

Hosea: The Husband and the Harlot The Human Predicament

Chapters 6 and 7 of Hosea paint an ugly picture of Israel's predicament before God...

...they do not realize that I remember all their evil deeds. Their sins engulf them; they are always before me. (Hosea 7:2)

Israel's world/our world...

- **Deceit, plots and lies** – “They practice deceit...they delight the king with their wickedness, the princes with their lies...they speak lies against me...they plot evil against me.” (Hosea 7:1, 3, 13, 15)

God's standard: truth – “Redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.” (Psalm 31:5)

- **Violence and murder** – “Gilead is a city of wicked men, stained with footprints of blood...they murder on the road to Shechem, committing shameful crimes...thieves break into houses, bandits rob in the streets...” (Hosea 6:8, 9; 7:1)

God's standard: love – “Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” (Rom. 13:10)

- **Self-reliance and rejection of God** – “...none of them calls on me...Israel's arrogance testifies against him, but despite all this he does not return to the LORD his God or search for him...they have rebelled against me...They do not turn to the Most High...” (Hosea 7:7, 10, 13, 16)

God's standard: trust – “Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.” (Psalm 9:10)

The divine law of justice: we reap what we sow...

Woe to them, because they have strayed from me! Destruction to them, because they have rebelled against me! I long to redeem them but they speak lies against me...I trained them and strengthened them, but they plot evil against me. (Hosea 7:13, 15)

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. (Gal. 6:7)

The gospel of grace: we reap what Jesus sowed...

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor. 5:21)