
a *Grace Notes* course

Hosea

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Lesson 10

Hosea 7:1-16

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Instructions for Completing the Lessons

Begin each study session with prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who makes spiritual things discernable to Christians, so it is essential to be in fellowship with the Lord during Bible study.

Read the whole book of Hosea often. It is a short book, and reading it many times will help you understand the story much better.

Instructions

1. Read the introduction to the study of Hosea
 2. Study the Hosea passage for this lesson, by reading the verses and studying the notes. Be sure to read any other Bible passages that are called out in the notes.
 3. **Review** all of the notes in the Hosea lesson.
 4. Go to the Quiz page and follow the instructions to complete all the questions on the quiz. The quiz is "open book". You may refer to all the notes and to the Bible when you take the test. But you should not get help from another person.
 5. When you have completed the Quiz, be sure to **SAVE** your file. If your quiz file is lost, and that can happen at Grace Notes as well, you will want to be able to reproduce your work.
 6. To send the Quiz back to Grace Notes, follow the instructions on the Quiz page.
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Hosea Chapter Seven

Hosea 7:1,2

And the iniquity of Ephraim and the evil deeds of Samaria were revealed in my healing of Israel, for they work falsehood; the thief enters in, bandits raid outside, and they do not consider in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness. Now their deeds are all around them; they are before My face.

God attempted to heal Israel through discipline.

Hosea 6:1, "Come, let us return to the Lord. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us.

God's discipline was motivated by love, as it always is.

God's discipline was appropriate - just the right set of circumstances so that the nation of Israel would return to Him, and share His holiness.

Yet the Northern kingdom completely failed to respond to God's discipline, and this recalcitrant attitude revealed the evil underneath.

Sin is never excusable, but God is patient with sin.

God disciplines so that His grace offer might be considered and accepted.

When His discipline is rejected, well, that is bad. It denotes a rejected of grace, and ultimately of Him.

Hosea uses parallel synonyms for the reversionism (backsliding) of the Northern Kingdom.

The first is 'AON. The basic meaning of this verb is to 'bend, twist, or distort.' Through this one perceives sin as any distortion of Divine Holiness, or the character of God.

- Any failure of justice.
- Any failure of mercy.
- Any failure of grace orientation.
- Any failure of organization.
- Any failure of self-control.
- Any failure of faithfulness.

- Any failure of integrity.

RA'A is the second. It is the opposite of TOBH, and it always denotes evil, or bad as an abstract principle. But this is the concept of anything that is against the will of God, or His character. This is quite synonymous with `AON.

Ephraim is a synonym for Israel, the Northern Kingdom. Samaria was its capital.

These nations work falsehood. That is, they weave falsehood into the fabric of their lives.

- As businessmen, they cheat their clients.
- As taxpayers, they cheat their government.
- As landowners, they cheat their neighbors and move the boundary stones.
- As spouses, they cheat on their husbands and wives.
- As living souls, they cheat themselves by justifying all their falsehoods.
- The fabric of falsehood is complex, and so much part of their everyday lives that it is an inseparable part of their character.

In Israel you are safe from crime in no place.

- The bandits raid outside, so it seems better to stay in.
- But the thieves get what the bandits do not, and you are no safer in than out.
- There is nowhere to run in this sort of discipline.

This description of rampant crime is an indictment on the people of the Northern Kingdom.

The crime is a part of the discipline portfolio that God brings on them. It is the third cycle of discipline.

Yet, they decide to live with it rather than return to God. Living with crime is better than living under the truth.

In spite of the discipline, they will not admit in their hearts that something is wrong, that the rampant crime is discipline. The word LILEBHABHAM is the inner man, or heart. It is rather like saying, "in your heart of hearts". These people are in major denial. Not at any level do they admit that they are wrong, and far from God.

Hosea Lesson 10

This is another way to describe spiritual blindness, the result of consistent rejection of the truth and simultaneous acceptance of the Satanic counterfeits and lies.

In spite of their denial, God still remembers their evil. Nothing escapes Him, even when it may escape us through denial.

Our denial of God does not eradicate His existence. We are creatures, and we have nowhere near the power it would take to destroy God by our own words or thoughts.

The deeds of the Israelites are all around them. They can hardly move without running into the fruit of their sins.

- There are thousands of illegitimate children.
- Crime is rampant.
- A powerful foreign enemy has successfully invaded and left them helpless to defend against further incursions.
- There is hardly an honest businessman left in the land. Cheating is a way of life.
- The mentally ill invade the streets, visible reminders of the personal fruit of degeneracy in the soul.
- Every form of idolatry is available to the public, even the most heinous and criminal.
- Homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle, and publicly acknowledged as legitimate.
- Government is corrupt beyond belief.

And yet all of this is before God's face. He perceives it while they do not. The difference comes down to honesty in the soul. "To thine own self be true.

- Practice honesty with yourself - it keeps the eyes open and well.
- Dishonesty with self leads to all kinds of problems, spiritual, physical, and mental.
- Honesty with self leads to agreement with God, and love for Him.
- Initial honesty with self is the acknowledgment of total depravity, and the need for a savior to bridge the gap to God.

- Secondary honesty with self means confessing your sins when necessary.
- Tertiary honesty with self means continuing grace orientation after salvation through spiritual growth in the Word under a prepared pastor-teacher.

Hosea 7:3

With their wickedness they make the king glad, and the princes with their lies.

In other words, the king and the princes rejoice in the wickedness and lies of their people. There can be many reasons for this, but one or two stand out.

First, because the leaders, too, are full of wickedness and lies.

Rom 1:32, "and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

Second, because when the people are slaves to the cosmic system, they are more easily enslaved by their government. This is especially worthwhile to those who tend toward power lust.

1. Those with power lust love to see losers in their nation, for it means that those losers will be all the more dependent on their government.
2. So drug addicts, sex offenders, welfare recipients, the mentally ill, alcoholics, etc. etc. are a boon to those who love to rule.
3. Those with power lust will never be tough on drugs, immorality, or crime, because those are the things that perpetuate their power. They will never support the family, but that which destroys the family.

So those who rule, and their sub-rulers rejoice in the degeneracy of their people.

Every level of government is included in this principle.

Power usually means money. But money is not always the issue for the power hungry; power is.

Hosea 7:4

They are all adulterers like an oven heated by the baker, who ceases to stir up the fire from the kneading of the dough until it is leavened.

What a great description of adultery and fornication.

The oven is parallel to the sex life of the adulterer. This is evidenced by the adverb of comparison, KI. The parallel comes in two parts.

1. The oven is heated by the baker. Oven is from the Hebrew MO THANNUR - literally fire pot. The oven of the time was almost always an outdoor affair. Usually in the courtyard of the home. After the fire was lit, the baker would then go back inside.
2. The baker goes about his business, kneading the leaven into the dough. This takes a certain amount of time. But he fails to tend the fire during this time, so that when it is time to bake the dough, the fire is cold.

There is more symbolism in the kneading of the bread. The kneading portrayed here is an erotic picture. But - and here is the rub... as long as you knead the dough, it will not rise. Instead, the dough must be left alone for that to happen. This is a picture of the frustration and uselessness of extramarital sex.

- Doing something at the wrong time destroys the enjoyment of the right.
- Concentration on the illicit leads to distraction from the legitimate.
- Illicit sex can only be enjoyed for a moment; legitimate sex for a lifetime.
- Illicit sex destroys the fire of sexual drive; legitimate sex stokes that fire.

With the substantive adjective KULLAM Hosea indicates that the entire nation of Israel is in this category.

Hosea 7:5-7

On the day of our king, the princes became feverish with the heat of wine; He extended his hand to scoffers, for their hearts are like

an oven as they draw near their intrigue; their baker sleeps all night, in the morning he burns like a flaming fire. All of them are hot like an oven, and they consume their rulers; all their kings have fallen. None of them calls on Me.

This is another series of powerful similes. These concentrate on the government of Israel, and its relationship with the people.

First, the princes get sick with the heat of wine on the king's day. The king's day does not have a parallel in the system of Levitical feasts. Therefore, this must be talking about the coronation of a new king. All of the princes become sick with wine on this day.

- There is more to this sickness than meets the eye. The word for sickness is HALAH. It usually denotes sickness or weakness due to illness, and could even here construe sickness from alcohol poisoning. But, the word also comes to mean lovesick, or sick with passion; feverish and obsessive with regard to mental things.
- The idea of fever is reinforced by the word YAHAM, which often means sexual heat. We use it of our pets now: they go into heat, and are ready to conceive. The fever is one of conception.
- The agent of conception is wine, YAYIN. This is a picture of disgruntled princes on the day of coronation. They are power mad, and so they immediately get drunk, and feverishly hatch plots against the king. In the context, these are inevitably assassination plots.

Hosea 7:8,9

Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples; Ephraim has become a cake not turned. Strangers devour his strength, yet he does not know it; gray hairs also are sprinkled on him, yet he does not know it.

And now, a rationale for the discipline of Israel. Ephraim is again synonymous with Israel, the Northern Kingdom after the split.

The Northern kingdom "mixes himself with the peoples".

Hosea Lesson 10

The verb "to mix" is the hithpael imperfect of YITHBOLAL. The hithpael is the reflexive stem, and it shows that whatever action is done, is done to oneself. The imperfect tense reveals that this mixing oneself is an ongoing thing.

The noun AM is 'people'. Remember Hosea's second son, Lo-ammi? Well, this relates to that. Lo-ammi is "not my people".

AM is not the exact equivalent of GOYIM. GOYIM describes the unbeliever-foreigner of the age of Israel, while AM is more neutral - it describes people of all kinds, even Jews.

Here, however, there is a very strong sense of that GOYIM meaning. Just from the context it comes out well this way.

The mixing is at least of a sexual nature, wherein marriage is optional. It means that for the sake of sexual pleasure and temporary emotional satisfaction they have mixed themselves with unbelievers.

When a believer has sexual relations with an unbeliever, in or out of wedlock, they make a powerful bond. As such, it becomes very difficult to maintain their relationship with God.

Furthermore, when illicit sexual relations are had with an unbeliever, the believer has gone over to the beliefs of his or her partner with that very act.

Also, recovery from this situation is very difficult indeed, for it requires the severing of what is designed to be a very strong bond. In the case of marriage, it requires the maintenance of that bond alongside relationship with God, which is difficult as well.

But, there is no concern here with genetic matters. Unbelievers did become a legitimate part of the nation, and were accepted fully into it, as long as they believed in Jesus Christ. Moses had a non-Jewish wife. Rahab and Ruth were also non-Jewish. But in all three cases, these women were believers in Christ, and true Jews by that definition.

Next is an illustration of the statement: Ephraim has become a cake not turned.

The word for turned is the qal passive participle HAPHUCHAH. This means to 'turn over', and the

picture here is more of flipping a pancake than it is of turning an object clockwise or counterclockwise. In the ancient world, the bread had to be flipped in order to bake it correctly. Furthermore, the metaphor cannot be about mixing, because this phrase indicates that a mixing has not occurred.

A cake not turned will inevitably be burned on one side, and uncooked on the other. So also Ephraim:

- They are overdone in the area of sex and idolatry.
- At the same time, they are almost completely uncooked in the realm of relationship with God.

Verse nine follows with a statement which describes an Israel unaware of his weakness. Here, it is a kind of political blindness.

First, they are unaware that foreigners devour their strength.

- Now, the strength of Israel was never in themselves, or their military. Instead, it was in God, first and always. Many, many of the Psalms testify to this very thing.
- By intermingling with strangers, and adopting their idolatrous ways, the people of Israel sapped their strength, which was the infinite strength of God.

Second, they are unaware that their days are numbered. Their national hair is turning gray, and not too many years remain.

Hosea 7:10-12

So Ephraim has become like a silly dove, without sense; they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria. When they go, I will spread My net over them; I will bring them down like the birds of the sky. I will chastise them in accordance with the proclamation to their assembly.

These verses condemn the behavior of a client nation, when it seeks dependence on the human viewpoint strength of other nations as a replacement for dependence on God.

Hosea Lesson 10

God says that He will thwart their attempts at alliance, and turn those attempts into deadly disasters.

Birds are generally stupid. They may be pretty, and sound pretty, but they are stupid. The term 'birdbrain' is not used in flattery.

The word YONAH describes this dove, and it is the more generic term of two that describe this bird. The other term, TOR, always describes the turtledove of the sacrifices; YONAH is any kind of dove, even pigeons.

The dove does stupid things, even for a bird. It calls and calls its mournful cry, and attracts predators. It flies here and there in its path, but is not all that well known for its dramatic flights. In fact, the dove is known to make pretty sounds, and that is about it. It is defenseless...

So Israel makes pretty sounds to the Egyptians and the Assyrians - predator nations. And these nations are completely aware of Israel's weakness.

But there is God, looking down on this silly dove, flitting this way and that looking for strength in other nations. And being above, He is ready to drop the net on their flight at any time. A net on a dove during flight adds up to an imminent and destructive crash.

So this is the way with seeking alliance for your own strength.

But note, alliance for the sake of attaining the same goal is not prohibited and in fact reflects wisdom.

For instance, in the second world war, the United States allied with many other nations to hasten the destruction of the Axis powers.

But alliance from a position of weakness is another matter entirely. Especially when that alliance is a direct replacement for dependence on the strength of God.

Personal alliance can come under this same principle. Attempting to draw strength from others outside of true strength in God is a fool's errand, which can bring no good. God will drop you from the sky. This should be distinguished from the means of spiritual gifts designed for the teaching of the word.

The proclamation to their assembly is what happens after an alliance is made by government officials. The government makes the alliance, and then makes a proclamation to the people.

Often these proclamations are pure falsehood, designed to make the government look good, and thus gain support from the people. (Japan)

But in this case, God says that His discipline will be commensurate with that falsehood that they spread.

Hosea 7:13-16

Woe to them, for they have fled from Me! Destruction is theirs, for they have rebelled against Me! I would redeem them, but they speak lies against Me. And they do not cry to Me from their heart when they wail on their beds; for the sake of grain and new wine they assemble themselves, they turn away from Me. Although I trained and strengthened their arms, yet they devise evil against Me. They turn, not upward, they are deceitful like a bow; their princes will fall by the sword because of the insolence of their tongue. This will be their derision in the land of Egypt.

Verse thirteen is another discipline summary. It is a summary of the case of God vs. Israel.

Israel has strayed from God. So, woe to them.

God, through Hosea, employs the interjection 'OY'. This is an impassioned expression of grief and despair. It is even onomatopoeic, evincing the sound that comes forth involuntarily from one's mouth at the moment that the bad news is heard.

God says that they will have this experience because they have strayed, 'NADEDU'. This verb holds the connotation of panicked flight. Israel flees from God because they fear a face to face confrontation. Yet, this confrontation is in reality the only thing that will save them. Lesson: never fear what is best for you. If it is best for you to go to God and confess your sins in humble repentance, then do so, and without fear.

Israel has rebelled against God. So, destruction is theirs.

Hosea Lesson 10

The word for rebel is PHAS`U. It can describe personal or national rebellion. An interesting note: it too holds the connotation of fear. It reveals that fear always stands as the motivation for rebellion, in the negative sense of the word.

The rebellion of Israel from God has brought on SOR, 'devastation'. Always, always, this word contains the idea of violence. A violent destruction waits for this fearful, rebellious nation.

Israel speaks lies against God. So, they do not receive redemption.

This nation has gone so far in the world system that they have begun to speak Satanic propaganda against God. They are now the propaganda ministers of the devil.

PADAH is the Hebrew word for redemption. In the age of Israel, this redemption would have been both spiritual and national. The nation would have been renewed, were they not now the friends of the enemy.

Verse fourteen continues the courtroom case of God vs. Israel.

The first half of the verse has to do with the expression of pain in Israel; they are wailing and crying and howling on their beds, but none of those cries are expressed toward God.

First is the image of the people of Israel in agony and an emotionally distraught state. They are YEYELILU. This is the hiphil causative imperfect verb. It describes the crying of Israel as personal and continuous.

As this goes on, there is no repentance, no ZA`AQU, no call for help to God from the heart. In spite of their agonized state, they do not return to Him.

In place of repentance and dependence on God, the people of the Northern Kingdom have kept on sacrificing to their dead idols with grain and new wine, and in so doing turn aside from God.

One significant word: YITHGORARU. It shows that Israel functions on its own power in order to deal with their sorrow.

The people of the Northern kingdom assemble themselves in order to deal with their problems.

In the fifteenth verse, God reminds us of all that He did for the nation, and of what He received in return.

The verse begins with two verbs in the piel stem and perfect tense. The piel stem is the stem which reveals intensity of action. The perfect tense concentrates on completion of action. So whatever specific actions these two verbs reveal, note that it is intense and complete.

The first verb is YISSARTHI. It is the very essence of divine discipline. It means to chastise, or discipline someone for their own improvement. God has done this intensely to Israel.

The second is HIZZAQTI. This means to strengthen someone or something. Here, the arm of Israel.

The arm is often a metaphor for inward or outward strength. It reveals that God intensely strengthened the Northern Kingdom.

The strengthening would be spiritual. God has faithfully provided all the spiritual logistics necessary for Israel to grow before Him, and yet they have rejected it all.

This strengthening also has its impact in the military frame of reference. Spiritual strength leads to battlefield strength. This would be apropos considering the delicate and weak situation that Israel is in at the time of this sermon from Hosea.

The discipline is the wake up side, while the grace assets are the positive side.

In spite of all this, Israel planned evil against God. This is a strong testimony against them.

The last verse of the seventh chapter concludes the discourse.

They turn, not upward.

So instead of repenting to God, they repent to Satan and thus become worse than they ever were before.

With a wrong and bitter and fearful response, they have rejected the discipline and strengthening efforts of God.

They are treacherous as a bow.

Hosea Lesson 10

There are certain hazards that come with shooting an arrow from a bow. The energy created by drawing a bowstring can backfire on the archer and cause considerable pain.

So also Israel. They have a certain power, which can be wielded for good or bad, according to their relationship with God. They are the priest nation before God, and so before all the nations.

However, if they become evil, then negative publicity ensues. Such principle holds true for every individual believer in the church age.

Their princes shall fall by the sword on account of their tongue.

This tongue should be associated with the falsehood of the previous verse. Their leadership is doomed to destruction by their own people. An

adulterous nation can never handle solid leadership. If you do not have rein over yourself, you cannot be reined by your government.

So the princes die by violence.

This was their derision in the land of Egypt.

This hearkens back to the 400 year slavery of Israel in Egypt.

What Hosea/God says is this: that the very reason that they were enslaved, was because of their apostasy before God. Now that same condition applies. Draw the parallel! See the light! It is back to slavery for Israel!

Hosea Lesson 10 Quiz

Instructions

The following questions relate to your study of this lesson.

To answer a question, type your response in the space provided after the word "Answer:". A question may be True/False, multiple choice, fill in the blank, or short answer type.

The last question requires you to write one or two paragraphs in "essay" form. Use the space provided; it will expand to accommodate your response.

You have choices about sending the quiz back to Grace Notes.

- If you received an email file containing the quiz, you can use the REPLY feature of your e-mail application to open the quiz. Enter your answers in the reply message. Then SEND the message to Grace Notes.
- You can enter your answers on these pages, then send the whole file back to Grace Notes as a file attachment. This is handy, but these lessons will average 100K to 200K in size. As an alternative,
- After you answer the questions here, copy and paste the whole list of questions into a new MS Word document; then, send the new file to Grace Notes as an attachment. The new file will, of course, be much smaller than this main file.
- Finally, you can print the Quiz pages on your printer and send your response back to Grace Notes in the regular mail. If you do this, send the mail to:

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Whichever transmission method you use, when Grace Notes receives your completed Quiz, the next lesson will be sent to you, by the same means you received this one. EXCEPT: when you have sent in the FINAL QUIZ, we will send your certificate to you, by regular mail.

Questions on Hosea Lesson 10

1. God's attempt to heal Israel through discipline was very successful. [True/False]

Answer:

2. What was the capital of the Northern Kingdom?

Answer:

3. What is the chief characteristic of spiritual blindness?

Answer:

4. The kings and princes of Israel were saddened and depressed by the wickedness of their people. [True/False]

Answer:

5. In what ways was Ephraim (Israel) losing strength?

Answer:

6. What was the effect of Israel's being intermingled with strangers?

Answer:

7. Why did "Ephraim" call for help from "Egypt and Assyria," and become dependent on them?

Answer:

8. What is the danger in a Christian's attempting to draw strength from unbelievers, or to receive advice or help from worldly people?

Answer:

9. What prevents God from redeeming Israel?

Answer:

10. What is the significance of the phrase "by the insolence of their tongue?"

Answer:

End of Quiz