



HOSEA

BIBLE TEXT | HOSEA 7:8-10

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.

DEVOTIONAL FOR HOSEA 7:8-10

AUTHOR: BETTY BACHTEL

The prophet Hosea used the tribe of Ephraim as a poetic representation of the northern kingdom of Israel. In a colorful presentation, he wrote that Ephraim had become “a cake unturned”. Have you ever had a pancake or flapjack that was raw in the middle when you cut into it? It is not delightful to the palate.

In today’s terminology, the prophet described Ephraim like a pancake burned on one side but raw on the other. Flour and oil might have been the main ingredients mixed to make this cake. However, if the wrong ingredients are used or not cooked right, the cake is ruined. Although they took advantage of the Lord’s goodness, they did not seek Him with their heart. The people had intermarried with foreign people and had picked up their evil ways. Israel mixed itself among peoples, seeking help from Egypt and Assyria instead of the Lord. They had become tasteless and useless to God, so He was forced to judge them.

Ephraim was half-baked. The strength they used to enjoy was gone and they didn’t realize it. Have you ever seen a person trying to act young and deny their age? That’s what we see in verse 9...a gray haired man who doesn’t realize he is gray and old, but believes he is a young man. The tribe of Ephraim were so full of pride they were blinded to their own life apart from God. Their pride became testimony against them. It kept them from the Lord. Their sin separated them from the Lord God.



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Jesus echoed the words of Hosea. Although He had gentle words for penitent sinners, He gave a scathing rebuke to the haughty and self-righteous who wanted to live as they pleased. He was irate at two-faced religious leaders who talked a good talk but turned around and exploited their followers (Matthew 23:13-30). God hates sin and he is never soft on sin. He sent His only Son to redeem us from the penalty of sin (John 3:16). The only fitting response to God's mercy and grace is to serve Him in humility and love.

Questions:

1. What is the basis of our salvation? (Ephesians 2:8-9).
2. How are we to respond to God's grace?
3. How does God correct His children? (Heb. 12:5-11)