

Cake

A Half-Baked Cake

Hosea 7:1-16

Hosea 7:8

Ephraim **mixes** with the **nations**;
Ephraim is a flat cake **not turned** over.

1. They practice **deceit**.

Hosea 7:1-2

Hosea 7:1

Whenever I would restore the fortunes of my people, whenever I would heal Israel, the **sins** of Ephraim are exposed and the crimes of Samaria revealed. **They practice deceit**, thieves break into houses, bandits rob in the streets;

Hosea 7:2

but they do not realize that **I remember
all their evil deeds**. Their **sins** engulf
them; they are always before me.

2. They **play politics** with their faith.

Hosea 7:3-7

Hosea 7:3-4

They delight the **king** with their **wickedness**, the **princes** with their **lies**.

⁴ They are all **adulterers**, burning like an oven whose fire the baker need not stir from the kneading of the dough till it rises.

Hosea 7:5

On the day of the festival of our king the
princes become inflamed with wine, and
he **joins hands** with the mockers.

Hosea 7:6

Their hearts are like an oven; they approach him with intrigue. Their passion smolders all night; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire.

Hosea 7:7-8

All of them are hot as an oven; they devour their rulers. **All their kings fall, and none of them calls on me.**

⁸ “Ephraim mixes with the nations;
Ephraim is a flat cake not turned over.

3. They're **over-involved**
with people who are **not**
about God's business.

Hosea 7:9-10

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Foreigners sap his strength, but he does **not** realize it. His hair is sprinkled with gray, but he does not notice. ¹⁰ Israel's arrogance testifies against him, but despite all this he **does not return to the LORD his God or search for him.**

4. They're **wishy-washy**.

Hosea 7:11-13

Hosea 7:11

Ephraim is like a **dove**, **easily deceived**
and senseless—now **calling** to Egypt, now
turning to Assyria.

Hosea 7:12

When they go, I will throw my net over them; I will pull them down like birds of the air. When I hear them flocking together, I will catch them.

Hosea 7:13

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.

2 Timothy 2:3-4

Endure hardship with us like a **good soldier of Christ Jesus**. ⁴ **No one** serving as a soldier gets **involved in civilian affairs**—he wants to **please** his **commanding officer**.

5. They're not **in-love** with Christ.

Hosea 7:14-15

Hosea 7:14-15

They do not cry out to me from **their hearts** but wail upon their beds. They gather together for grain and new wine but **turn away from me.** ¹⁵ **I trained** them and **strengthened** them, but they plot evil against me.

6. They **follow the wrong**
leader.

Hosea 7:16

Hosea 7:16

They do **not turn** to **the Most High**; they are like a **faulty bow**. **Their leaders will fall** by the sword because of their **insolent words**. For this they will be ridiculed in the land of Egypt.

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2. They **play politics** with their faith.
3. They're **over-involved** with people who are **not** about God's business.

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4. They're **wishy-washy**.
5. They're not **in-love** with Christ.
6. They **follow the wrong** leader.

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I Can't Eat It –

Neither Will Jesus