

Commentary on Hosea 7 and 8 by Chuck Smith 1.24.24

Pastor John Donovan, cell phone 508-380-0471

Pastor Terry Gerlarneau, cell phone 603-455-4399

Web site todbc.org email us at opendoorbiblechurch@todbc.org

January verse **Luke 24:45 (NKJV)** And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

Commentary on Hosea 7 and 8 by Chuck Smith 1.24.24

Chapter 7

The Lord continues His response to them.

When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood; and the thief comes in, and the troop of robbers spoils without. And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness: now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face ([Hsa 7:1-2](#)).

People forget that God remembers. You don't hide anything from God. You think you're getting by with it. "They don't consider in their hearts that I remember."

And they make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies. They are all adulterers, as an oven that is heated by the baker ([Hsa 7:3-4](#)),

That is, that the heat of passion.

Like an oven heated by the baker, who ceases from rising after he has kneaded the dough, until it be leavened ([Hsa 7:4](#)).

The bakers would usually set the fire in the ovens at night and after building the fire in the oven at night, they would go to bed. They would knead the dough, set it aside and they'd go bed and they wouldn't rise until the dough had been leavened. And, of course, when they rose then the oven was all heated and ready for the bread. And so he uses that as a figure of speech actually, the heated oven to the heated passions of these people in their adulterous relationships.

In the day of our king, the princes have made him sick with the bottles of wine ([Hsa 7:5](#));

That is, drinking until they were so drunk they were vomiting all over the place.

he stretched out his hand with the scorners. For they have made ready their heart like an oven, while they lie in wait ([Hsa 7:5-6](#)):

That is, lying in wait for their neighbor's wife.

Commentary on Hosea 7 and 8 by Chuck Smith 1.24.24

the baker sleeps all the night; and in the morning it burns as with a flaming fire. They are all as hot as an oven, they've devoured their judges; and their kings are fallen: there is none among them that calls unto me ([Hsa 7:6-7](#)).

And so God is giving His indictment against Israel and why His judgment must fall.

Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned ([Hsa 7:8](#)).

Like a pancake, it's burning on the bottom but the top is still raw. It's really good for nothing. Just, you know, you can't eat it; just throw it out. Ephraim is a cake not turned.

Strangers have devoured his strength, and he doesn't know it ([Hsa 7:9](#)):

You remember Samson when he said, "I will rise up as I did before," and he knew not that the Spirit of God had departed from him. Tragic when people are still going on with motions but God has left and they're not even aware that God is gone because the motions are still there. We're still doing the right thing, we're still doing the religious thing, but what's in your heart? They knew not that their strength were gone.

yea, the gray hairs are here and are upon them, yet they don't know it ([Hsa 7:9](#))

Again, not really knowing that the things that have come upon them.

The pride of Israel testifies to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all of this. Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart: they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria ([Hsa 7:10-11](#)).

Now doves are silly. They make their nest in the most stupid places. A dove is really stupid. Watch them in their nest building, they don't really make a neat nest at all and they're not really careful where they make their nest. They oftentimes will make their nest even within an easy reach. And you can remove the eggs out of a dove's nest and he'll continue to sit on the thing. They're just silly. I remember as a kid we used to go out with slingshots and you just miss the dove, you know, the rock just goes shooting passed him and just barely miss him and he wouldn't fly; he wouldn't move. He'd just, you know, look around. I used to say, "You dumb thing. I'm not gonna miss you the next shot." But they just don't seem to have much sense. They surely don't show very good judgment. And so God likens Ephraim to a silly dove flying off to Assyria and then flying down to Egypt, looking again to the help of man rather than turning to God.

God said,

When they go, I'm going to spread my net upon them; I will bring them down as the fowls of heaven; I will chastise them, as their congregation hath heard. Woe unto them! for they have fled from me: destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: and though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me.

Commentary on Hosea 7 and 8 by Chuck Smith 1.24.24

They have not cried unto me with their heart, when they howled upon their beds: they assemble themselves for corn and wine, and they rebel against me. And though I have bound and strengthened their arms, yet do they imagine mischief against me. They return, but not to the Most High: they are like a deceitful bow: their princes shall fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue: this shall be their derision in the land of Egypt ([Hsa 7:12-16](#)).

So God's response to Ephraim and to Judah.

Chapter 8

Set the trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law ([Hsa 8:1](#)).

So God again is giving His indictment against them. Number one, they have trespassed His covenant. Number two, they transgressed His law. God had established a covenant with the nation Israel. The covenant was the basis whereby God would be their God and would bless them. "Now if you do these things, I will be your God and I will bless thee. I will multiply thy crops and I will multiply thee upon the face of the earth." And God tells of all of the blessings if He is their God and they will only worship and serve Him. "I will grant you all of these blessings, but this the basis for them. This is the covenant." And so they had a covenant relationship with God, but they had transgressed against the covenant. They had broken the covenant that God had made.

Now it is interesting that God made many covenants in the Old Testament. God made a covenant with Adam; Adam broke it. God made a covenant with Abraham and Abraham's seed; they broke it. God made a covenant with Israel; they broke it. Now God has made a new covenant with the church. In Hebrews we are told that it is a better covenant. God has established a basis whereby He will be your God and you can be His people; again, a covenant relationship. But if Adam broke the covenant and Abraham's seed broke the covenant and Israel broke the covenant, what hope is there for us? Why do we think we are any better than they are? In reality we're not, but we have a better covenant. God's covenant with Adam, Abraham, and through Moses, with the children of Israel was all predicated upon their obedience. "And if you do these things you shall live by them." God's covenant with us through Jesus Christ is predicated upon His faithfulness and my just believing in Him and in His faithfulness.

Now man failed, but God can't fail. The covenant with Israel was broken because Israel transgressed the covenant. God's covenant with me will never be broken because it's based upon the faithfulness of God to keep His Word. And God has promised that if I believe in His Son, I'll have eternal life. Glorious covenant that God has made with me, and I have no intention of ever doing anything other than believing on His Son. So, I am trusting God and the faithfulness of God, not my righteousness, not my obedience to a set of rules or regulations, but my love for Jesus Christ and my faithfulness--or actually, my faith in Him, His faithfulness, and in His work for me.

Commentary on Hosea 7 and 8 by Chuck Smith 1.24.24

So Israel had transgressed, they had trespassed against God's law. The law of the Lord is good. Paul says, "The law is good." The problem wasn't the law. God's law was holy, it was just, it was good. Nothing wrong with God's law at all.

Unfortunately, many times God's law comes into a bad light because we oftentimes like to say, "Oh, we're not under law," like it was a bad thing, "we're under grace." And we have a tendency to sometimes sort of look at the law as something that was evil, something that was not good. No, the law was holy; it was just, and it is good. Micah said, "He hath shown thee, O man, what is good and what the Lord requires of thee" ([Micah 6:8](#)). Here in verse 3: "Israel's cast off that which is good." They've cast off the covenant of God; they've cast off the law of God. They've cast off that which was good. There's nothing wrong with the law of God. Paul said the problem is with us. The law is spiritual and we are carnal. The problem isn't with God's law; it's good. David said, "Happy is the man who walks not in the council of the ungodly, nor stands in the way with sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and in this law does he meditate both day and night." It's good. "Because he'll be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, bringing forth his fruit in season. His leaf also shall not wither. Whatsoever he does will prosper" ([Psalm 1:1-3](#)). The law is good. God has given in the law the basis for a society, the basis for man living together, the basis for you to have a happy, fulfilling rich life. Nothing wrong with the law. But they transgressed or they trespassed against the law of God. They cast out the law of God.

Now Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee ([Hsa 8:2](#)).

But God declares He doesn't know them.

For they have cast off the thing that is good: [God, their relationship with Him, the covenant.] and thus the enemy is gonna pursue them. They have set up kings, but not by me ([Hsa 8:2-4](#)):

Now in the Northern Kingdom they set up their kings. The people called for Jeroboam and it wasn't by God. God's promise was to David and to his seed. And then in the Northern Kingdom it came that there went from one dynasty to another as there were the murders, the assassination of the kings and it really became chaotic.

They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not: [that is, it was not by my approval] and of their silver and of their gold have they made them idols, that they might be cut off ([Hsa 8:4](#)).

So they had begun to worship and serve other gods. This is God's indictment.

Thy calf ([Hsa 8:5](#)), The god that they set up in Samaria and said, "This is the god that brought you out of Egypt."

Commentary on Hosea 7 and 8 by Chuck Smith 1.24.24

Thy calf, O Samaria, has cast thee off; my anger is kindled against thee: how long will it be ere they attain to innocency? For from Israel was it also: that the workman made it; therefore it is not God: but the calf of Samaria shall be broken in pieces ([Hsa 8:5-6](#)).

So God pronounces the judgment upon their gods.

For they have sown the wind ([Hsa 8:7](#)),

By their turning away from God, by their establishing the idol worship, by their transgressing against the covenant and trespassing against the law they had sown the wind.

and they shall reap the whirlwind ([Hsa 8:7](#)):

Oh, what a lesson this ought to be to our nation today. We have been guilty now for many years of sowing the wind. Gradually, the courts have been ruling God out of the public life of the nation. The courts recently ruled in Arkansas that scientific creationism is nothing more than religion in disguise; it cannot be taught in the school and thus the children cannot be taught any alternative to the evolutionary theory. I think this is a very sad and tragic judgment and I think that it will have great repercussions. For the teaching of the evolutionary theory has already had great repercussions in our society.

It would seem that the schools would wake up pretty soon, the public school system, to realize that it is bankrupt. Their educational processes are bankrupt. We teach the children that they are animals and then we wail and cry because they act like animals. And in many of our public schools they have to hire police protection for the teachers to keep them from being assaulted by the little animals in their classrooms. It's sad. The public education system has become a zoo. Califano who used to be in charge of the Health, Education and Welfare Department, as he was leaving office said, "The worst place you could place a teenage child is in a public high school." Quite an admission. But why? Because we've sown the wind. We have tried to take away any real base.

It has no stalk: ([Hsa 8:7](#)) That's what the Lord says.

By allowing the influence of Dewey and Watson and the Huxley's, we've allowed the existential philosophy with its humanistic base to pervade and to prevail in our public education system. And thus, the challenge of what is good and what is evil, and the rejection of any universal base of good, the rejection of any absolutes. Reflected in our art, modern art, which if you can understand it you're weirder than I am. It doesn't have any true form. Now there are pictures that I can understand, that's a farm and that's a fence around the farm and that's a cow out in the pasture and I can see that, and anybody can see that. But some of these modern forms of art where they stand back and throw the paints at the canvas.

It's like when I was a kid and I used to study the plaster on the ceiling and look for the pictures in the plaster on the ceiling or looking for the forms in the clouds. And you can,

Commentary on Hosea 7 and 8 by Chuck Smith 1.24.24

you know, your mind can see things and as a child your imagination is very vivid. I used to see all kinds of things on the ceiling; you know the irregularities in the plaster there. Of course, these poor kids today with acoustical ceilings, what can you see in an acoustical ceiling? But, you know, lying in bed and you're sick and all and you have nothing to do but look up at the ceiling. And it used to be with this textured plaster, you could make out different things in the ceiling. And sometimes I'd say to my brother, "Look! That looks like a horse up there!" "I don't see any horse." "Ya, look at that." "Blaah, I don't see a horse," you know. Well, I could, you know. It takes a little imagination, but you can make it out.

But not only is it without stalk, the bud shall yield no meal ([Hsa 8:7](#)):

A life lived after the flesh will bring a person to emptiness. Pursuing your own fleshly ambitions will not bring you satisfaction but only a deeper hunger that cannot be fulfilled. It'll yield no meal; it's all chaff. You go to eat it and there's no nourishment, there's nothing there. Life becomes empty like chaff.

And if it does yield [any flour] any meal, the strangers will come and swallow it up. For Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the Gentiles as a vessel wherein there is no pleasure ([Hsa 8:7-8](#)).

Cast off by God. Dwelling among the Gentiles for two days, but in the third day they're gonna live and be raised up.

For they are gone up to Assyria, a wild ass alone by himself: Ephraim hath hired lovers. And yea, though they have hired among the nations, now will I gather them, and they shall sorrow a little for the burden of the king of princes. Because Ephraim hath made many altars to sin, the altars shall be unto him to sin. I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as strange things ([Hsa 8:9-12](#)).

Whenever a man begins to count the law as strange things he's in trouble.

They sacrifice flesh for the sacrifices of my offerings, they eat it; but the LORD does not accept them; now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins: they shall return to Egypt. For Israel has forgotten his Maker ([Hsa 8:13-14](#)),

What a sad and tragic indictment. The people have forgotten their Maker.

and they're building temples, and Judah has multiplied his fenced cities: but I'll send a fire upon his cities, and shall devour the palaces ([Hsa 8:14](#)).