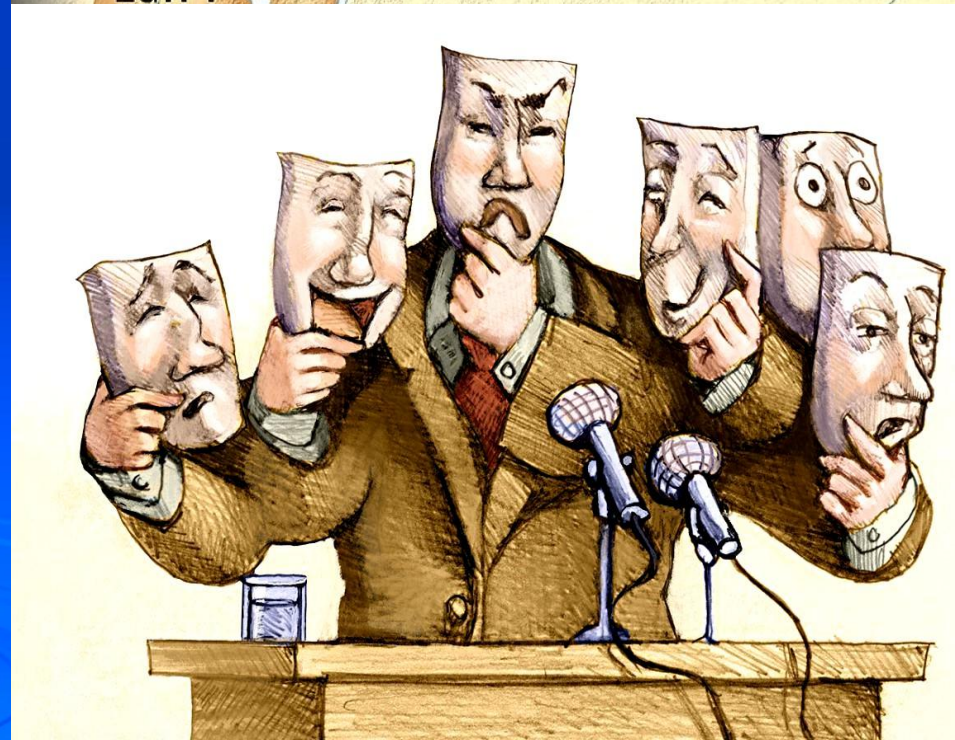




- Only being interested in the pleasant things of Bible prophecy ignores what God says leads up to them
- The prophecies are not meant to depress us, but rather to warn and give us time to prepare
- The majority of humans will ignore the warnings
- If we take no action, make no changes, it means we don't believe God

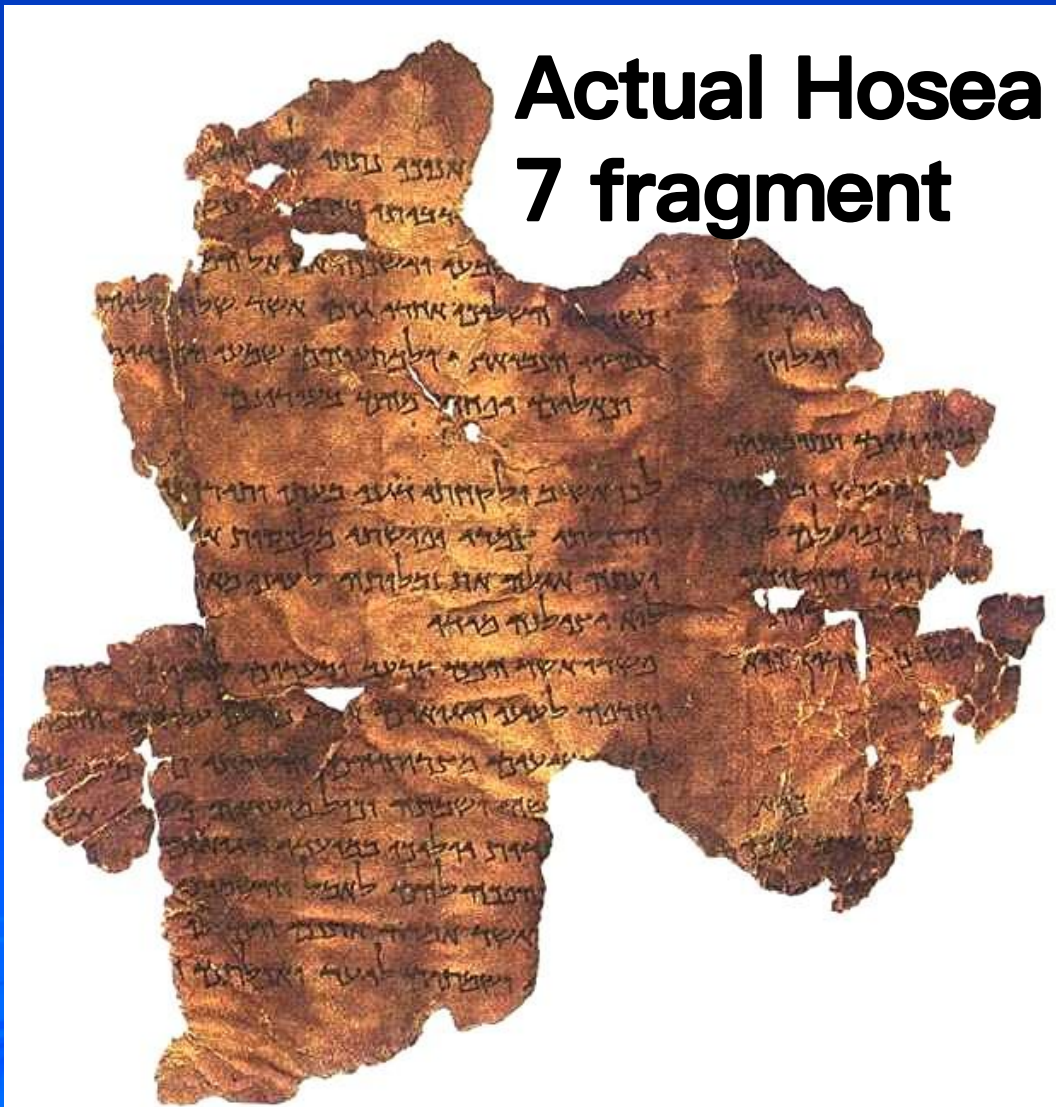
REVELING IN IMMORALITY

- 2Kings 15 lays out a murderous history of assassination
- Israel ran to and fro to seek alliances with Egypt or Assyria
- Chapter 7, 4 segments
- 1) Vss. 1 & 2
- 2) Vss. 3 – 7
- 3) Vss. 8 – 12
- 4) Vss. 13 - 16



THE PROBLEM IN TRANSLATING HOSEA 7

- So many lines of text are in disrepair; translating involves educated speculation
- Scholars of ancient Hebrew language:
S. M. Paul
Mayer Gruber



**Actual Hosea
7 fragment**

OVEN AND BAKING



- Oven was made of fired clay
- Fire built inside the oven
- Burned down until just coals
- Interior walls now hot
- A flattened dinner plate sized lump of bread dough pressed onto an interior wall
- After being half-baked, the bread was turned over
- The fire, the bread preparation, the exact moment the yeast was added (the kneading process), had to be carefully co-ordinated



- Gruber: vs. 5 “The days on which they made our kings sick by means of poison instead of wine. He stretched out his hand to mocking persons”
- Vs. 6 S.M. Paul: “Truly their inwards are like an oven, their hearts like a blazing fire within them”
- Power has become the sole goal of their existence

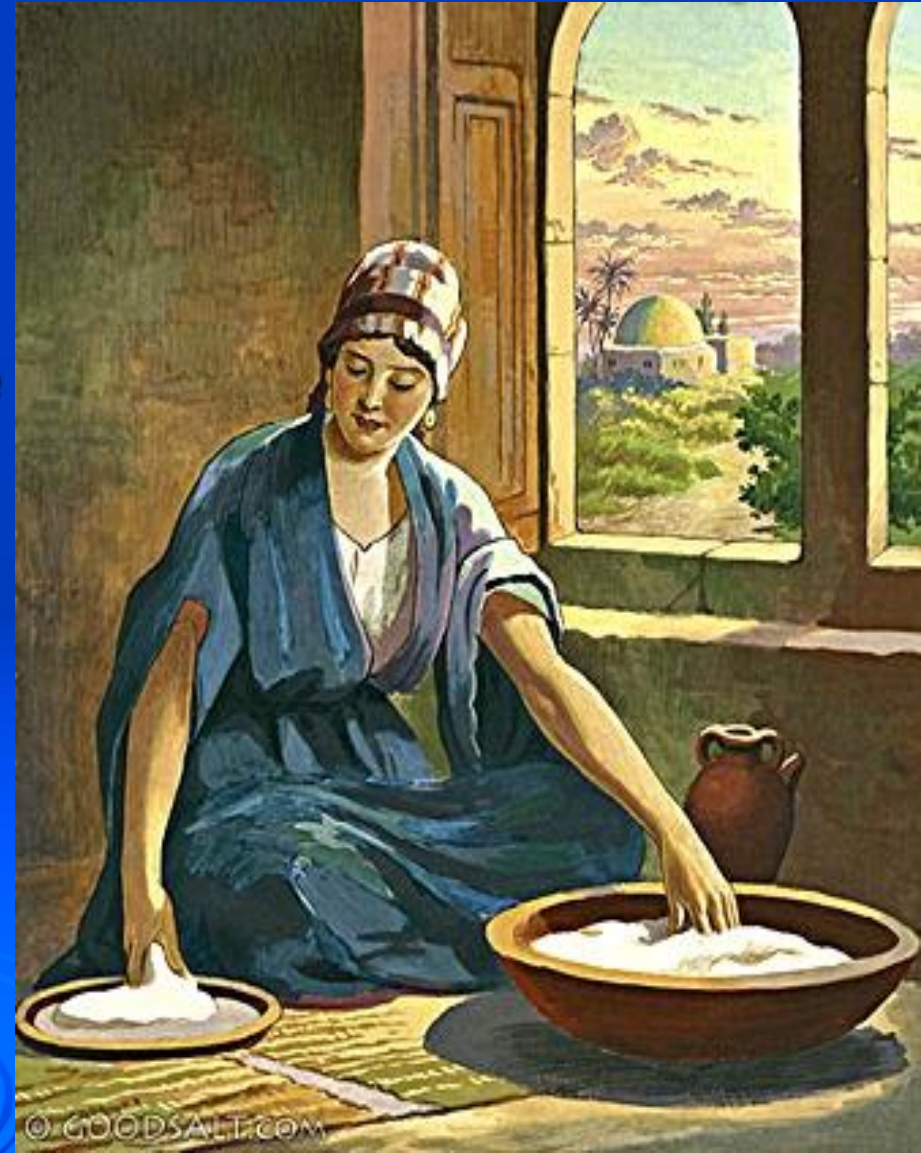
CORRUPT, POWER-MAD GOVERNMENT LEADERS



- Vs. 7 Personal destruction, then national destruction
- Israel and Judah constantly warring against one another
- Israel takes matters into their own hands
- Israel pays tribute to Assyria for their help
- Corruption baked into our societies

LOSING OUR IDENTITY

- Ephraim = bread dough
- Nations = yeast
- Leaven (yeast) = sin
- Ephraim is half-baked (literally not-turned)
- Hebrew all consonants, so how it is vocalized adds the vowels and determines the word's meaning
- Israel lost its identity with Yehoveh, then Judah, then with its land
- Their identity as seed of Abraham ended with exile



CHRISTIAN IDENTITY?



Christmas



Easter



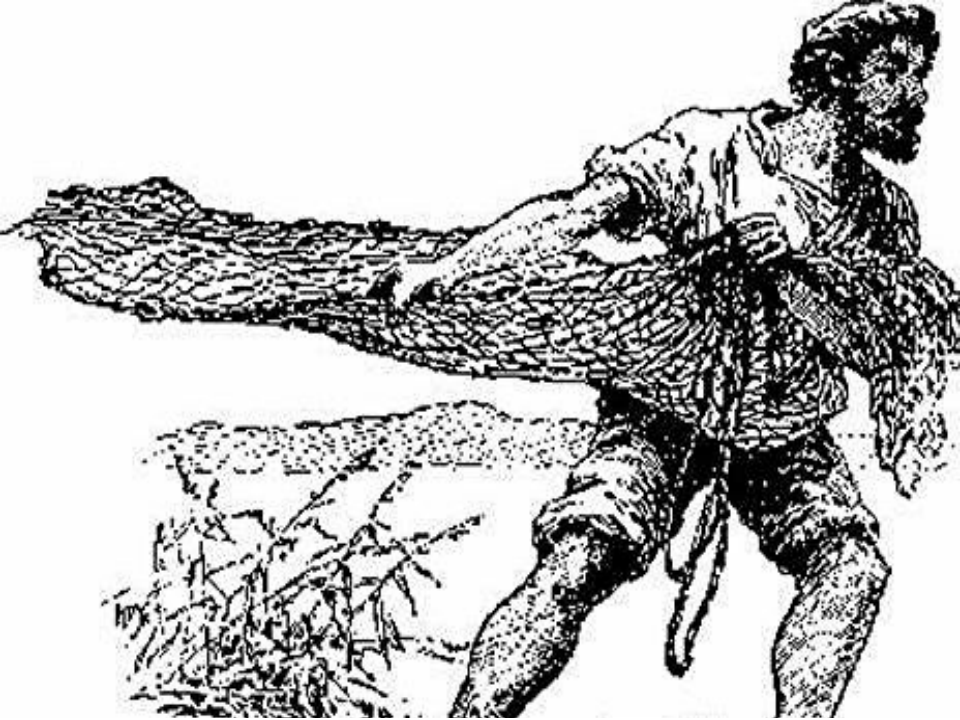
And

- Israel “didn’t know” they were losing their identity
- Too busy chasing their ambitions and living life
- Israel didn’t have malice aforethought; they refused to examine themselves in light of God’s moral code: The Law of Moses
- Vs. 10 “face” means presence
- Hosea 5:5 means the same as 7:10

Ephraim is like a
foolish dove



- Israel sees, but doesn't comprehend the grave danger they are in
- They listen, but don't hear the rumblings of catastrophe that is coming
- They flip-flop from one alliance to another
- 2Kings 16:1 - 9



WOE TO ISRAEL

- Net & birds symbolizes that it is God causing Israel's misfortune
- Vs. 13 Segment 4
- Woe is a word of divine judgment
- Vs. 14 has its context in Hosea and Gomer's marriage and adultery
- *Lev* usually is heart, but can meant throat
- Israelites slashing themselves, vs. making noises of ecstasy

