Mat 138

The Believer who withers

Mat 13:3 And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, “Behold, the sower went out to sow;

[Mat 13:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/13/4/s_942004) and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.

/[Mat 13:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/13/5/s_942005) “Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and **immediately they sprang up**, because they had **no depth of soil**.\

[Mat 13:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/13/6/s_942006) “But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

[Mat 13:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/13/7/s_942007) “Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out.

[Mat 13:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/13/8/s_942008) “And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. 9 He who has ears, let him hear.”

This is now telling us that the Bel who has little or no strength in their soul will easily be led astray.

The Bel who has not gained any momentum and gathered any doctrinal discernment is what is in view. TLJC explains it to His Apostles later on in verse 20;

/Mat 13:20 “The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is **the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy**; 21 yet he has **no *firm* root in himself**, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately **he falls away**.\

Turn to Hosea chapter 7 with me.

This is the Bel who is excited and emotional at first but quickly fades from that status and falls away…this is because emotions cause problems for people when they are in a position of authority in a person’ soul structure.

REPEAT emotions can not think.

Hosea is one of those Hebrew terms for salvation like Joshua’s name.

Both in the northern and southern tribes of Israel there were periods of weak leadership….kings who sought aid from other nations and in doing so they ended up making bargains and giving up freedoms that put the Jews in jeopardy in more ways than one and they often accepted idol worship and demonic practices in these exchanges with other nations.

This is a reason God promoted nationalism so that the nation would not lose its identity or forget who their God was.

The book of Hosea is a tale of the unfaithful bride and it is related to the Northern Kingdom of Israel where Hosea was called to prophesize over. As some of you may know…Hosea and Amos had close proximity to one another during their ministries. Right around the same time frame.

Keep in mind…The name Ephraim is representing the northern tribe of Israel in this section of Hosea. It was the largest Jewish tribe at this historic point.

They have gone astray in several areas like an unfaithful wife…. in fact Gomer was the unfaithful wife of Hosea and she was like a living example for Hosea to see up close and personal.

God had offered healing and solutions but the people seem to sway back and forth…unstable and unchanging even though they often gave God lip service.

That sets the stage here… so let’s read the scriptures;

In fact verse 2 makes a powerful statement to start with.

/Hos 7:2 And they do not consider in **their hearts** (*lebab*) that I remember all their wickedness. Now their deeds are all around them; They are before My face.\

LAY-VAV mind….inner being

This speaks to the Bel who knows deep in their heart that they are not committed to God in fact they realize they give more time and effort toward the cosmic system then they do toward God.

Yet they will still walk and talk the motions of a Christian as if God can’t see right thru the lies.

Hos 7:3 With their wickedness they make the king glad, And the princes with their lies.

They were like dancing puppets and fools for the leadership outside Israel bowing down to other authorities and gods as the people cheer one another on.

It is what you call operation blend in…where a Christian fits right into the muck and lies of the cosmic system around them and act as if they are part of the devil’s world instead of children of God.

/[Hos 7:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/hos/7/4/s_869004) **They are all adulterers**,
Like an **oven heated** by the baker
Who ceases to stir up *the fire*
From the kneading of the dough until it is leavened.

This lifestyle is catching on and it is becoming intense.\

This is pointing out a celebration of some sorts…possibly a king or royal birthday and the lust and rabid behaviors are running wild.

This is someone living in lust patterns.

[Hos 7:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/hos/7/5/s_869005) On the day of our king, the princes became sick with the heat of wine; He stretched out his hand with scoffers,

[Hos 7:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/hos/7/6/s_869006) For their hearts are like an oven *As* they approach their plotting;
Their anger smolders all night,
In the morning it burns like a flaming fire.

This is the party life style being called out here…. a celebration that Israel partakes in that is induced by foreigners who now hold some power or influence over their kingdom.

This is a continued or habitual lifestyle now surrounding the Northern Kingdom of Israel

Their rituals…their sexual perversions and worship was now overriding the Jewish population.

This can only happen when your relationship with God was never strong to begin with. This is the result of the double minded Bel. This is the result of that surface described in Mat 13:5 the rocky places without much soil.

/[Hos 7:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/hos/7/7/s_869007) All of them are hot like an oven, And **they consume their rulers**;
All their kings have fallen.
**None of them calls on Me**.

Emotions have taken control, respect for authority is gone!\

All of this prophetic speech about heat and a hot oven or fire is touching on lust patterns out of control…emotions taking over.

The chain of command has broken down, leadership has failed and is on the brink of being overthrown.

/[Hos 7:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/hos/7/8/s_869008) Ephraim (Bel) **mixes himself with the nations**; Ephraim (Bel) has become a cake not turned.

They had fit comfortably into new forms of idol worship and lust patters brought in by foreigners. The cake burnt on one side is disgusting and should be thrown out.\

It is not cooked properly…the right thing done in the right way!

[Hos 7:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/hos/7/9/s_869009) Strangers devour his strength,
Yet he does not know *it;* Gray hairs also are sprinkled on him, Yet he does not know *it.*

They grow weaker over time…and it is a warning about how quickly time passes us by and before we know it years have gone by and they have been wasted living for self or occupied by cosmic distraction.

[Hos 7:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/hos/7/10/s_869010) Though the pride of Israel testifies against him, Yet they have not returned to the LORD their God, Nor have they sought Him, for all this.

/[Hos 7:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/hos/7/11/s_869011) So Ephraim has become **like a silly dove**, without sense; They call to Egypt, they go to Assyria.

This is a symbol of a confused & weak nation. They fly right into their enemies hands.\

[Hos 7:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/hos/7/12/s_869012) When they go, I will spread My net over them; I will bring them down like the birds of the sky. I will chastise them in accordance with the proclamation to their assembly.

[Hos 7:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/hos/7/13/s_869013) Woe to them, for they have strayed from Me! Destruction is theirs, for they have rebelled against Me!
I would redeem them, but they speak lies against Me.

God is not mocked in these areas Royal Family…your priorities in life are on display each and every day.

God knows when we are doing are best to apply His word just like He knows when we are wrapped up in cosmic garbage and just giving Him lip service.

Look what Hosea goes on to say by chapter 10;

/Hos 10:2 **Their heart is divided**; now shall they be found faulty: HHHe shall break down **their altars**, He shall **spoil their images**.

There are times in extreme cases that God will come in to knock down the worldly distractions and make us look at what is really going on with our lives!\

Maybe a loss of financial status like a job…maybe a relationship gets shattered or maybe it’s just an emotional wake up call that becomes obvious to us.

The problem we see here in Hosea is the same problem that TLJC taught in the parable of the sower Matt 13;

James 1:6 tells us we must have a strong faith because those who live in doubt are unstable….

/Jam 1:8 *being* a **double**-**minded** man, **unstable** in all his ways.

The Bel with no sound doctrinal principles in their soul will fold under cosmic pressure or be easily led astray from truth.\

The only way to get a Bel out of that mind set of double minded and unstable is a steady diet of BD.

That Bel has to pivot toward a relationship with God…in prayer and Bible study and application of God’s word in their day to day life.

/Jam 4:8 **Draw near to God** and He will draw near to you. **Cleanse your hands** (*wash yourself clean*), you sinners; and **purify your hearts** (*indoctrinate yourself with Bible Doctrine*), you double-minded.\

This is a process not a quick fix.

The first thing any Bel who is floundering around outside the plan of God needs to do is accept they need to make a change.

 Accept that only truth will set you free…accept the word of God as complete and accurate truth.

This has been an ongoing issue for thousands of years. Bels who stay on the fence…one foot in the world and one foot in the plan of God.

/1Kin 18:21 Elijah came near to all the people and said, **“How long *will* you hesitate between two opinions**? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But **the people did not answer** him a word.\

 ELABORATE

Turn to 2Peter chapter 3 as we close.

In the same series in 2Kings it gives a good definition of what the problem was for these Bels.

/2Kin 17:41 So **while these nations feared the LORD, they also served their idols;** their children likewise and their grandchildren, as their fathers did, so they do to this day.\

Nothing changes if nothing changes folks!

In 2Peter chapter 3….

At this point the Apostle Peter has grown to completely trust and respect the Apostle Paul.

And now mystery doctrine in all its facets is fully embraced and is the doctrine they all began to focus on.

2Pet 3:14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

[2Pe 3:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/2pe/3/15/s_1159015) and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

/[2Pe 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/2pe/3/16/s_1159016) as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are **some things hard to understand**, which **the untaught** and **unstable** distort, **as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures**, to their own destruction.\

Bible Doctrine has the basic principles and the gospel of Christ as the entrance level of understanding Christianity.

Anyone who is open for salvation and the basic principles of faith alone in Christ alone along with a handful of Biblical teachings can understand them with a 6th grade IQ. REPEAT

Salvation does not take a high doctrinal IQ nor does it take a pastor to preach it to the Unbel….its basic and simple.

The deeper doctrines and greater maturity only comes from sitting under prepared men called pastor-teachers.

The seeds that spring up quickly in Matthew chapter 13 are BELs….but they withered under the sun in verse 6.

They had no depth of roots and the ground which represents their soul structure was not fertile.

/When a Bel refuses to grow after salvation the intensity of distractions out in the cosmic system will cause them to whiter and fade usually within the first few years into their spiritual walk.\

Remember something folks…whether it’s a new relationship…new car…new job the honeymoon period is usually over after about the first year or two.

/Satan has a basic plan for Unbels- keep them blind to the gospel of Christ, blind and too busy or distracted to care.

For the Bel- wear them down with distractions, lies and false teaching that will eventually drag them away from Bible Doctrine.\

Satan has set this plan into motion since the beginning…he uses people, relationships, greed, lust and power….religion as well as challenges and difficulties all in his favor to distract and draw the Bel & Unbel away from truth. REPEAT

/[Mat 13:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/13/6/s_942006) “But when **the sun had risen** *(cosmic distractions & daily ambitions),* they **were scorched** *(burnt out & weakened)*; and because **they had no root** *(under nourished soul lacking BD),* they **withered away** *(peeled off into cosmic viewpoint & satanic agendas)*.\

My personal opinion that I have seen and been trained to see by my mentor Pastor Robert Mc Laughlin is that…the more we want to grow inside the plan of God the more the KOD will throw distractions at us. Don’t get me wrong its not every day this barrage of satanic problems pops up…but there are different points and periods of time when the KOD will swoop in and attack….using relationships…problems…lies…religion, illness or anything within their sphere of spiritual weapons to distract and wear us down Royal family.

I’ll leave you with this scripture from the prophet Daniel which highlights the coming end times but encompasses the plan of Satan for all Bels;

/Dan 7:25 ‘He (Satan) will speak out against the Most High and **wear down the saints of the Highest One**, and he **will intend to make alterations in times and in law;** and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time (Tribulation period).\

KOD wants you worn-out Royal Family and yes Satan is busy manipulating human agendas and laws and viewpoints or ideologies to fit his plan.