

Kings and Prophets 15-02-06b

We pick up our study now in the book of Hosea, and we're ready to resume looking at the It would take us forever to exhaust all of the wonderful things in this book, and so we're In a bit of a frustrating way for me We're just going to hit a few of the high points and one of the ways we can summarize the content of the book is to look at these Similes that really do distill the essence of the message that God is giving to his people through the prophet Hosea We saw these last time in the beginning that we have reviewed in chapter 7 and the You remember that the the third one was? the silly Dove and that word in Hebrew actually meaning to be allured or enticed or drawn away by Something and I don't think there has ever been a time in history when God's people Do not have more ways to be enticed allured distracted drawn Away, there are so many things that clamor for our attention the information age is the enticement age it's the distraction age and It's a wonderful thing that that what used to take thousands of dollars of investment to provide yourself with a theological library is available for free online you can go to to biblos.com which turns into biblehub.com or Bible dot org The there are links on the on our website to online Bibles blue letter blue letter Bible and so on But there is more availability of Tools and resources and classic works that support good solid Bible study on the internet Then there has ever been and if you have any kind of connectivity, you can go to a coffee shop you can go to a public library and you have access to what used to only be on the shelves of the libraries at a Bible College or a theological seminary and we but it is avalanched and buried underneath the Onslaught of every other kind of distraction known to man if you try to get on the internet to go to Bible hub or one of these other places they're peppering you with Entertainment news and what did this newsmen say about his crashing helicopter and what you know all of these other? Oh, I need to know why do I need to know I don't know and I don't care I don't watch the evening news the guy may or may not have been in a helicopter the man may not and got shot at and he may or may not have misrepresented it because he wanted to appear more heroic than he really is I need Divine truth it is the bread for my soul and Have you ever gone online intent on ordering something you need or finding a piece of information people are coming over? I need a recipe, but oh somebody wrote on my Facebook wall, or I've got a an alert or look Justin Bieber just did a thing or you know it just it just throws things at you it's the hundredth anniversary of this and You know who knows some 98 year old actress finally went to glory And we've got to have a review of her life and all the movie Oh, I remember that movie, and that is just distraction distraction distraction That's what he's talking about here. Take a look at Hosea chapter 7 verse 11 Ephraim also is like a distractible dove a seducible dove an enticeable easy to draw away bird can't achieve stability and This dove is going to want to do what the other birds are doing there are birds from Egypt There are birds from Assyria, and God says the net is going to fall on all of them. I'm throwing a net over them all What do you think the destiny of Egypt is in God's eyes? How happy is God with Egypt? How happy is God with Assyria, he's going to use them.

He says they're the rod of my anger They're the staff of my indignation I'm going to pick them up like a big stick, and I'm going to beat my people with them What's he going to do with that

stick when he's finished with it? He's going to splinter it, and he's going to incinerate it. Where is Assyria today? It is under the sand of Iraq It's gone If we learn anything from Hosea if there was only one thing you could remember out of it forgot Gomer forgot Hosea forgot Lohar Hama and Jezreel and lo Ami Forgot all of the similes forgot the bakers forgot the ovens forgot the fires if you forget everything else remember the dove Yonah Seducible enticeable and this distraction is going to cause Israel the dove to be caught in God's net the same net that he is spreading over the the Unbelieving nations the godless idolatrous nations God's throwing the net because they are under judgment and the dove is going to fly under that net and get judged with them How dumb is that? That's us when we allow ourselves to be deflected and distracted What did the serpent do to Eve in the garden? Distracted her Serpents don't talk Look what this fruit can do for you. Look what it did for me.

I Was just a serpent with these little bitty legs Crawled up here and ate this fruit now. I'm talking This is smart fruit This is better than ginkgo biloba. This is better than you know st.

John's wort or whatever else you can get on the on the Herbal have you seen it's so shameless, you know They they look back and and and poke fun at the people who used to buy snake oil and stuff back in the Old West Oh how gullible are you kidding me? Look at the look at the dietary supplement I'll this statement has not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Admin You know why because they're all on the floor laughing. That's why they can't get up and evaluate to see if it's any good. It's oh You know the wisdom of the of the Indians and the ancestors and oh they used to use this plant and they were ignorant and They were using whatever they could find they would chew on a weed because they had nothing else That doesn't mean that if you put it in a pill form and compound it with with cornstarch that it's going to do anything for You I was talking to a record the other last night.

I think about why why is it that emergency? Gives you like a hundred times the normal daily amount of vitamin C. Why would they even do that? You know what emergency is right? Is it I'd drink it but it's got like, you know, a thousand times the recommended daily amount of Vitamin C or maybe it's a thousand milligrams. It's way over the why You think well, that's just silly I'll just take a little bit of a packet and eat that and I can spread it over ten days and then it'll be right You know why they do that It is an acknowledgement that it doesn't get absorbed by your body in that form It may have a hundred percent of your daily requirement, but your body's not going to pull all of that out. It goes through too fast It's not in the right form.

You don't have the your body's not built to get vitamins out of powder your body is built to get vitamins out of food and Vitamin pills are one of the most inefficient ways. I mean I take them. I'm just telling you it's inefficient it's it's man's way to do what God built into nature and it is inferior and it's it's it's Inferior, it's just inferior.

I My first six adjectives I can't even use It's it's really not good so Eat your vegetables have a salad try to get some food the way God intended it, but it's deception We're led to believe that a doctor can fix anything and we're shocked when they can't and they don't we're shocked Are

you kidding me in this day and age? Vestal Goodman died of a cold. Yes Vestal Goodman, you know the happy Goodman family and Singing with the Saints and all that She died of a cold she ended up getting pneumonia and dying and it wasn't a whole lot wrong with her and Doctors people check out all the time because we just think they've got well science is magic It's not and they break as many things as they fix so many have you ever read the list of side effects on any take any medicine and Look it up in the the big book and look at its side effects. I Am NOT gonna take a thing because my eyes are dry that's gonna make me bleed out of my ears We are seducible we are distractible we are easily fooled and we want to believe willing suspension of disbelief Take me to a far-off land where the dinosaurs are friendly Take me to a place where blue people fly through the trees and live The communist life and everything is great and then the mean old capitalist industrialists come in and spoil the communist utopia That's what that blue people move.

I don't remember the name of it. There's blue people in the trees that's here's what communism could be and here's what the mean old American capitalists do to it because they want they want to get the resources and make them available to people and well, you know, it's the Industrial military complex and mean old guy coming in and oh Boo-hoo. I just don't have any sympathy with that.

But we're distractible. We are Seducible we are led astray and it's always away from God. It's away from divine truth I will put my faith in medicine.

I will put my faith in nutrition. I will put my faith in science I'll put my faith in technology. I will put my faith in my GPS I don't have to learn where I'm going because my phone will tell me my faith is in my phone Instead of my faith in my head where I have taught myself how to get around on the earth without artificial assistance Trust me when I tell you There is coming a day when God's gonna tell the angel Muriel to go to the Sun and throw a rocket that thing and a solar flare is gonna hit and It's gonna fry every satellite on the Sun side of the earth GPS is going to go out the Internet is going to go down and you're going to have Mole like blinking people coming out and wandering in the Sun saying where am I and what do I do? I? Can't talk to my friends because Twitter is down I can't text anyone and I can't find where I am or where I need to go because Google Maps is offline We have been seduced listen seriously we have been seduced because this is where we unconsciously place our faith now You know, I'm one of the biggest denizens of the Internet there is I love the Internet.

I love technology I have more gadgets than any three people ought to have but we have to be careful to not be seduced I Control the technology the technology does not control me. I will decide when and where I read my email I'm not going to get an alert on my phone every time somebody emails me If I am in a conversation with you and you are in a conversation with me and my Text Bell goes off. I'm not going to look away from you and suspend the conversation with you to read my text that's technology controlling me get a grip people don't be the distractible seduced dove But it's unconscious the all of the other birds are flocking to it and God's net is going to fall over it Now I'm I'm exaggerating for the sake of making the point but

you you see the drift this is really important this is at the center of these similes if You allow yourself to get caught up in what the flock is doing and where the flock is going you're going to be under God's net of judgment Use what we have intelligently and know how to get by without it.

Keep it in its place. I Decide when and where and what and how I am NOT gonna let That stuff tell me those things. We are accountable.

We are responsible God is not going to interrogate my phone at the great white throne or at the judgment seat if I'm an unbeliever He's not going to say well show me what was on your your daily planner It's us we are accountable so don't be distractible this word is is so great this Pata P A T A H is the root that is translated silly But it means to be deceived to be enticed to be flattered and allured away to be fooled into going in a direction that you shouldn't go and Ephraim is this distractible dove wherever they go, I will spread my net I Will chastise them according to what the congregation has heard You want to be in the crowd? I'm just a face in the crowd. I can hide in the crowd No, you can't God's gonna chastise the entire group He's not he's not troubled by numbers Well, that was the the third simile they are like this distractible dove the fourth is in verse 16 and We can just quickly read the intervening verses woe to them They have fled from me destruction to them because they have transgressed against me And what we have to do is analyze what we do in the light of our responsibilities before God The modern world is fine. We're not a bunch of luddites we're not going to go off in the fields and you know plow with a wooden stick and you know Light a twig for illumination at night we these things are good in their place, but if it leads us into transgression if it leads us into disobedience if it leads us away from God if we take the time that belongs to God the Thought that belongs to God Can you imagine if we spent a tenth of the time? Reviewing and Reflecting on what we learn from the Word of God as we spend on the internet in a browser Reading Following up, you know pop-ups and side ads and oh that looks interesting if we spent a tenth of that time Where are our priorities don't be fooled? Destruction to them because they had transgressed against me even though I redeemed them I'm the one that bought them and remember Hosea has redeemed Gomer out of slavery They did not cry out to me with their heart when they wailed upon their beds when we have problems Where do we go first is it? In prayer to God or is it web MD is it Mayo Clinic comm is it you know? DIY Answers dot yahoo.com where do we go when we are? Challenged Yes, we can use those things as resources, but are we doing it in the light of Trying to live our lives to please God.

That's the point here. They did not cry out to me with their heart They assembled together for grain and new wine This is celebration. This is let's have a good time They rebel against me though I disciplined them and I could do some Translation Correction here, but this is close enough though I disciplined and strengthened their arms yet They devise evil against me they return, but not to the most high They don't return and this literally says they don't keep looking up They don't they don't look up They're looking around.

They're not looking up They are like here's your next like number four they are like a

treacherous bow Their princes shall fall by the sword. What is a treacherous bow exactly well first of all What is a bow? It's a weapon right? It's it's used in conflict, and it's not just any weapon. It's not a close-range weapon.

This is this is your ancient artillery This is how you stave off an attack at a distance. It doesn't get close. It doesn't come up to your walls there's no danger of a breach or a breaking through the gates or a building up of a of a ramp to Swarm into your fortifications the archers slay these guys at a distance halt them before they get close well This is like your your howitzers blowing up in your face this is like the bow breaking in your hand you saw what happened to my eye when something broke and Smacks you in the eye it hurts, and it's it's an injury well you can imagine if you were pulling one of these great bows back like this and the thing snaps and those two points come together like this and come back at you pulled by the Snappiness of that string you can get seriously injured by a a treacherous or deceitful bow this word in Hebrew is Remy are And it means False Something that fools you you were expecting one thing and you got something entirely different It is deceit, but the the root idea is it's It's slack It doesn't This isn't so much a bow that breaks as a bow that when you pull it back and let the arrow go the arrow goes Four feet and hits the hits the ground.

It's it's the Inherent in this and it's even translated a few times as idle or slack slackness and so The bow is supposed to propel the arrow way down, and it's it's more of a nerf bow So this and and this is what Ephraim is like And what their experience is going to be and this is a part of that scattering This is a part of that withdrawing of God's mercy Their princes will fall by the sword when the bow doesn't work and you can't keep trouble at a distance It's going to come near and it's going to slay not just you it's going to slay the leadership It's one thing to lose some troops. It's something else to lose the leadership lose the government This is a far more long-lasting and serious consequence For the cursings of their tongue this shall be their derision in the land of Egypt They're going to be gloated over by the Egyptians who themselves are going to be under God's net So that's number four the fifth one is in chapter 8 verse 8 Set the trumpet to your mouth He shall come like an eagle against the house of the Lord because they have transgressed my covenant and rebelled against my law Israel will cry to be my God. We know you but Israel has rejected the good the enemy will pursue him You can't just call out to God when your life and your practice don't reflect a heart that is Pursuing him a heart that is seeking They set up kings, but not by me.

They made princes, but I did not acknowledge them What would this mean to you and me? How could we set up a king and a prince and not be taking God into account? What is the king and a prince if they're setting up a king Remember way back Israel cried out to God give us a king What what is that about Why wouldn't they say? Well, I like being in charge and I don't need a king. They say give us a king Give us but we're gonna set up kings and princes over us. What are they doing? We are going to We're gonna have representatives who will act in our interest So do we do that today? Do we say well, I'm gonna have Technology act in my interest.

I'm gonna set up things that will act in my interest. I'm gonna rely on What's in my bank

account? I'm gonna rely on what's in my Security service. I'm gonna rely what's on what's in my Education or I'm gonna rely on what my employer can provide I'm going to I'm gonna set this up and this will be my guidance.

This will be my my go-to for advice and counsel and policy and procedure in these areas and God says they do this and they don't take me into account. You can do these things. It's great to have an investment plan It's great to have Security it's great to have invest Something deducted out of your check or to have policies and procedures in place for various things in our life But God says they've done this but not by me.

There wasn't anything wrong with having David as king in Israel He was God's anointed nothing wrong with the Lord Jesus being king of the Millennial Kingdom It's God's plan and purpose, but if you set up a king and it's not in God's will and you're not looking to God You're substituting the plan of man for the plan of God They set up kings but not by me they made princes, but I did not acknowledge them from their silver and gold They made idols for themselves that they might be cut off You use your substance you use what you have to Lead yourself astray basically false leadership false gods false leaders in the civil Civic realm false leaders in the spiritual realm and they do it with their money. They do it with their assets Your calf is rejected. Oh Samaria.

My anger is aroused against them. How long until they attain to? Innocence, this is how long until you can find forgiveness and cleansing and get back to the purity that God requires for relationship with himself From Israel is even this a workman made it and it is not God But the calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces. This is the remember the calves in the north and the south and That idol worship was set up by the first Jeroboam Dan and Bethel and and Samaria has these calves in the courtyard and so on Look at verse 7. They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind The stock has no bud it shall never produce meal if it should produce aliens will swallow it up.

Remember Jezreel Israel is swallowed up. Now. They are among the Gentiles like a vessel in which is no pleasure.

That's low. Ami They have gone up to Assyria like a wild donkey alone by itself Ephraim has hired lovers wild donkeys were notorious in the same way that that Rabbits are sort of a euphemism for multiplication because they they get together and procreate so so readily Well, the wild ass had that reputation in the ancient world people would see them on the hills all the time pursuing one another and you would never run out of these wild animals because they procreated so Visibly and so frequently and he says that's what you're like you're ready to go off and and do things that please you in the moment and Have no relationship to God and no lasting value Yet though they have hired among the nations now I will gather them and they shall sorrow because of the burden of the kings of the princes and You'll see there's a text note there it says they will sorrow a little that that idea of reduction of Dwindling and diminishment is what that Hebrew phrase is getting at so they are the they are like a Wild animal Driven by

its own desires out in the hills. It's not civilized.

It's not domesticated. There's no useful work derived from it. It's to no purpose that's number five. The slack bow the useless bow was number four. The wild ass is number five. I'm sorry is is Number six in in verse eight. We saw the the vessel in which is no pleasure.

This is the broken pot. Most of us have pottery that Ken has made and it's beautiful. Beautiful stuff and it just grieves me when we we break a piece and the only comfort I have is that I know he's gonna have his wheels set up and put his kilns back in action and I can I know the guy that made it he could make more, you know. He's got there's more where that came from, but they're so beautiful. But once you break them there now. They're they're just sherds and in the ancient world. They would even try to use the sherds for things, but it was a greatly reduced role. You have a beautiful vase now. You've got a little piece of it. You can write a note on it or you can scoop a little water or you can you know? you can scrape your boils with it, but it's much it's much reduced from what it was in its in its beauty and So Israel is like a vessel it says in which is no pleasure that this is a useless vessel a cracked and broken piece of pottery so that was Number five and it's just going to be tossed on the ground. This is what they typically find when they do Excavations then number six is the lonely the the wild ass number seven is in chapter 9 verse 16. And I don't have time to read the intervening verses. Starting verse 11 of chapter 9 as for Ephraim their glory shall fly away like a bird no birth no pregnancy No conception though.

They bring up their children. I will bereave them to the last man. Woe to them when I depart from them. You can see the concept of Jezreel what they try to put together is going to scatter and there's no mercy of God. There's no grace of God and blessing of God even when they do manage to have children. It isn't going to last. Woe to them when I depart just as I saw Ephraim like Tyre not my people. He's going to treat even who who is the king of Tyre? represent in Scripture. It's Lucifer. It's Satan. Do you really want God looking at you like he looks at Tyre? But that's what he tells Ephraim here.

I look at you the way I look at Tyre. I've got just as much interest. You're not my people anymore than the Tyre and the king of Tyre is my people just the opposite. Planted in a pleasant place. Ephraim will bring out his children to the murderer tragedy tragic loss. Give them a Lord. What will you give give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts all their wickedness is in Gilgal now. You would say this seems very cruel.

Why wouldn't God just let them have satisfaction in children? And why would he be mean to the kids? They're innocent and so on. Why would someone make this prayer? Miscarrying womb and dry breasts don't let the child be born and if it is have it starve young this seems just so hopelessly cruel. Atheists draw attention to passages like this and say God is a cruel God. Israel was a cruel nation. This is all a bunch of faulty roll. Why would you believe it? Why would you follow it? What's going on here? think about Just as an example. Imagine the man that set fire to the Jordanian pilot last week. How prosperous do you want his family to be? Do you want him to have joy in his children? Do you want him bringing up offspring that are just like him? That man

who lit that flame if he's got a wife and He wants to have children. What would your thought be for the prosperity of that family? And you think about the attitude these that terrorist really you talk about something backfiring The whole nation of Jordan is up in arms.

They're manning up. They're bombing anything that even smells like Isis over there and That single act has done more damage Than they could have imagined but they deserve it, right? That's what's going on here How could you possibly say let the womb miscarry and let the the breasts be dry? So the children starve, why would you ever say that because the people involved are so heinously evil They shouldn't propagate they need to be cut off. They need to end with their own generation right Do you really want to be in that category in God's eyes? But this is how low Ephraim has sunk.

It is a very sobering Declaration no birth. No pregnancy. No conception.

Give them Oh Lord Miscarrying womb dry breasts their wickedness is in Gilgal for there I hated them because of the evil of their deeds. I will drive them from my house What did the Lord Jesus do with a whip made of cords at the beginning of his ministry and again at the end? It's it's a beautiful bracket. It's a chiasm He warns them when he first begins ministering and when he finishes ministering I Will love them no more not my people no more mercy Scattered in reverse order their princes are rebellious Ephraim is stricken their root is dried up it's one thing to cut the stem and the stalk But remember there was a root shoot that would come from the stump of Jesse because the roots are still there But the roots for Israel are going to be down in Judah.

God is going to blast Stem stalk and root in the northern kingdom and they will be utterly taken out and they'll never come back There's this pale echo in Samaria and then that goes away, but they never have a king They're never considered the people of God. They they have their own form of worship They got their own mountain remember the woman at the well in that conversation Keep in mind now as we close This picture is here for our instruction These are the covenant people of God in an irrevocable relationship with God and yet God says even under the Covenant scattering Retraction of mercy and ultimately Denial of relationship You are no people of mine and These people have chosen this path. They've been distracted into it.

They have rebelled into it They have pursued it willingly and with malice of forethought despite Three different distinct phases of warning God has been sending prophets to these people for generations Right. We've been through the career of Elijah. We've been through the career of Elisha God has used the stick and he's used the carrot Elijah was the the prophet of doom and and drought and Destruction and fire coming down and burning up soldiers Elisha was the prophet of healing the waters and floating the axe head and bringing the the The water of Jericho to to usefulness and and doing all of these positive things Taking even the army of the enemy and and delivering them to the king and giving them a big meal and sending them home He's he's the positive guy They don't respond to either one, so this is the final warning this is written for us It's only usefulness all the people that this happened to all the people that

heard these prophecies have been dead and gone turned to dust for 2,500 years So what is the usefulness of this divine truth right now? It is for you and it is for me and we have to Evaluate ourselves nobody in northern Israel thought, you know I think I'll wake up in the morning and rub my hands together and twiddle the ends of my mustache and be evil I'm gonna be Snidely whiplash, I'm gonna go out and and find the worst things I can possibly do.

I'm going to you know Tie a gal to the tracks and wait for the train. I'm gonna I'm just gonna be heinously evil There is a way that seems right to a man Why is it deception because it fools us we think it's good. We think it's right There's a lot of this going on in the church today.

There's a whole agenda. There's a whole program. There's a whole mindset and The whole flock of birds thinks it's great and the net of God is going to fall Because it does not follow the truth and the truth is not Being busy looking over the fence trying to evangelize another guy the truth is looking at home and trying to find the narrow road and the straight gate trying to be purged with hyssop and Washed to be whiter than snow trying to find those hard Parts of the soil and plow them up trying to find those places that produce Thorns and briars even though the water comes many times upon it.

The water comes on the field in Hebrews chapter 6 and The field only produces thorns. What is the water? It's the water of the word This is a picture of believers who sit under the teaching of the Word of God and it doesn't produce the fruit It's supposed to produce this is what will happen. God pictures it for us.

He pleads with us Wake up Examine yourself. See if you're in the faith ask for insight Show me David praise my secret false my hidden problems So often I've looked around and thought Somebody else had messed something up. The problem is over here and embarrassingly Seconds or minutes later.

I discover the problem is me. I am the guy that did that I am the guy that is at fault. I am the guy that messed up.

It's me. I Messed it up and It is quite often me We need to have this attitude of looking to ourselves first and ensuring that we have availed ourselves of God's grace that we are asking and seeking letting God's Holy Spirit teach us and Illuminate us and enable and empower us for every good work That's the call in Hosea Let me just give you as a last shot here the final two similes number eight is chapter 10 verse 1 Israel empties his vine. He brings forth fruit for himself according to the multitude of his fruit He has increased the altars.

He's serving himself The fruit remember the first fruits the the offering of the first fruits is supposed to go to God He's given it to himself. He's keeping it all for himself so he's An empty vine and the reason it's empty is he ate all the fruit himself He was on the way to the sacrifice and he ate the lamb On the way to the sacrifice and he butchered the ox and had steaks for dinner What belongs to God has been consumed by Ephraim and then finally number nine? The backsliding Heifer We saw this in chapter 4 verse 16 Israel is stubborn like a stubborn calf The

Lord will let them forage like a lamb in open country this is no mercy Not my people The lamb in the open country. How long will it be till the wolf comes? Till the cougar comes Wildcat not long well we're going to Put a I heard this in a corporate meeting we're gonna put a comma here I'd say it's more like a colon.

It's like a full stop and We'll resume our study and finish our survey of Hosea in the context of Jeroboam the second strain next time Father, thank you for the truth of your word. Thank you for how powerfully you illustrate these things for us you turn it in the light you reveal your will and your purpose and Our opportunities as well as the hazards for us in so many creative and persuasive ways We pray that God the Holy Spirit will have make these things live in our souls Motivate us correct us instruct us in righteousness so that we can use the time that remains to us in this life to prepare for the ages that are to come to reflect your glory to Reflect the Lord Jesus Christ to those around us In this increasingly dark and perverse generation. We pray it in Jesus name.

Amen