### Hosea

## Chapter 7

1[‘And God continues:]  
  
 ‘When I brought healing to IsraEl,  
 It exposed the injustice of Ephraim,  
 As well as Samaria’s evils.  
 For at first, they all just told lies;  
 Then, from among them, came thieves,  
 And robbers led them out to the highways.  
  
 2‘They sang together of the evil in their hearts,  
 Remembering all the [bad things] they’d done.  
 And now, they’re covered by the things that they chose…  
 What they did in front of My face!  
  
 3‘And all the bad things that they’ve done  
 Have gladdened [the hearts] of their kings…  
 Their lying ways delighted their rulers!  
  
 4‘Now, all those who are committing adultery  
 Are in an ‘oven’ that’s heated for baking by flames…  
 They’ve been ‘kneaded’ and allowed to grow fat  
 And the [whole ball] has ‘fermented.’  
  
 5‘For, in the days of their kings,  
 Their rulers became enraged by their wine,  
 And they held out their [arms] towards vile men…  
 6Those whose hearts were burning like kilns.  
  
 ‘Then, Ephraim’s sleep became filled  
 With [thoughts of destroying] all night…  
 And in the morning, they burst into flames.  
 7They all became heated like ovens,  
 And then they devoured their judges.  
 So, although all their kings have now fallen,  
 No one has called out to Me.  
  
 8‘Now, Ephraim’s people are all intermixed…  
 They’re like a cake that’s been baked in hot ashes,  
 Which [no one has bothered] to turn.  
  
 9‘So, strangers have eaten his strength  
 While he wasn’t paying attention…  
 And after that, his hair all turned grey;  
 Yet, he was still unaware.’  
  
10[Hosea says:]  
  
 ‘Now, IsraEl’s insolent ways  
 Will bring humility to their faces;  
 For, they haven’t turned towards Jehovah their God…  
 No, after these things have all happened,  
 They haven’t gone looking for Him.  
  
 11‘So ‘So <span class="placename">Ephraim‘So <span class="placename">Ephraim</span> has become like a dove  
 That has no mind and no heart.  
 First, he called out to First, he called out to <span class="placename">Egypt First, he called out to <span class="placename">Egypt</span>,  
 And then, to And then, to <span class="placename">Assyria And then, to <span class="placename">Assyria</span>, he [turned].  
  
 12[‘And God says:]  
  
 ‘But, when they go there, I’ll throw out My net  
 And I’ll catch them like birds…  
 I’ll drag them down and correct them,  
 And listen as they’re tormented.  
  
 13‘Yes, woe to them, for they’ve leaped away…  
 O how wretched their lives have become  
 In their irreverence towards Me.  
  
 ‘Although I’m the One who once paid their ransom,  
 They spoke against Me and lied…  
 14In their hearts, they failed to call out…  
 They just laid there and shrieked in their beds,  
 As they sold themselves for wine and for bread.  
  
 15‘When they were corrected by Me,  
 I also strengthened their arms!  
 But then, against Me, they hatched wicked plots.  
  
 16‘So when they return, they’ll have nothing…  
 They’ll be like a bow that’s stretched tight,  
 And their rulers will fall by the sword,  
 Because they’ve said stupid things;  
 Then in the land of Egypt, they’ll all be defiled.’