



## Daily Verse and Comment

### Hosea 7:1-4

(1) "When I would have healed Israel,  
Then the iniquity of Ephraim was uncovered,  
And the wickedness of Samaria.  
For they have committed fraud;  
A thief comes in;  
A band of robbers takes spoil outside.  
(2) They do not consider in their hearts  
*That* I remember all their wickedness;  
Now their own deeds have surrounded them;  
They are before My face.  
(3) They make a king glad with their wickedness,  
And princes with their lies.  
(4) " *They are* all adulterers.  
Like an oven heated by a baker—  
He ceases stirring *the fire* after kneading the dough,  
Until it is leavened.

*New King James Version*

We cannot fail to see the same conditions prevailing in our nation. For [God](#) to bring about [repentance](#) and healing, He must first restore a knowledge of His standards. But when He does, the faithlessness becomes very apparent. It sounds much like Paul saying, "When the commandment came, [sin](#) revived and I died" ([Romans 7:9](#)).

Unfortunately, when God exposed the Israelites' sins, they did not repent as Paul did. Genuine repentance is impossible without a consciousness of sin. Hosea's indictment is that Israel was not conscious of their faithlessness to God: "They [did] not consider in their hearts." This shows how "far gone" they were under sin's addiction. They had become almost completely numb

to their spiritual state. Spiritually speaking, they were sleepwalking through life, unaware of the social disaster they had created and in which they were wallowing. Faithlessness was the "norm" and generally accepted.

When this faithlessness combines with marriage and promiscuous sex, very few people will change, despite all the evidence of how destructive this sin is! Syphilis, gonorrhea, herpes, chlamydia, AIDS, broken homes, increased illegitimacy, rebellious children, teens bearing children, and latch-key kids—who see their parents only at bedtime because both parents work to provide them "with the better things in life"—are just some of the effects.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

**To learn more, see:**

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