

An Empty, Religious Israel

Hosea 6:4-7:16

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A Deepening of God's Indictments Against Israel

- Themes introduced earlier deepen in these chapters
- Compare 6:8-11 with 5:1-7 and 4:1-2

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A Deepening of God's Indictments Against Israel

- Dealing Falsely – 6:7 with 5:7
- Condemnation of priests – 6:9 with 5:1
- Defilement of Ephraim – 6:10 with 5:3
- Harlotry metaphor – 6:10 with 5:4

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God's Response to Breaking Covenant

- Their love is like the morning mist:
 - Israel is empty of any true worship to God
 - There is no heart change before God
 - Their love is thin and unsubstantial

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God's Response to Breaking Covenant

- Key Verse – 6:6
 - There is not “hesed” love
 - Faithful loving-kindness
 - There is no knowledge of God
- Israel is merely religious

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God's Response to Breaking Covenant

- There is no life transformation
- See Amos 5:21-24; Isa 1:11-17; Ps 51:16-17

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A Catalogue of Crimes vs 7-10

- They have broken covenant
 - Unfaithful
 - Evil doers
 - Wicked schemers
 - Given to prostitution

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A Catalogue of Crimes vs 7-10

- Places mentioned
 - Adam – Josh 3:16
 - Gilead – 2 Kings 15:23-25
 - Shechem – Josh 20:7; Duet 19 – a city of refuge

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A Catalogue of Crimes vs 7-10

- Places mentioned
 - Note!
 - Joshua 24 – Shechem was the place that Israel confirmed the covenant which they have now broken in Shechem

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More Crimes -6:11 – 7:8

•Judah is implicated in these crimes as well

NOTE! God still desires to heal and redeem His people

He is still faithful – see 2 Tim 2:11-13

BUT... those people!!

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More Crimes -6:11 – 7:8

•Sin keeps them from healing and renewal

•Practice deceit

•Break into houses

•Rob people in the streets

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More Crimes -6:11 – 7:8

Crimes of the leaders – 7:3-7

•Kings and princes are delighted by evil and even join in

•Leaders are leading away from God instead toward God

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More Crimes -6:11 – 7:8

Crimes of Leaders 7:3-7

Imagery of the Oven

- Their passion to sin burns like an oven
- They are burning to sin, anxious for it
- They hold festivals in order to enjoy sin

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More Crimes -6:11 – 7:8

Crimes of Leaders 7:3-7

- Purveyors of deceit and intrigue
- Assassinations of the royal household
- See 2 Kings 15:23-25

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More Crimes -6:11 – 7:8

Their sin has not gone unnoticed!

- See 6:10; 7:2
- God sees their sin and takes note
- Breaking covenant results in judgment
- See Lev 26:27-33

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Breaking Covenant- Foreign Policy – 7:8-16

Three images:

1. Baked bread
2. Grey hair
3. Doves/birds

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Breaking Covenant- Foreign Policy – 7:8-16

Covenants with other nations

1. Egypt – 2 Kings 17:1-6: King Hoshea
2. Assyria

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Breaking Covenant- Foreign Policy – 7:8-16

God's judgement upon Israel

- They do not seek God anymore, even when He still offers His “hesed” love.
- God's promise of destruction will come to pass
- See Lev 26:27-33; Deut 28:64-68

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Conclusion/Summary

God desires that we live in relationship with Him, not in religion.

God offers His “hesed” love to us, asking that we reflect that “hesed” love back to Him; no pretending.

We have a choice to make: how will we live? In loving-kindness and faithfulness? Or will we break covenant with God?
