

HOSEA STUDY

Lesson Nine: "Ovens, Cakes, Doves and Bows"

Hosea 7: 4-16

INTRODUCTION

Up to this point, Hosea has described Israel's SPIRITUAL and MORAL CONDITION as a "STUBBORN CALF" and like a "MORNING FOG."

In Chapter 7, He uses FOUR MORE PICTURES:

1. OVERHEATED OVEN (4)
2. A CAKE UNTURNED (8)
3. A SILLY DOVE (11)
4. A FAULTY BOW (16)

All four of these images paint a picture of Israel's essential spiritual problem of REFUSING TO TURN TO GOD and RECEIVE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM.

OVERHEATED OVENS (Hosea 7:4-7)

1. THE OVEN

2. COMPARISON TO ISRAEL'S PASSIONS:

- "Adulteress" (4)
- "Inflamed With Wine" (5)
- "Devoured Their Judges" (7)
- "Their Kings Have Fallen" (7)

3. ISRAEL WAS IMMORAL AND INVOLVED IN BAAL WORSHIP

4. ISRAEL WAS INVOLVED IN INFLAMED POLITICAL TURMOIL
 - They were taking matters into their own hands.
 - They became inflamed with passionate lust for power.
 - The throne was grasped by one assassin after another.
 - There was constant murdering in the royal court.

5. THE KEY TO ALL OF THIS IS FOUND IN VERSE 7: “NONE OF THEM CALLS UPON MY NAME.”

6. WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, WITHOUT A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, OUR PASSIONS CAN FLAME LIKE AN OVEN.

7. THE POTENTIAL FIRE OF OUR HUMAN NATURE CAN DESTROY OR CREATE.

Destroy:

Create:

8. WHICH IS RAGING WITHIN YOU? THE FIRES OF YOUR OWN NATURE AND WILL, or THE FIRE OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD?

A CAKE UNTURNED (Hosea 7:8-10)

1. A CAKE UNTURNED IS HALF-BAKED.

2. ISRAEL'S DEPENDENCE ON OTHER NATIONS MADE HER SOMETHING OTHER THAN WHAT SHE WAS CREATED TO BE.
 - The cake's problem began with the FLOUR.
(It was MIXED) (8)

 - The cake's other problem – it was HALF-BAKED.
(It was UNTURNED) (8)

3. WE CAN BE WELL-DONE TOWARDS THE WORLD AND BE SOGGY TOWARD GOD.

- Depending on human resources
- Not trusting God
- Consulting people or consulting God

A SILLY DOVE (Hosea 7:11-15)

1. THE PROBLEM HERE IS THAT THE PEOPLE WERE “WITHOUT SENSE.”
(The Word Means “WITHOUT HEART.”)

2. THE PROBLEM OF DISCERNMENT.

3. INSTEAD OF “TURNING TO GOD,” THEY “FLITTED BACK AND FORTH”
BETWEEN ASSYRIA AND EGYPT.

- “They CALL to Egypt.”(11)
- “They GO to Assyria.” (11)
- “They FLED from Me.” (13)
- “They did not CRY OUT to Me with their heart.” (14)

4. EROSION DESTROYS US

5. WHAT GOD WANTS TO SAY TO US

“I cannot be your God if you persist in trying to be your own god and running your own life.”

A FAULTY BOW (Hosea 7:16)

1. A SLACK BOW IS UNABLE TO PROPEL AN ARROW TO ITS TARGET.
2. WHY ISRAEL WAS INEFFECTIVE IN BATTLE.
 - They did not RETURN to God.
 - They were not STRUNG by God.
3. ISRAEL NO LONGER HAD STRENGTH AND COURAGE BECAUSE THEY HAD ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE ERODED OVER THE YEARS BY LEAVING THE SOURCE OF THEIR SPIRITUAL POWER.
4. WE TOO CAN BECOME DEFECTIVE, SLACKENED BOWS
 - We Forget the REASON We Are Able To Do What We Do.
(Have you forgotten the reason you are able to do what you do?)
 - We Compete On a HUMAN Level With Human Resources.
(Do you work on the human level with only human resources?)
 - We Take the CREDIT.
(Do you try to take the credit?)

CONCLUSION

HOW IS YOUR SPIRITUAL AND MORAL CONDITION?

Are you like a “OVERHEATED OVEN?” “A CAKE UNTURNED?”
“A SILLY DOVE?” or “A FAULTY BOW?”

Then your ESSENTIAL SPIRITUAL PROBLEM IS:

- Refusing to TURN to God.
- Refusing to RECEIVE knowledge of Him.