Hosea 7 Study 28 September 2025

The prophecies of Hosea were spoken when Israel existed but possibly recorded after this northern kingdom had been overthrown by Assyria. These prophecies were written to explain why it happened. Keep that in mind when reading.

1. Read Hosea 6 and 7 together (ch 6 is for background)
2. Read 6:1-3. Does it make more sense if you realise Hosea is being extremely sarcastic?
3. Read 7:3-7. Notice the contrast between 7:3 and 7:7. What is the message here for leaders?

A quote to consider:

With such a fever running at every level of society, it was no coincidence that Israel's last three decades were a turmoil of intrigue, as one conspirator after another hacked his way to the throne, only to be murdered in his turn. Of the six men who reigned in those thirty years, four were assassins, and only one died in his own bed.[1]

4. Read 7:8. What might each statement mean:
    a. ***Ephraim mixes with the nations***
    b. ***Ephraim is a flat loaf not turned over.'***

5. In our society there are various ways religious belief can operate.
    a. Christian nation (no known examples)
    b. Pluralism – Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Jedis and atheists co-exist and respect each other's beliefs.
    c. Syncretism – we combine aspects of each other's beliefs to form an amalgam. Mix 'n match!
        i. Which is the biggest threat? Pluralism or syncretism? Discuss.
        ii. Which provides the best missional opportunities? Pluralism or syncretism? Discuss.

6. Israel failed to discern what was genuine worship of God and what was worship of idols. They mixed into the dough of their worship all sorts of ingredients that would contaminate and ruin the cake.
    a. How often do we mistake wrong beliefs about God and life for harmless cultural trends?
    b. Are European nations 'going to hell' through immigration policies?
    c. In what ways might we allow cultural trends to become lenses thorough which we interpret Scripture? Gender dysphoria might be a good example.
    d. In what ways are we spiritually half-baked? Spiritually mixed up with the world?

7. What would Hosea's advice be to the church in the west? How about these as possibilities?
    a. To live distinctly as God's people in a pluralistic nation and show who God is.
    b. Be tolerant of people but intolerant of dangerous ideologies.
    c. Be discerning – do not allow errors to mix into the core ingredients of a biblical church.
    d. Resist the compelling cries of the tolerance movement to join happy hands with other religions, laying down the 'problematic' distinctives that cause offence or division.
    e. Know God's Word so well that we spot ideas that don't belong.
    f. Care enough for this to matter!

[1] Derek Kidner, *The Message of Hosea: Love to the Loveless*, ed. J. Alec Motyer and Derek Tidball, The Bible Speaks Today (England: Inter-Varsity Press, 1976), 71.