

# Living in Reality

## Hosea 7-8

### Introduction:

1. Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ is a very dangerous thing.
  - An example of this is Romans 10:2-3.
2. The nation of Israel was in deep spiritual trouble in Hosea's day. They were on the brink of national judgment, yet we see that there was a total unawareness of their true condition.
3. God sent the prophet Hosea to warn Israel and to shed light on the true state of their relationship with God.
4. May God use the example of Israel to challenge Christians in this age to carefully examine their hearts and make sure that they are living in reality.

### The Illusion

As we study our text we see that Israel was living under several illusions.

1. God is unconcerned about our \_\_\_\_\_. 7:1-2
2. We are \_\_\_\_\_ because of our alliances. 7:8-10
3. We are \_\_\_\_\_ because of our cleverness. 7:11, 8:9-10
4. We are \_\_\_\_\_ with God because of our religious acts. 8:1-2, 13

### The Reality

God sent Hosea to shine the spiritual light of His Word on them. God wanted them to wake up and begin to live in reality. What was the reality?

1. God \_\_\_\_\_ every sin.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ - 7:1, 3, 13, 16
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ - 7:4-7
  - The idolatry - 8:4-6, 11
  - The \_\_\_\_\_-will - 7:10, 8:4
2. They were weakened and feeble. 7:9
3. They were in great \_\_\_\_\_. 7:13, 8:14
4. They were in \_\_\_\_\_ with God. 7:12-13

## The Result

1. God's \_\_\_\_\_ was aching.
  - We see God's heart displayed in two statements found in 7:1 and 8:12.
    - *"When I would have healed Israel..."* 7:1
    - *"I have written to him the great things of my law..."* 8:12
  - God had loved (3:1, 11:1, 3-4) and instructed Israel, yet they would not \_\_\_\_\_ to Him (7:16).
2. God's \_\_\_\_\_ would fall.
  - If Israel persisted in their rebellion, God would send judgment. 7:11-12, 16, 8:1, 7-10

## Conclusion:

1. Christian, are you living in reality?
2. Many Christians today are like Israel in Hosea's day. They feel that if they do some religious things, that God is \_\_\_\_\_. This is an illusion.
3. Christian, may this message teach a valuable lesson. God desires your heart, your \_\_\_\_\_, and your affection.
4. Live in the reality of who God has made you in Christ and love Him with all of your heart!