

The Lord's Focus Turns to Israel Hosea 4

II. Prophetic—The Lord and the Faithless Nation Israel, (Hosea 4–14)

A. Israel Plays the Harlot, (Hosea 4–5)

1. Israel rejects their knowledge of God (Hosea 4:1-11)

1 **Hear** the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a **controversy(dispute)** with the inhabitants of the land, because there is **no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God** in the land.

a. The Mistake

2 By **swearing**, and **lying**, and **killing**, and **stealing**, and **committing adultery**, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

b. The Mourning

3 Therefore **shall the land mourn**, and every one that dwelleth therein shall **languish(to be exhausted, weak)**, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also **shall be taken away**.

c. The Massacre

1) Of Religion

4 Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people are **as they that strive with the priest**.

5 Therefore **shalt thou fall in the day**, and **the prophet also shall fall** with thee in the night, and **I will destroy thy mother**.

2) Of Knowledge

6 My people are destroyed for **lack of knowledge**: because **thou hast rejected knowledge**, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast **forgotten the law of thy God**, I will also forget thy children.

7 As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame.

3) Of Heart

8 They eat up the **sin of my people**, and they set their heart on their **iniquity**.

9 And there shall be, like people, like priest: and **I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings**.

10 For they shall eat, and **not have enough**: they shall **commit whoredom**, and shall not increase: because they have **left off** to take heed to the LORD.

11 **Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart(the center of Life)**.

2. Israel's **Idolatry** (Hosea 4:12-19)

a. Israel's **willing** Choice (Hosea 4:12-13a)

12 My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to **err**, and they have gone **a whoring** from under their God.

13 They **sacrifice** upon the tops of the mountains, and **burn incense** upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof is good:

b. The **Fallout** of those choices (Hosea 4:13b-16)

therefore **your daughters** shall commit whoredom, and **your spouses** shall commit adultery.

14 I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: **for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots:** therefore the people that doth not understand shall fall.

15 Though thou, Israel, play the harlot, **yet let not Judah offend**; and come not ye unto Gilgal, neither go ye up to Bethaven, nor swear, The LORD liveth.

16 For **Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer**: now the LORD will feed them as a lamb in a large place.

c. Total rejection yielded total rejection from **God** (Hosea 4:17-19)

17 **Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.**

Genesis 6:3

3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

18 Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers with shame do love, Give ye.

19 The wind hath bound her up in her wings, and **they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.**

Next Week:

3. God judges Israel (Hosea 5:1-14)