

Hear the word of the LORD, You children of Israel, For the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: "There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land." Ho. 4:1 (NKJV)

1. Whenever the phrase "*hear the word of the LORD*" appears, the message that follows is _____ _____. (4:1; Lu. 8:5-8)
2. To forget or reject hearing God _____ people, who _____ away when void of God's truth, mercy, and knowledge. (4:1-6; Mt.13:15)
3. As an unfaithful marriage contrasts God's faithful love, metaphors of calves, lambs, and farming make God's grievances _____ _____. (4:3,16; 6:3-4; 10:4,12-13; Ro. 1:20)
4. Despite indisputable charges, an invitation to _____ and _____ God is heard; and a _____ of Jesus "*raising us up*" appears. (6:1-3; Jn. 2:19)
5. God seeks the humble, internal obedience of my _____ versus an exact, external performance of my _____. (6:6; Mt. 12:7)
6. A divided heart produces _____ _____. (10:1-4; Mt. 6:24)
7. Breaking up fallow ground requires full dependence on the _____ and _____ of God, having my eyes fixed forward, and my plow set deep. (10:12-13; Mt. 9:62)

Chew on This--Dinner Table Conversation

- Throughout the Old and New Testament, the LORD often spoke through metaphors and parables. Why?
- What do metaphors and parables reveal about God?
- What do metaphors and parables reveal about humankind?