

BROKEN HEARTS

HOSEA 7 2-26-2020



This message was delivered during the civil war after the death of Pekah (2 Kings 15:30); for Hosea 7:7, "*all their kings have fallen,*" refers to the murder of Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, and Pekah (2 Kings 15:8-31). In Hosea 7:8 the reference seems to be to Menahem's payment of tribute to Pul (2 Kings 15:19), in order to secure himself an usurped throne, also to Pekah's league with Rezin of Syria (2 Kings 16:5), and to Hoshea's connection with Assyria after Pekah's death.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION

The Bible has much to say about the way that we communicate with others. As many know, poor communication can result in confusion about the substance of the message, damage to a work relationship, the loss of a job, the breakdown of a marriage, or the disconnection with a teenager.

Today we will learn from the Lord's example how we can make our message clearer to those who are listening.

Hosea often spoke with the use of a figure of speech known as a simile. He also sometimes employed metaphors.

Similes and metaphors assist us in the following ways:

- explain the content more clearly
- express the emotion more feely
- enhance descriptions more vividly
- engage the audience more effectively.

All similes are metaphors, but not all metaphors are similes. So, what's the difference between the two?

A **simile** is the comparison between two things are generally not alike, introduced by the use of the words, *like* or *as*.

A **metaphor** is a figure of speech in which an implied comparison is made between two unlike things that actually have something important in common.

Since the word *metaphor* is derived from a Greek term meaning, *to transfer* or *carry across*, listen to the way Hosea is inspired to get the message across that God has for Israel. Let's read Hosea 7.

"Know What I Mean, Vern?"

Ernest used to ask, "Do you know what I mean, Vern?" Let's see if you can catch the use of metaphors and similes in the seventh chapter of Hosea as we read. God knows how to get His point across.

7:4, 6, 7 - "*like a heated oven...like an oven...like a flaming fire...as an oven...*"

7:11-12 - "*...like a dove, silly and without sense...like birds of the heavens...*"

7:16 - "*...like a treacherous bow...*"

Laughter with the World, 7:7-8

The Lord builds upon the metaphor from the bakery by comparing His people to a "cake not turned" (v. 8).

Unfortunately, this was a widespread apostasy that had taken place as the prophet describes it with these words, "all of them are hot as an oven" (v. 7).

Can't you just hear them laughing at their parties? But, Proverbs 14:9-15 has a way of silencing the laughter with truth.

Loss of Strength, 7:9-10

Next, the Lord uses a simile of aging to describe the gradual loss of spiritual strength. Like Samson their strength was gone!

Unbelievers - allowing outsiders

Unstable - growing weaker

Unaware - didn't even notice

Unbending - pride caused this

Unwilling - refusing to return to God

Learning from Discipline, 7:12-16

Have you ever heard of a mist net? It is a certain kind of net used to safely trap a bird without injuring it. If properly set up, a mist net becomes almost invisible.

Lessons about discipline in this text:

Lesson of Protection, v. 12

God was willing to capture His people so that He could protect them from dangers.

Lesson of Devotion, vs. 13-14

Why would God trap them in His net? He wanted them to come to Him.

Lesson of Consequences, v. 14

His people are weeping but not in repentance. Their tears were over the pain from their sin not over brokenness about their sin.

Lesson of Provision, v. 14

The last part of verse 14 pictures people rejoicing over abundance, and yet, they are in rebellion against the One Who gave it all to them.

Lesson of Gratitude, v. 15-16

Instead of expressing gratitude for God's blessings, they were moving more and more into the direction of evil. They were unfaithful and unreliable to God as a crooked bow, so now they were going to miss the target the Lord had for them in the future.

Looking to Others, 7:11

The Lord shifts from using a simile from the bakery to using one from the barnyard. Now, He compares His people to a dove. Doves have a reputation of being easy to lure and capture (Mt. 10:16). Israel was being enticed by Egypt and Assyria, who both were like dove hunters, hoping to bag their limit. Israel was being unwise and careless to fly in their direction, trusting their future to them rather than to God.

Israel's problem of looking to others rather than to God began long before Hosea was ever born. 1 Kings 11:1-13 tells of Solomon's compromises. 2 Kings 17:1-18 is the actual account of Israel turning to Egypt and Assyria for help rather than to God.

Hosea 7, ESV

- ¹ *when I would heal Israel, the iniquity of Ephraim is revealed, and the evil deeds of Samaria, for they deal falsely; the thief breaks in, and the bandits raid outside.*
- ² *But they do not consider that I remember all their evil. Now their deeds surround them; they are before My face.*
- ³ *By their evil they make the king glad, and the princes by their treachery.*
- ⁴ *They are all adulterers; they are like a heated oven whose baker ceases to stir the fire, from the kneading of the dough until it is leavened.*
- ⁵ *On the day of our king, the princes became sick with the heat of wine; he stretched out his hand with mockers.*
- ⁶ *For with hearts like an oven they approach their intrigue; all night their anger smolders; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire.*
- ⁷ *All of them are hot as an oven, and they devour their rulers. All their kings have fallen, and none of them calls upon Me.*
- ⁸ *Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples; Ephraim is a cake not turned.*
- ⁹ *Strangers devour his strength, and he knows it not; gray hairs are sprinkled upon him, and he knows it not.*
- ¹⁰ *The pride of Israel testifies to his face; yet they do not return to the Lord their God, nor seek Him, for all this.*
- ¹¹ *Ephraim is like a dove, silly and without sense, calling to Egypt, going to Assyria.*
- ¹² *As they go, I will spread over them My net; I will bring them down like birds of the heavens; I will discipline them according to the report made to their congregation.*
- ¹³ *Woe to them, for they have strayed from Me! Destruction to them, for they have rebelled against Me! I would redeem them, but they speak lies against Me.*
- ¹⁴ *They do not cry to Me from the heart, but they wail upon their beds; for grain and wine they gash themselves; they rebel against Me.*
- ¹⁵ *Although I trained and strengthened their arms, yet they devise evil against Me.*
- ¹⁶ *They return, but not upward; they are like a treacherous bow; their princes shall fall by the sword because of the insolence of their tongue. This shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.*

Additional Notes