



Hosea

faithful to the unfaithful



Hosea 4

Our Three Questions

1. What does the text say?

- Authorial intent to the intended audience.

2. What does the text mean?

- The timeless theological truth.

3. How does this apply today?

- What we ought to do with/because of this truth.

Hosea 4

1 Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land.

There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land;

2 there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.

Hosea 4

3 Therefore the land mourns,
and all who dwell in it languish,
and also the beasts of the field
and the birds of the heavens,
and even the fish of the sea are taken away.

4 Yet let no one contend,
and let none accuse,
for with you is my contention, O priest.

Hosea 4

**5 You shall stumble by day;
the prophet also shall stumble with you by
night; and I will destroy your mother.**

**6 My people are destroyed for lack of
knowledge;
because you have rejected knowledge,
I reject you from being a priest to me.
And since you have forgotten the law of
your God, I also will forget your children.**

Hosea 4

7 The more they increased,
the more they sinned against me;
I will change their glory into shame.

8 They feed on the sin of my people;
they are greedy for their iniquity.

9 And it shall be like people, like priest;
I will punish them for their ways
and repay them for their deeds.

Hosea 4

10 They shall eat, but not be satisfied; they shall play the whore, but not multiply, because they have forsaken the LORD to cherish **11** whoredom, wine, and new wine, which take away the understanding.

12 My people inquire of a piece of wood, and their walking staff gives them oracles. For a spirit of whoredom has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the whore.

Hosea 4

13 They sacrifice on the tops of the mountains and burn offerings on the hills, under oak, poplar, and terebinth, because their shade is good. Therefore your daughters play the whore, and your brides commit adultery.

Hosea 4

14 I will not punish your daughters when they play the whore, nor your brides when they commit adultery; for the men themselves go aside with prostitutes and sacrifice with cult prostitutes, and a people without understanding shall come to ruin.

Hosea 4

15 Though you play the whore, O Israel,
let not Judah become guilty.

**Enter not into Gilgal,
nor go up to Beth-aven,
and swear not, "As the LORD lives."**

16 Like a stubborn heifer, Israel is stubborn;
can the LORD now feed them
like a lamb in a broad pasture?

Hosea 4

**17 Ephraim is joined to idols;
leave him alone.**

**18 When their drink is gone, they give
themselves to whoring;
their rulers dearly love shame.**

**19 A wind has wrapped them[d] in its
wings, and they shall be ashamed because
of their sacrifices.**

1 Peter 2:4-10

4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-10

6 For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put
to shame.”

7 So the honor is for you who believe, but
for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

1 Peter 2:4-10

8 and

“A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:4-10

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Hosea 2:23b

**“... And I will have mercy on No Mercy,
and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my
people’;
and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’”**

Questions

- Did anything jump out to you from the text of Hosea 4?
- What are some possible examples of syncretism that you are aware of, either obvious or not so obvious?
- How do you think we can rid ourselves of those syncretic aspects of our religion that don't align with true Christianity?
- If you can think of any, please give examples of when external phenomena related to a church or Christian leaders turned out to be misleading .
- Read 1 Peter 2:4-10 and then compare it with Hosea 4. What similarities and differences do you see?
- What was the role of a priest in the Bible?
- What does it mean for us now to be a “holy...[and] royal priesthood”?