

Tuesday Evening Bible Study  
Series #8: The Minor Prophets  
Session #3: Hosea 6:7 – 8:14  
Tuesday, January 17, 2017

## Outline

- A. The Prophecies of Hosea (4:1 – 14:9)
  - 1. An agenda of accusations (6:7 – 7:16)
    - a. An unholy gazetteer (6:7-11a)
    - b. A corrupt people and government (6:11b – 7:7)
    - c. Mixing, religious and political, is bad (7:8-16)
  - 2. The crisis and its cause (8:1-14)
    - a. For the crime of assimilating foreign political models and religious practices, the punishment is foreign domination.

## Notes

### An agenda of accusations (6:7 – 7:16)

- A compilation of sayings to specify the ways that steadfast love of the Lord is lacking in Israel.
- 6:7-7:2 – a list of evils occurring at various places in Israel.
  - 6:7 – Adam was a town in central Transjordan, close to where the Israelites crossed the Jordan (Joshua 3:16). There they transgressed the covenant made with Abraham.
  - 6:9 – Shechem was the location of an ancient sanctuary to Yahweh. Priests were known to harass pilgrims who visited it.
  - 6:10 – “whoredom” = metaphor for worship of Baal.
  - 7:2 – “deeds” are what the Lord sees when Israel appeals for help.
- 7:3-7 – Royal politics in Israel is driven by a passion that is constant and is renewed as an oven fire.
  - 7:3 – The king may refer to Hoshea (732-724 BC), who gained the throne through wickedness and treachery.
  - 7:4 – “Adulterers” may refer to those who were politically disloyal.
  - 7:5 – “The day of our king” = the coronation festival
  - 7:7 – There were 4 royal murders in Israel within a 12 year period (745-732 BC). (2 Kings 15:8-10; 13-14; 23-25; 30)
- 7:8-12 – Israel turns to other nations for help instead of returning to God.
  - 7:8 – A “cake” mixed of foreign ingredients and half baked.
  - 7:9 – “foreigners” are Egypt and Syria. Israel shifted its loyalty between them for protection.
- 7:13-16 – The Israelites have rebelled against the Lord in their worship and national policy.
  - 7:13 – “Redeem” is a legal term for reclaiming or ransoming a thing or person for payment.
  - 7:14 – Israel’s rituals are not genuine; they treat the Lord like a Canaanite god.
  - 7:15-16 – Israel turns to useless allies (Egypt and Syria)

### The Crisis and its Cause (8:1-14)

- Israel has forgotten God and committed five sins:
  - 1) The breaking of his covenant (8:1-3)
    - 8:1 – “One like a vulture” is probably Syria.
  - 2) The choice of kings without the Lord’s direction or consent (8:4)
    - During the revolutions in the Northern Kingdom, kings had been installed without word from the Lord through a prophet.
  - 3) Idolatry (8:4-6)
    - 8:5-6 – There were calf images in the northern shrines at Dan and Beth-el, but in this context, “the calf” probably refers to the golden bull that Jeroboam I placed at Beth-el as an equivalent to the ark in the temple at Jerusalem (1 Kings 12:26-33).
  - 4) The formation of alliances with the ungodly nation of Syria (8:8-10)
    - 8:9 – “bargained for lovers” = Israel’s dealings with Syria
    - As punishment for political transgressions, Israel will be subjugated by foreigners.
  - 5) The construction of false altars (8:11-13)
    - 8:12 – “multitude of my instructions” = the commandments from Exodus and Deuteronomy
    - 8:13 – “A return to Egypt” would reverse and cancel out the Lord’s deliverance of Israel.
- The final verse is a summary. Israel has forgotten that the Lord is so magnificent that he can provide all that they need and protect them. Instead Israel (in the north) has built magnificent palaces and Judah (in the south), fortified cities.

### Resources

Notes from The New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV), 2010

Notes from HarperCollins Study Bible (NRSV), 1989

James M. Boice, *The Minor Prophets*, Volume 1 (Grand Rapids, MI: BakerBooks, 1983)

