

Pastor Jeremy M. Thomas
Fredericksburg Bible Church
107 East Austin
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
830-997-8834 jthomas@fbgbible.org

**C0945 – December 2, 2009 – Hosea 7:8-16 – The Nation's Failure
To Learn Loyalty: Foreign Alliances**

The doctrines that are associated with the period we are working with from the larger frame of reference are disciplinary truths of God's kingdom. This is how God deals with His own. He's not dealing specifically with the pagan nations; He's dealing with His own nation of Israel. The nation was divided into two kingdoms, the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Ephraim or Israel. After the division both kingdoms went into Decline and finally they went into Exile. And so as the nations decline we learn disciplinary truths, the corrective actions that God takes with His own people. And they are doctrines that we've covered with other events but they are emphasized from a certain point of view. The first one is the doctrine of God, God's attributes. Actually, the doctrine of God is taught by every event in the framework, but chiefly the creation because it's the creation that separates and makes God different from His creation and sovereign over it. But during the Decline and Exile of the kingdoms two of the attributes of God become particularly clear: God's righteousness and His justice which together we call holiness. God's righteousness revealed through the Law of Moses - His standard for the nation and His justice is the discipline meted out on the nation for violation of the standard. So particularly during this generation you see the righteousness and justice of God. You also get a glimpse of His love because when all the justice is meted out through divine discipline finally God's love wins out and the nation returns to Him and is blessed.

A second doctrine, besides the doctrine of God, is the doctrine of sanctification. The doctrine of sanctification has five aspects; first, there are Phases and the three phases are position, experience and ultimate. Israel had a position via the Abrahamic Covenant. Second they had experience and that was measured by the Mosaic Covenant. Second there is the Aim of

sanctification and that is to learn loyalty to God in their experience, under phase two. They were failing to do this; over and over they violated the Mosaic Covenant. Third there are Dimensions. On one hand you have the existential dimension, either you are in fellowship or out of fellowship. The nation had been out of fellowship for a long time. And then you have the long-term growth and obviously if they'd been out of fellowship for a long time then they didn't experience any long-term growth. Fourth you have the Means of growth, both law and grace. Law in the sense there's a standard in the Mosaic Covenant that they are to live up to and grace is the enablement to live up to the standard. They didn't utilize grace to reach the standard and therefore they were failing miserably. And fifth we have the Enemies of sanctification and they are the world, the flesh and the devil. Israel failed miserably here. They mixed with the world system rather than separate from the world system and that brought further disobedience to the word of God. They gravitated to the gimmicks of the flesh to deal with the consequences of their disobedience. And finally the demonic forces were taking over Israel and you have all kinds of social sin breaking out. And so God is disciplining them through the prophets because the prophets are God's prosecuting attorneys and the prophets bring point by point accusations against the nation Israel to convict them of their sin so they will confess and be restored to fellowship. God is also disciplining them through foreign nations as they start to infiltrate and militarily destroy. All this is to wake up the nation to the fact that they are in deep, deep carnality and need to confess their sin in order to be restored.

The third great doctrine is the doctrine of carnality. This is a doctrine which is taught nowhere else in the Bible in such a graphic way as in this era of the prophets. This is why, if you know your way through the three divisions of the OT it becomes very easy to open the Bible when you have a problem and go to exactly the division you need even though you may have never studied a book in that division. If you know what the division emphasizes you can turn to one of those books and start there to solve your problem. The OT Bible is divided into the Law, or the Torah, the Prophets or the Nabiim, and the Writings or the Kethubim. The Law you basically go to when you have a problem with who God is and what is the general will of God for all men, questions like is there a standard for right and wrong, is there such a thing as truth, how should I live, why am I here. Those are the big questions of life and those are the questions the Law deals with.

For example: at creation I learn that God is all powerful and that I'm made in His image and therefore responsible to Him. At the Fall I learn that God's character is absolute and His justice reigns and He's not going to compromise His justice and He judges man accordingly. So there are absolutes. So if you need these big questions in life answered then you turn to the Law.

Then you have the Prophets and why would you study the prophets? You would go to the prophets when you're dealing with matters of your own personal sanctification. The prophets are the place to go when you're looking for violation of God's laws, when you're looking for an area in your life that seems to be causing you a problem, you can't get your fingers on it, you want to get specifics. Go to the prophets; go to Jeremiah, go to Isaiah, start reading the Nabiim in that case.

When do you go to the Kethubim? When you are dealing with the general will of God and the details of life. In the book of Proverbs, for example, raising children is explained, education is explained in Proverbs; sex is explained in the Song of Songs; philosophy explained in the book of Ecclesiastes, and, early music is explained in the book of Psalms. You go to the Kethubim for these kinds of details.

Now with Hosea, we are in the Nabiim so we are therefore dealing generally with the doctrine of sanctification and the nation's failure to be sanctified. They failed to learn loyalty to God and we'll see more of that tonight.

In Hosea 7:7, the northern kingdom, "They are all hot as an oven, and have devoured their judges; and all their kings are fallen," these were the kings of the last part of the northern kingdom, as you can tell by the dates these kings never lasted too long. None of them were authorized by God through the prophets, none of them were anointed and so political turmoil and espionage characterized the day. There was chaos in the heart of the nation according to verse 7, because they had collectively run headlong away from God into deep carnality and with all the problems going on not a single one of them says, maybe we have a spiritual problem. No one goes to God to find out what the trouble is. So the order of the day is to solve all our problems by gimmicks.

Now Hosea 7:8 we start with another gimmick section. Up until this time Hosea has been dealing with domestic policies of the nation: they've got theft, not necessarily someone breaking and entering but it could simply be disrespect for other people's property; they've got murder and not necessarily bloodshed; it could be just a refusal to take care of the elderly. Don't treat these violations of God's commandments so narrowly, the law treated them very broadly so that just not helping someone in dire straits on the side of the road is considered murder.

Now he shifts and beginning in verse 8 through the end of the chapter he deals with problems in the foreign policy department of the northern kingdom. And he begins in verse 8 by saying, **Ephraim mixes himself with the nations; Ephraim has become a cake not turned.** You've heard the expression "half-baked," that's where it came from. And it was used by Hosea to refer to the northern kingdom. **Ephraim mixes himself with the nations**" this goes back to a doctrine, the doctrine of election. The doctrine of election says that God chose the nation Israel and they have a unique position among the world's nations. God promised the nation Israel a specific destiny and therefore they were to be separate from the nations, they were to walk to the tune of a different drummer. So this is violation of the principle of separation. They were elect to a destiny and therefore there is a means of reaching the destiny and that means is separation. This is under the doctrine of sanctification. Now by parallel the same is true for you as a member of the Church. God chose you to be a part of His church and you have a unique position in Christ. And God has a destiny for you, to be conformed to the image of Christ and therefore in the present we are to be separate from the world system, we are to be walking to the tune of a different drummer. And when we don't we are mixing with the world system; we are accommodating to human viewpoint paganism and we are half-baked like Israel.

So Israel has failed to live up to her elect status in verse 8. And so the way he says that they have not come into line with their elect position is to say that **Ephraim has become a cake not turned.** The cake that he mentions is something like our pancake; it was cooked on hot rocks and the point is that normally what you do is you put the pancake on and cook it on one side and flip it at the right time. If you don't flip it at the right time then it gets burned on one side and the other side just sits there an ooey gooey mess. And

so the thing is ruined. And so what this is saying is that Ephraim is like a pancake not turned, it has a destiny to be this usable product but it never met the destiny.

And the idea is that sanctification is like cooking a pancake and you're the pancake and God has chosen you to be a pancake and so you start off just batter and He pours you onto the hot rocks and naturally you'll heat up under the pressures of life and that's to stimulate you to grow spiritually, to handle life's trials by trusting Him and if all goes well you'll cook at a nice steady pace and at the right time you'll get to the point where He'll flip you over. But it's got to be the right time. You've got to be responding positively to Him. If not, and you're on negative volition to Him, then you just sit there and cook until you're burned and you never get flipped over and you end up raw on one side and burned on the other, an end product that is ruined. But if you do respond positively then at the right time God flips you over and the process of sanctification will continue till you're a completed believer and the end-product is a nice, usable product.

Now the northern kingdom didn't respond to their trials by trusting God and so they didn't advance very far in sanctification; they got going in the time of David and the early times of Solomon but then they put on the brakes and they never got flipped over. That's the picture that one side is scorched and the other side is raw. They failed to learn that when we get in a jam we need to trust God. God will solve my problems. But instead of trusting God they trusted gimmicks. That's what verse 8 is all about where it says **Ephraim mixes with the nations**, that's political alliances. They're turning to foreign nations to get them out of the jams. We've got an economic problem here so we turn to Egypt, we've got a security issue so we turn to Assyria. And so in the area of sanctification she's registering a big fat zero because the only way you grow spiritually is you trust God to solve your problems. But she didn't move one inch toward God and so her sanctification stopped. Yes, ultimately the nation Israel will be ultimately sanctified, ultimately God will get the nation in shape. But at this time they were not advancing. And right now you may not be advancing, you may be in rebellion and trusting in gimmicks, but nevertheless you will eventually be conformed to Jesus Christ.

Hoses 7:9, he goes on to describe the half baked nature of Ephraim.

Strangers devour his strength, Yet he does not know it; Gray hairs

also are sprinkled on him, Yet he does not know it. The point is the **strangers** are the foreign nations they made political alliances with. See, here's the deal. In the ancient world when you made these alliances it wasn't just an alliance. There were marriage arrangements that sealed the alliances and these girls from pagan nations would be brought in to marry into the royal house and when you bring in these girls it's not just a girl coming in - it's a pagan girl and pagan girls bring pagan ideas and they begin to spread pagan thought throughout the northern kingdom. That's why the Bible is so against a believer marrying an unbeliever. What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? One partner is ultimately committed to Christ the other is ultimately committed to Satan. And so pagan thought has infiltrated the northern kingdom through these political alliances and this has gone on for centuries and so the northern kingdom is in deep, deep carnality. They've gone negative volition to God, and that darkens the mind and begins to destroy the conscience and they've gone on more negative volition to God until you've so destroyed the national conscience that you can't perceive reality correctly anymore. That's one of the subtleties of going negative volition over and over and over is that eventually you can't see the world correctly anymore, you've distorted reality. And so pagan thought has infiltrated and now it's been assimilated and it's devouring their **strength**, it's eating up the nation from the inside and they don't even **know it**. When we go this far in carnality we may not even be aware of it. The northern kingdom was not aware of it, even though Hosea tried to show the northern kingdom how bad things were; the northern kingdom didn't have a clue. Notice the phrase is repeated twice in verse 9, **he does not know it**, and in other words he's totally unaware.

Now let's go back in history and ask ourselves a question so we can get the principle and apply it to our lives. If deep carnality cannot be spotted by the individual that is involved, then how is that individual ever going to know when he's in deep carnality? And the answer is the same way the northern kingdom did. He sent prophets with the word of God and He told them, you're screwed up here, you violated this statute, you foiled that commandment, you're not obeying My word. And it was point by point, very detailed accusations God sent through the prophets. How does He solve the problem for the believer today in deep carnality? It's the same way, it's always the same solution: it's the preaching and teaching of the word of God. So where you have believers who are not constantly exposed to the word of God, where

you have little to no Bible teaching, in those places you will find people often very deeply involved in carnality and they don't have a clue they even have a problem. The same thing with Ephraim, they did not attend to the prophets teaching and preaching, they threw tomatoes at Amos, I'm sure they hated Hosea.

And then in Hosea 7:10 we have reiteration of a phrase that was repeated several times earlier in the book, **Though the pride of Israel testifies against him, Yet they have not returned to the Lord their God, Nor have they sought Him, for all this.** The **pride of Israel** is the arrogance that had built up because they had such great prosperity under Jeroboam II; Jonah had prophesied of this and they began to attribute all the blessing to themselves but now all the prosperity has begun to collapse. God is pulling the tablecloth out from underneath them and the prosperity is going down the drain, the economy is starting to fail and every day the thing is falling off more and everyone says, we'll get it back, we'll get it back, yet it's not coming back. Now if we were to go back to Lev 26 and Deut 28 you would see that God said if you rebel and rebel against Me I'm going to discipline you in five degrees and between each degree I'll give you an opportunity to return to Me, but if you don't I'm going to send the next degree of discipline. And when they see the national economy going down the drain they should have said, oh, this is Lev 26 and Deut 28, maybe we have a spiritual problem, maybe our economy is collapsing because we're stupid spiritually. That's what they should have realized, they were way down in the cycles of divine discipline and still the verse says **they have not returned to the Lord their God, Nor have they sought Him, for all this.** And it's a gnomonic perfect which means they never do, the economy has been declining for decades and they haven't once said, hey, maybe we should turn to God. Maybe that's why our prosperity is leaking. No, we're not going to turn to God, we built our economy and we'll rebuild our economy.

That's what he says in verse 11. Verse 11 is another gimmick to rebuild; they're going to seek out foreign aid. It's very specific here that God is nailing them on this foreign policy. **Ephraim has become like a silly dove, without sense; They call to Egypt, they go to Assyria.** The point was that the northern kingdom was trying to survive between the two super powers of her day, **Assyria** and **Egypt**. **Assyria** was the nation to the north, **Egypt** was the nation to the south. So you have these two super powers on

either side and Israel right in the middle. They both were vying for Israel. Why? Israel sat on the major trade routes. Whoever controls Israel controls the world. The Jews are just trying to survive, they're trying to manipulate by diplomacy, by peaceful negotiation, by human viewpoint gimmicks in an attempt to get security. Their security, they think, lies in making a good treaty with Assyria against Egypt, or making a good treaty with Egypt against Assyria. It's the reliance of a believer on negative volition with some gimmick. You've always got to put your trust in man, and if I can just get this one business deal to go through then I'll be set. And believers that don't have sound teaching are like that, **silly doves without sense**; the word *sense* is *leb* in the Hebrew and it refers to the conscience. They are without conscience because they've gone so far on negative volition they've destroyed their conscience and now they can't think right and wrong anymore and so they resort to all these gimmicks. They go to one gimmick and it starts to fall through so they turn to another gimmick and they just vacillate all over the place like a silly dove. And so they run to Egypt and when Egypt is looking droopy they run over to Assyria, always running someplace other than the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the last one these believers will ever turn to.

Hosea 7:12, God loves Israel, and now He says something about them that applies very much to believers, **When they go, I will spread My net over them; I will bring them down like the birds of the sky. I will chastise them in accordance with the proclamation to their assembly.** Now the net is a **net** that was used to capture birds. It is a net that occurs again and again in the Psalms, the fowler's snare. Now why is this figure of the bird being captured in the fowler's snare so recurrent in Scripture? Because the bird for the man in the ancient world represented maximum freedom, and so the fowler with his net was the one who destroyed freedom. And so therefore, believers who are on negative volition are going to have their freedom destroyed, whether nationally or individually. God will see to it that their freedom is lost; He will deliberately cause the loss of freedom because He loves them and He wants them to turn to Him.

And then He says, **I will chastise them in accordance with the proclamation to their assembly.** Now the word **chastise** is the word *yasar*, and it's the word for severe discipline, severe training. God says I will disciplinarily train them in a severe fashion because I have so much love for them and I have marked out for them a national destiny. I am now going to

come after them because they are going to be sanctified. Eventually they are going to come around and it won't be because of their efforts; finally it's going to be because of My efforts. If it was finally by their efforts then they would get the glory. But man isn't going to get the glory; God is going to get the glory. And this is looking forward to severe discipline which comes by means of the fifth degree of discipline, military defeat and destruction. In 721BC they're going to be in pain, severe pain because God says I will *ycasar* them, I will correct them with the rod of men, they will get in shape. And that's the last 2500 years of Israel's history. You mark my words, if anyone single word sums up Israel's last 2500 years it's this word *ycasar*.

Now the believer today can avoid the *ycasar* to a degree. How can a believer today avoid it? One of the ways is to get involved in learning Bible doctrine at a local church where the word of God is being taught. None of this namby pamby stuff, I've been in this denomination for twelve generations, I like the minister, and they've got good music. Those are all the silly reasons for staying at a church. Is the Church teaching the word or are they playing this little game where we never help believers understand the word of God because we're not sure we really understand it? So all they do is just pick a text, this week it's Luke 4, next week it's Matt 10 and it's totally abused because they yank it right out of context and push their great moral agenda for the week. And nobody in their congregation knows how they just ripped God's word to shreds because none of them have been taught God's word, they don't know what the context of Matt 10 is. I don't feel too sorry for people in this town because if someone wants to know what God says they have every opportunity in this town to hear the word of God. We've even got Bible in our name and if someone wants to know what's going on here all they have to do is pick up the phone and call. It's that easy. Or they can just walk in the door because three times a week I'm teaching it right here and we go verse by verse and line by line or event by event so you always know the context. I pay you a high compliment by teaching you the Bible because a) I'm saying you CAN understand what God has to say and b) I'm not hiding a thing. If I came in here week after week and jumped all over the place I'm deliberately trying to keep you off balance, I'm deliberately trying to hide the word of God from you and I'm deliberately trying to get my agenda pushed through. But if I teach you verse by verse I'm pinned down, I'm pinned down by the context so I can't manipulate you. And so if your church isn't teaching verse by verse or systematically then leave the church. There is

absolutely not one good reason you can give God for staying. It is a waste of time. And if you think you're going to stay in there and change the church, change the ministers, change the denomination, you are wrong. You're not going to do that, it is a sinking ship and you are going to go down with the ship. It's not your job to save the ship, your job is to learn loyalty to God through His word and you simply cannot do that if you are not sitting under sound Bible teaching.

A second thing you can do is train yourself to use the faith-rest drill. The faith rest drill is a simple four step procedure and you can train yourself to use it every day. Every day you have problems. They may be little problems but they are still problems and those little problems every day are a training ground for you. If you can't handle the little problems in life what are you going to do when the big problems come? You're going to fall apart, you're going to go to pieces right on the living room couch, and you're going to sink into depression. So you better train yourself to respond using the tools of the faith-rest drill. So step one, let's review. Step one is you've got to recall some fragment of Scripture, some biblical story, a verse you've memorized, a promise, something, but you've got to get some of the word of God cycling through your mind. Now obviously you're not going to be able to do this very well if you haven't been in a strong bible teaching church. It just won't happen. Because strong bible teaching churches give you a tremendous base of resources so that when the jam comes you have all these resources to draw from. If you don't have strong bible teaching you don't have much resources, you're severely limited. Step two is to connect, you've got to connect the Scripture you're cycling through your mind to the situation you're facing. If you can't see any similarities, if you don't see any relationship between your situation and the Scripture you've got it isn't going to do much good, you have to gravitate to some Scripture that relates to your situation in one or more details. It doesn't have to be point for point identical situation; it just has to have some similarities so you can start to envelop your situation with the word of God. If you don't do this here's what begins to happen. The situation you're facing begins to envelop you and you start to get overwhelmed and before you know it you're way down the chain toward mental depression and hatred of God. You're asking questions like "Why did you allow this to come in my life God?" And when you're asking those kinds of questions you doubt whether God really knows what He's doing and you're in a load of trouble. So we've got to connect the Scriptures with our situation. But that's not enough.

Maybe I get through steps one and two but then I've got a third thing to handle and that's the question is the Scripture really true. Here's where I've got to think through the rationale. What we mean here is that you've got to be convinced through careful thought that the word of God is true, it really is true and its solution is sufficient, it will work. If I'm not convinced of that then I can have all the Bible stories in the world, but as long as they are just stories then there's no umph behind them. I can read some fables - but fables aren't real so how do fables solve my problem? They don't. So as long as we're harboring doubt that the Scriptures are real history and this stuff really happened then I can't believe and I'm going to fall on my face. Take creation for example. Rather than asking yourself, do I believe creation? Ask yourself this: do I believe that evolution on a cosmic, chemical and biological macro-scale is totally invented by the imagination of man? If you're not convinced of that then you're not believing in creation, you're still harboring doubt about Gen 1-2, what God said in Exod 20:8-11, what Jesus Christ said in John 3:12 and Matt 23. You're harboring all kinds of doubt about God's word and Jesus Christ. And if you are harboring doubt about that stuff, maybe it isn't really true the way God said it then what's stopping you from doubting whether David and the way he handled his trials is really true? The whole of Scripture hangs together. Either it is all true or it is all a lie. It is like we ought to all just get up and leave because we're wasting our time. And finally, the fourth step, after we have recalled some Scripture, after we've connected it to our situation and after we've developed the rationale so our hearts are saying this is true, this will work, then and only then do we get step four, and that's the rest part of the drill. Then we can relax and know that despite this problem I'm facing in life God has the solution to my problem and I can be content, I can relax and not fall to pieces.

So those are some of the ways we can train ourselves to stay out of this *yasar* kind of discipline. If we don't use these simple tools of getting trained in the word of God and using the training in daily life then God is going to put you in His own training school which is the school of hard knocks; it's going to be a rough road. And the nation Israel had said foey with the Bible and the faith-rest stuff, that's all King David stuff, we're not going to do what King David did, we're going to be like Saul. Well, fine, be like Saul but just know that you're entering into severe discipline like Saul. And so from 721BC forward to this day the nation Israel is undergoing this severe *yasar*.

Now Hosea 7:13, God shows us He's a firm disciplinarian, He's not afraid to discipline His own children. Some people think this makes God out to be a big meany. He's not a big meany, we'll see what He really is. **Woe to them, for they have strayed from Me! Destruction is theirs. Destruction is theirs** He says, and in the Hebrew it's quick, it's said very quickly, with a dozen exclamation points after it. This is an excited form of Hebrew, **Destruction is theirs!!!** The hell with them is the way we'd translate it, that's exactly what He means, **for they have rebelled against Me!** What was the sin of Saul? It was rebellion; the nation is very much likened to Saul in this section. Saul was constantly rebelling against the revealed word of God. And what did God finally say about Saul's sin? Rebellion is as the sin of divination. God takes rebellion against His authority very seriously. He puts it on par with practicing sorcery. That's how God thinks of His own people here. Look at how He's talking to them. He's reacting in a very personal way, its anger and God can get angry at you and me to the point it comes out very harshly. This is our God.

Now look at Hosea 7:14, this is a very real expose of what it looks like to be in deep carnality if you want to look at it. You see it in various people in the Bible, you see it in Saul and others, **And they do not cry to Me from their heart When they wail on their beds;** see, the wailing on the beds is the believer who's being disciplined and they are crying and weeping and going to pieces on the bed and God says you can cry and weep and yell all you want but you still haven't turned to Me. All you want is the discipline to stop, stop the discipline, stop the discipline, but you haven't said I confess my sin to you Lord, I have sinned against You. And there is a world of difference between a believer laying there going to pieces and a believer crying unto God with all their heart. You know there's a difference.

Now the wailing and the yelling and the screaming out in pain and anguish on the bed doesn't impress God, it doesn't impress Him in the least until you get down and get to the heart of the issue with 1 John 1:9 and there is no other way to turn off the discipline. And they haven't done that, it's obvious from the verse. They're in pain, no doubt there, but look how they handle the pain, **For the sake of grain and new wine they assemble themselves,** you know what that is? That's the drunken orgies they went to. Why are they going to that? To deaden the pain. This is their human view point coping

gimmick, this is how they cope, they go to gimmicks and when they do that **They turn away from Me.**

Hosea 7:15, **Although I trained and strengthened their arms,** and there's our word *yasar* again. God had trained them and trained them and trained them. He had trained their soldiers to be professional killers in battle. God had trained a powerful military. It means I have taught them the technique of killing, I have taught them how to be elite soldiers. Who did that training? God did that training and yet what does the end of verse 15 say? **Yet they devise evil against Me.** It shows they rejected God's grace toward them, God had given them tremendous military power and yet they turn against Him and they say, aha, we know how to solve our problems. See the word **devise evil**, it means they sit there and dream up how they're going to solve their problems and the way they do it is they turn to Assyria and Egypt; they've got strength, they'll solve our problems, it's another gimmick in the foreign policy department.

Hosea 7:16, **They turn, but not upward.** The word **upward** is *al* and some translators thought this meant *allah* which would be the Most High God which is the word the Arabs use for God, this word, the Most High. **So they turn** means when God sends the discipline and the pressure is on and the economy is going down the drain they turn alright, they just don't turn to Him, they turn the wrong way. They don't look to Me to solve their problems, they turn somewhere else.

They are like a deceitful bow; Now the **deceitful bow** is a term that was used for a bow that you thought was an excellent weapon, you thought you could rely on and then in the heat of the battle when the enemy is on the footsteps you go to draw the bow and you're all set and you release the arrow and nothing happens. In other words, it's a failed weapon and what it's saying is you've turned to some other foreign power to save them as they collapse but just when you think you're going to be saved the foreign power falls through.

Hos 7:16b, **Their princes will fall by the sword Because of the insolence of their tongue. This will be their derision in the land of Egypt.** This is describing the final years of the northern kingdom as they vacillated between Assyria and Egypt. I can't show you the whole series of

foreign diplomacy but turn to 2 Kings 17. A whole series of these kings toward the end of the northern kingdom feared Assyria; Assyria was the new power rising to the north and so these kings paid tribute to the King of Assyria for military protection. So let's see what happened as we come to the last king of the northern kingdom. Verse 1, "In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah became king over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* nine years. ²He did evil in the sight of the LORD, only not as the kings of Israel who were before him. ³Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against him, and Hoshea became his servant and paid him tribute." So far so good; the gimmick is working. Verse 4, "But the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea, who had sent messengers to So king of Egypt and had offered no tribute to the king of Assyria, as *he had done* year by year; so the king of Assyria shut him up and bound him in prison. ⁵Then the king of Assyria invaded the whole land and went up to Samaria and besieged it three years." So the whole thing went to pieces. They are under siege for three years, and apparently during that time Hoshea sent messengers to Pharaoh and said, hey Pharaoh, we need some horses and chariots up here. We've got Shalmaneser coming against us and Pharaoh said we've got our own problems down here, and so this shows you the failure of human gimmicks in the realm of foreign policy. They try to make international alliances when they face a problem but that's a gimmick, the only solution was to turn upward, turn to God most high, but they didn't want that. They wanted to trust in man rather than God so God says fine, I'll let you, but when the day of disaster hits you're going to fall completely apart and they did.

[Back To The Top](#)

Copyright (c) Fredericksburg Bible Church 2009