 Kings 17:4, 2 Kings 15:19)

- “No creature is less able to defend itself than the dove, which flies from the bird of prey to the net of the fowler. In this powerful metaphor we have a political allusion.” – Ellicott’s Commentary
- vs. 12 – The people will blindly and drunkenly fall into judgment.
- vs. 13 – Note that God first redeemed them then they rebelled.
- vs. 14 – Sickness and hunger do not move them.
- vs. 15 – the strength God gave them is now used to rebel against Him.
- vs. 16 – The people turn everywhere else but to God and their fall is sure to come.
 - deceitful bow - I think we have enough hunters around to appreciate a gun no sighted in properly...