

A Study of Hosea 6:11b-7:16

What is R.E.A.P.?

R.E.A.P. is a method of studying the Bible together to prepare for a group discussion. We highly encourage everyone to keep an ongoing journal and bring it to Monday nights, Wednesday nights, Sunday mornings, and any Bible study to engage well in our discussions together.

R.E.A.P.

1. Through **Reading**, people can circle and journal what they found noteworthy in each day's reading.
2. Through **Examining**, people can answer three major questions to prepare for discussion (What does this text teach us about God? What does this text teach us about humanity? What does this text teach us about Jesus?).
3. Through **Asking**, people can journal one or more significant questions they have about the text (Questions about events, people, places, situations, etc.) The goal is not to find answers to these questions themselves. Rather, the goal of asking significant questions is to think critically about the text and to bring thoughtful questions to pastors and teachers.
4. Through **Prayer**, people can take a moment to pray to God concerning things they read, examined, and asked.

Why do we REAP?

We believe that this method is helpful in reading God's Word at every level. From beginners to advanced readers, we know that the Bible is infallible (error-free) and God's revelation of Himself. We REAP to learn more about God, who He is and what He's done; and to know Him personally as Savior.

How do I use REAP?

1. Goal: Our purpose is not to collect information, trivia, or self-help tips, but to know and love God.
2. REAP the passage before Sunday's worship service, before the Wednesday night Bible Study, or before your Sunday School class. Don't allow the sermon or the Bible study to be the first time you face the text. Marinate in the text before we gather.
3. What do I do with my questions in the Ask section?
 - a. The big/main questions of interpretation should be answered by the sermon and preceding Bible study. If there are significant questions about how to understand the text after the sermon, we would encourage you to email me or Pastor Matt.
 - b. Join a growth group so that you can discuss the questions and how we should live out the applications of the text.

Hosea 6:11b-7:16

<p>¹¹ ... When I restore the fortunes of my people,</p> <p>⁷ when I would heal Israel, the iniquity of Ephraim is revealed, and the evil deeds of Samaria, for they deal falsely; the thief breaks in, and the bandits raid outside.</p> <p>² But they do not consider that I remember all their evil. Now their deeds surround them; they are before my face.</p> <p>³ By their evil they make the king glad, and the princes by their treachery.</p> <p>⁴ They are all adulterers; they are like a heated oven whose baker ceases to stir the fire, from the kneading of the dough until it is leavened.</p> <p>⁵ On the day of our king, the princes became sick with the heat of wine; he stretched out his hand with mockers.</p> <p>⁶ For with hearts like an oven they approach their intrigue; all night their anger smolders; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire.</p> <p>⁷ All of them are hot as an oven, and they devour their rulers. All their kings have fallen, and none of them calls upon me.</p> <p>⁸ Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples; Ephraim is a cake not turned.</p> <p>⁹ Strangers devour his strength, and he knows it not; gray hairs are sprinkled upon him, and he knows it not.</p>	<p>¹⁰ The pride of Israel testifies to his face;^[a] yet they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him, for all this.</p> <p>¹¹ Ephraim is like a dove, silly and without sense, calling to Egypt, going to Assyria.</p> <p>¹² As they go, I will spread over them my net; I will bring them down like birds of the heavens; I will discipline them according to the report made to their congregation.</p> <p>¹³ Woe to them, for they have strayed from me! Destruction to them, for they have rebelled against me! I would redeem them, but they speak lies against me.</p> <p>¹⁴ They do not cry to me from the heart, but they wail upon their beds; for grain and wine they gash themselves; they rebel against me.</p> <p>¹⁵ Although I trained and strengthened their arms, yet they devise evil against me.</p> <p>¹⁶ They return, but not upward;^[b] they are like a treacherous bow; their princes shall fall by the sword because of the insolence of their tongue. This shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.¹</p>
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¹ The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Hosea 6:11b-7:16. All passages of Scripture will come from this translation unless otherwise referenced.

REAP the text:

1. Read aloud together
2. Explain by answering the three questions: What does this passage teach us about _____?
 - a. **God:**

 - b. **Man:**

 - c. **Christ:**
3. Ask- What question/s would help you understand the text more fully?
4. Pray- Using some of your observations and questions, write out a prayer to God.

Background of the text:

1. Where do the chapter and verse divisions come from?
 - a. Early Christians and Jews did not have chapter and verse divisions until the _____ century.

 - b. OT Verse Divisions- Around A.D. _____, the Ben Asher family

- c. OT and NT Chapter Divisions- In the early _____th century, Archbishop of Canterbury Stephen Langton²
- d. NT Verse Divisions- In _____, verse divisions were added to the NT by a printer from Paris, Robert S. Estienne.³
2. Why is it helpful to know the history of our current verse and chapter divisions?
- a. “knowing the history of our current verse divisions should _____ us from engaging in creative biblical mathematics, claiming divine meaning behind current verse numbers.”⁴
- b. https://wailaebaptist.org/discipleship_phase_2/
3. The Ephraim Oracle: Hosea 6:11-8:14
4. A small handful of scholars view the opening of this section as God’s lament over His people’s sin. In what ways does this view fall short?
- a. Structurally:
- For you also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed.
When I restore the fortunes of my people,
when I would heal Israel,
 the iniquity of Ephraim is revealed,
 and the evil deeds of Samaria,
- b. Theologically:

² Bruce M. Metzger, *Manuscripts of the Greek Bible: An Introduction to Paleography* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1981), 41.

³ Robert L. Plummer, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 28.

⁴ Plummer, 29.

- c. What is a better alternative to this view?
5. Hosea uses several vivid metaphors in order to depict the devastation of their sin.
- a. A Baker and Heated Oven (7:4-7)

 - b. A Cake Not Turned (7:8-9a)

 - c. A Gray-haired Man (7:9b-10)

 - d. A Silly Dove/Net (7:11-12)

6. Verses 13-16 can be understood as one whole, broken up into two parts. The table below is an adaptation of D.A. Garrett's graph in his commentary on Hosea.⁵

First Strophe		Paganism and Apostasy
1A	General statement of unfaithfulness and judgment.	Woe to them, for they have strayed from me! Destruction to them, for they have rebelled against me! (13a)
1B	They reject God's grace.	I would redeem them, but they speak lies against me. (13b)
1C	They refuse to repent.	They do not cry to me from the heart (14a)
1D	They practice pagan rituals.	but they wail upon their beds; (14b)
1D'	They practice pagan rituals.	for grain and wine they gash themselves; (14c)
1C'	They refuse to repent.	they rebel against me. (14d)
Second Strophe		Political Failure
2B	They reject God's grace.	Although I trained and strengthened their arms, yet they devise evil against me. (15)
2C	They practice profane worship.	They return, but not upward (16a)
2D	Their leaders fail.	they are like a treacherous bow; (16b)
2D'	Their leaders fail.	their princes shall fall by the sword (16c)
2C'	They use profane speech.	because of the insolence of their tongue. (16d)
2A	Specific statement of humiliation in Egypt.	This shall be their derision in the land of Egypt. (16e)

⁵ Duane A. Garrett, Hosea, Joel, vol. 19A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1997), 174–175. This table is an adaptation of the graph found in this commentary.