**Hosea 7:3-16**

**Israel's Domestic & Foreign Policy**

**Lesson 22**

1. **When did you feel closest to God this week? Was there a particular verse or lesson from our study of Hosea that you found inspiring in some way?**
2. **What kind of treachery is described in verses 7:3-7? See 2 Kings 15:9-10, 2 Kings 15:13-14 and 2 Kings 15:23-24 below for an explanation.**

**Hosea 7:3-7** With their wickedness they make the king rejoice, the princes too, with their treacherous deeds.**4**They are all adulterers, like a blazing oven,
Which the baker quits stoking, after the dough’s kneading until its rising.**5**On the day of our king,
    they made the princes sick with poisoned wine; he extended his hand to the scoffers.
**6**For they draw near in ambush with their hearts like an oven. All the night their anger sleeps;
    in the morning it flares like a blazing fire.**7**They are all heated like ovens, and consume their rulers.
All their kings have fallen; none of them calls upon me.

**2 Kings 15:9-10 9**He did what was evil in the Lord’s sight, as his ancestors had done, and did not desist from the sins that Jeroboam, son of Nebat, had caused Israel to commit. **10**Shallum, son of Jabesh, plotted against him and struck him down at Ibleam. He killed him **and reigned in his place**. 2

**2 Kings 15: 13-14 13**Shallum, son of Jabesh, became king in the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah, king of Judah; he reigned one month in Samaria. **14**Menahem, son of Gadi, came up from Tirzah to Samaria, and struck down Shallum, son of Jabesh, in Samaria. **He killed him and reigned in his place**.

**2 Kings 15:23-25 23**In the fiftieth year of Azariah, king of Judah, Pekahiah, son of Menahem, became king over Israel in Samaria for two years. **24**He did what was evil in the Lord’s sight, not desisting from the sins that Jeroboam, son of Nebat, had caused Israel to commit. **25**His adjutant Pekah, son of Remaliah, conspired against him, and struck him down at Samaria within the palace stronghold; he had with him fifty men from Gilead. He killed him and reigned in his place.

1. **Knowing all this was going on, what does verse 3 say about the character of the king?**

**Hosea 7:3** With their wickedness they make the king rejoice, the princes too, with their treacherous deeds.

1. **See Hosea 7:3-7. Check your footnotes for any other information on these verses and share with your group. What does the blazing oven represent here?**

**Hosea 7:3-7** With their wickedness they make the king rejoice, the princes too, with their treacherous deeds.**4**They are all adulterers, like a blazing oven, which the baker quits stoking, after the dough’s kneading until its rising. **5**On the day of our king, they made the princes sick with poisoned wine;
    he extended his hand to the scoffers. **6**For they draw near in ambush with their hearts like an oven.
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    and consume their rulers. All their kings have fallen; none of them calls upon me.

1. **Why did God not intervene when Israel’s kings were being murdered? See verse 7 above.**
2. **How is Ephraim described in verses 8, 9 and 11? What do each of these statements mean?**

**Hosea 7:8** Ephraim is mixed with the nations, Ephraim is an *unturned cake*.

**Hosea 7:9 "**Strangers have consumed his strength, but he does not know it;

Gray hairs are strewn on his head, but he takes no notice of it.

**Hosea 7:11** Ephraim is like a dove, silly and senseless, they call upon Egypt, they go to Assyria.

1. **Why should we be careful about the people we associate with? See verse 8 above.**
2. **Why would God withhold his help at times? See verses 13-14. Check your footnotes for meaning of “lacerated themselves.”**

**Hosea 7:13-14**

Woe to them, for they have strayed from me!
    Ruin to them, for they have rebelled against me!
Though I wished to redeem them,
    they spoke lies against me.
**14**They ***have not cried to me from their hearts***
    when they wailed upon their beds;
For wheat and wine they lacerated themselves;[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hosea+7&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-26512d)]
    they rebelled against me.

1. **What is the overall message of this chapter? How should we respond to the message?**