

# Hosea 7:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They are all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, who ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened.

## Analysis

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Smoldering conspiracy: 'They are all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, who ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened.' The metaphor depicts conspiracy: adultery (spiritual and literal) compared to oven (תַּנּוּר, tannur) heated by baker who stops stoking fire (שִׁבֵּת מֵעִיר, shovet me'ir) after kneading dough, letting it rise. The imagery suggests smoldering coals—temporarily dormant but retaining heat. Similarly, conspirators appear calm while plotting, their hatred/lust simmering until opportune moment. This demonstrates how sin operates: sometimes obviously flaming, sometimes secretly smoldering, but always corrupting. Only Christ quenches consuming fire of sin through His atoning work (Hebrews 12:29 describes God as consuming fire; Christ endures that fire for us).

## Historical Context

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Ancient baking involved clay ovens heated with wood/dung. Baker would heat oven, knead dough, then let fire smolder while dough rose before baking. The imagery perfectly depicts the conspiracy-filled political climate of 8th century northern Israel. Zechariah son of Jeroboam II assassinated by Shallum (752 BC), who ruled one month before Menahem assassinated him. Pekahiah assassinated by Pekah (740 BC). Pekah assassinated by Hoshea (732 BC). Each conspiracy simmered before striking. Adulterers similarly: maintaining appearance of propriety while plotting infidelity. This demonstrates how corruption festers

beneath surfaces, eventually erupting destructively. Church history shows similar patterns: heresies developing quietly before publicly emerging.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does sin 'smolder' quietly in hearts before erupting publicly, and how do we address hidden sin before it flames up?
2. What does this imagery teach about the danger of tolerating 'small' sins or 'contained' corruption?

## Interlinear Text

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כָּלֵם	מִן אֶפְיִם	כִּמּוֹ	תֵּנּוֹר	בֵּיעָה	מֵאֶפֶה
H3605	<b>They are all adulterers</b>	H3644	<b>as an oven</b>	<b>heated</b>	<b>by the baker</b>
	H5003		H8574	H1197	H644

יִשָּׁב וְ	מֵעַ יֵרָאֵם	מִל וְשָׂם	בָּצָק	עַד
<b>who ceaseth</b>	<b>from raising</b>	<b>after he hath kneaded</b>	<b>the dough</b>	H5704
H7673	H5782	H3888	H1217	

חֲמֻצָּתוֹ:

**until it be leavened**

H2556

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 9:2** (Parallel theme): Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.

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