

**Hosea 7****10-17-02****“4 Images!”****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. Danny/Maureen share – Albania.
- 1.2. **Outline:** Hosea gives **four images** to show what God thinks of those who profess His name but continue their rebellious way of life.
  - 1.2.1. A Hot Oven; A Cake unturned; A Silly Dove; A Faulty Bow.
- 1.3. **See** Judges 20:16 for a definition of the word **sin** in the OT.
  - 1.3.1. To miss the mark(in Gk also).
  - 1.3.2. Israel had missed the mark...big time!
    - 1.3.2.1. **Illus** - MPD/range/Jim Ganley/shotgun/slugs.
  - 1.3.3. It could be said of Israel **“and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”** Mt.7:27

**2. 4 IMAGES! (1-5)**

- 2.1. **A HOT OVEN!** (1-7)
- 2.2. (1) Your sin is always naked before God, **“Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.”** Ps.139:12
- 2.3. (4) It refers to excessive sexual desires primarily portraying them as **intense fires** that drive the adulterer, & eventually consume him.
  - 2.3.1. **“Lust is the craving for salt by a man who is dying of thirst.”**
  - 2.3.2. Unbridled lust: **“A cannibal committing suicide by nibbling on himself.”**
- 2.4. (7) **Hot like an oven** – **Show** oven pictures!
  - 2.4.1. The most primitive method of baking bread was the laying of cakes of dough on **heated stones**.
    - 2.4.1.1. 1 Kings 19:6 **“Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals(hot stones), and a jar of water.”**

- 2.4.2. **The pitcher-oven** – A stone pitcher placed over a fire, w/a hole in the top. Often bread was rolled out thin & placed “on” the oven.
- 2.4.3. Then there were the **semipublic ovens**, or the **public bakers**.
  - 2.4.3.1. Jer.37:21 “Then Zedekiah the king commanded that they should commit Jeremiah to the court of the prison, and that they should give him daily a piece of bread from **the bakers' street, until all the bread in the city was gone.**”
  - 2.4.3.2. This seems to be the oven Hosea speaks of(6).
- 2.4.4. Often the bible speaks of **passion** referring to burning or **fire**.
  - 2.4.4.1. i.e. “**For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.**”1Cor.7:9
    - 2.4.4.1.1. **Explain:** not an excuse to marry right away as many use it, but it proves you don’t have the other gift, that of celibacy.
  - 2.4.4.2. I we ask, “**is fire good or bad**” that would depend on whether it is **contained!**
  - 2.4.4.3. Fire in an oven(good). Fire in a forest(bad).
  - 2.4.4.4. **The desire for sin can smolder** like a fire in an oven, & then **blaze** when the opportunity comes.
- 2.4.5. **Q: So how do you stomp out passions?** The same way you stomp out fires! (2 ways) [1] Deprive it of oxygen! [2] Don’t feed nor fan the flame!
  - 2.4.5.1. [1] **Deprive it of oxygen!** – Starve the eyes!
  - 2.4.5.2. [2] **Don’t feed nor fan the flame!** – Look at **Job 31:1-12**
    - 2.4.5.2.1. “**lurked at my neighbors door**” – Have you?
  - 2.4.5.3. **Married folk - Be warned of opposite sex friendships!** – Stopping by & having coffee w/your friends wife while her husband is not home. **Oh, I know it’s purely innocent...** “right now!” {I have too many of those stories that started “so innocent!”}
  - 2.4.5.4. **Don’t lurk at your neighbor’s door!**
- 2.5. (5-7) This is exactly what happened to the last handful of Israel’s kings before captivity.
  - 2.5.1. The rulers were encouraged to get drunk & party at the festivals(5).
  - 2.5.2. Then the coup went for a more stealthy approach(6).
  - 2.5.3. The result?...the rulers fell(7).

- 2.6. **A CAKE UNTURNED!** (8-10)
- 2.7. **Q:** What do you find yourself “mixed with”? (mixed is opposite of pure)
- 2.8. **½ Baked!** – Cooked more than enough on 1 side but completely undone on the other!
- 2.8.1. This represented something that was **useless**, & that would **make you sick**...as it did God!
- 2.8.2. Laodicea was simply “lukewarm”...what about cake/bread ½ which was **raw**?
- 2.8.3. **Don't be a ½ baked Christian!** – That's when someone doesn't allow their religion to go **deep** into their lives, but is only a surface thing.
- 2.8.4. Charge your soul...whether this is your case? – **Q:** Are you thorough in the things of God? **Q:** Am I sanctified spirit, soul, body? **Q:** Is there the appearance of holiness in one place of your life & reigning sin in another?...**you will be a cake not turned!**
- 2.8.5. **Q:** have you met someone burnt on one side of their Christianity & doughy on the other? (i.e. – as zealous as a Pharisee in one area, & yet so liberal in another)
- 2.8.6. Our prayer... “Oh Lord, cook me through on **both sides**. Show me my doughy weaknesses. Show me the areas I'm charred in, my pet hobby horses I continue to study & ride!”
- 2.8.6.1. Now be ready for the Lord w/His heavenly spatula to flip you & your life completely over!
- 2.9. **(9) Grey hair...& he does not know it** – You don't notice **your own** grey hairs growing in. **Then you run into someone who hasn't seen you in a while!!!**
- 2.9.1. Israel had no clue they were in “national old age”.
- 2.9.2. Israel was losing their strength but was ignorant of the change!
- 2.9.3. It was like Samson who, **“did not know that the LORD had departed from him.”**
- 2.9.4. *Daily Bread*(Oct.10. 2001) “Sin **adds** to your trouble, **subtracts** from your energy, & **multiplies** your difficulties.”

- 2.10. **A SILLY DOVE!** (11,12)
- 2.11. **Q: What do you usually think of when you hear dove?** (beauty or peace)
- 2.11.1. Here it suggests a helpless creature, **easily deceived & senseless.**
- 2.11.2. **Illus.** - Morning Dove at Starbucks a few weeks ago, flew onto the ladies table & stayed there.
- 2.11.3. Israel had forsaken God, her only true source of national security.
- 2.11.3.1. She does not know where to turn: she was unstable, flitting about from one political ally to another.
- 2.11.3.2. She looked to **Egypt** down south. She looked to **Assyria** to the east...**but not to God!**
- 2.11.4. So, God is going to pull her down!(12)
- 2.12. **A FAULTY BOW!** (13-16)
- 2.13. This is not only useless...but down right dangerous!
- 2.13.1. This was also used in **Ps.78:57.**
- 2.13.1.1. God had trained Israel to **Fly Straight** & how to **hit the target!**
- 2.13.2. The one who puts his trust in a weapon like this will fall to his enemies. **You cannot depend on a weapon like that.**
- 2.13.2.1. **I have a little 22 automatic pistol I no longer shoot, because it sticks.**
- 2.13.2.2. You can't depend on it!
- 2.13.2.3. **Q: Can God depend on you? Q: Are you dependable?**
- 2.13.2.4. **An arrow** needs to be: straight, sharp, balanced, & have flight-stabilizing vanes! (And so we need to be)
- 2.13.2.5. **Show** arrow.
- 2.13.3. **Q: In the battle against evil, are you a weapon God can depend on?**
- 2.13.4. **Q: So what do we do?** (Let's take advantage of having the end of the story & jump ahead to 14:1,2,4-6)
- 2.14. **As we worship meditate on:** How your devotion to the Lord is!
- 2.14.1. **Q: How lasting** is it? How **deep** is it? How **strong** is it? How **serious** is it? How **dependable** is it?