

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; Consequences

We will continue in chapter 4 of Hosea and will be starting in verse 5.

Last week, we read about the failures of the nation of Israel concerning the Mosaic covenant:

Then the symptoms were described for us:

This week, we'll look at the consequences outlined for the nation of Israel and where the failures that began 2,600 (2623) years ago will ultimately lead them.

Hosea 4:5 Therefore you shall stumble in the day; The prophet also shall stumble with you in the night; And I will destroy your mother.

I. Therefore you shall stumble in the day:

1. It's human tendency for our emotions to run away with us, to take us to some dark places. When we came to know Christ, we had to recognize and work on the motives behind our actions which often would reflect our self-interest, the manipulation of others and at times even wanting to harm others.
 - a) It was easy to rationalize wrongdoing by focusing on what "someone did" especially when it was done to you personally. Then defending our actions aimed to annoy, upset, or wound others felt justified because of our anger.

Proverb 3:5 & 6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. **6** In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

✠ **Luke 3:5** describes what a straight path looks like:

Luke 3:5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways,

- This is the best-case scenario for a walking path; A straight path is the shortest distance between 2 points and when on level ground you encounter the least amount of resistance.
 - As a Christian your desire becomes what Christ wants from you, when we lean on the knowledge of God the shortest path from offence to repentance comes from listening to wise counsel, praying about our role in the matter and making amends as soon and as much as we are able to.
 - **Psalms 119:105** makes it clear the word of God is a lamp to our feet And a light to our path, it's what keeps us from stumbling into one bad situation to another.
- b) The picture Hosea is painting for us is so bleak because even the prophets aren't hearing from God and are being dragged down to the same level as the rest of the people. **Verse 5** tells us the prophet also shall stumble with you in the night:
- The wise rulers listened to the prophets because the job of the prophet was basically a checks and balance system between God and the rulers, like Nathan and David, Samuel and Saul. The prophets were the full counsel of God in real time to the kings.
 - Problems happened when a ruler didn't consult the prophets or when the prophets led God's people astray for self-gain or from fear of a wicked ruler fearing them more than fearing God.

Micah 3:6 Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you, without prophecy. The sun shall go down on the prophets, and the day shall be black over them;

- Micah was warning the prophets would be removed, the direct counsel of God would be missing to the rulers. It is described as a dark time for Israel. Amos gave the same message:

Amos 8:11 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD.

Proverbs 1:28-29

- a) Nobody likes it when they don't see or hear from someone for long periods of time, but when you do it's because they need or want something. That's not a relationship.
- when God's counsel is rejected long enough people drift into a famine of His Word. So, as Proverbs warns—because they hated knowledge and refused the fear of the Lord—they didn't find what they called for.
- Eventually the sun went down on Israel's prophets and Israel had 400 years of silence until John the Baptist.

Hosea 4:5 Therefore you shall stumble in the day; The prophet also shall stumble with you in the night; **And I will destroy your mother.**

II. Telling them they would stumble in the day by itself probably wouldn't trigger change but the last part of this verse should have been a wake-up call to open their eyes to the path they were on... And I will destroy you mother:

1. This is a direct reference to destroying Israel as a nation.

- a) The point is: once Israel was removed from the promised land and scattered among the nations, they should have disappeared—like the other 19 “**ights**” from the land of Canaan, Hivites, Moabites, Amorites etc. all remembered in history but not preserved as distinct peoples, no surviving culture or country today.
- "In fact, in all of world history, no other people have been removed from the homeland that their identity is clearly tied to and later restored to the same land as a sovereign nation."

III. Verse 6 continues to describe the consequences while giving us the reason why:

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

1. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge?

- a) But that's not the type of knowledge Hosea is talking about, he's talking about biblical knowledge:
 - Biblical knowledge is more than a collection of facts. It includes understanding, wisdom and spiritual discernment.
 - It grows out of reverence for God as we pursue God's truth.
 - It involves a personal relationship with God—knowing Him means living by God's truths.
 - At its core, biblical knowledge is about practicing and growing in your faith, not just having information.
- b) As I found out, a lack of book knowledge can be a hindrance. But the knowledge Hosea is referring to is dealing with man's rejection of God

Job 21:14 They say to God, 'Depart from us! We do not desire the knowledge of your ways.

Job 21:15 What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? And what profit do we get if we pray to him?"

- This is the heart attitude being addressed, the attitude of Israel after many successful military campaigns, we don't need God, what's in it for me, Hosea is warning his fellow countrymen that God keeps His covenant promises.
- c) God has done everything to make Himself known, He has directly shown His awesome power 10x before they ever left Egypt. What may not be obvious in verse 6 is just like the verses in Job this is their CHOICE, “they have rejected knowledge” that is a conscious decision. To accept or reject a choice means you weighed it out.
- 2. Today we live in a country that is rejecting God more and more daily. As I studied this week, I was thinking how has God made Himself known to our country.
 - We have access to the full counsel of God, the OT and the NT to explain it.

- The founding fathers acknowledged the truthfulness of the Bible and the authority of the Creator over His creation.
 - They applied these concepts to the legislative process, the judicial system, and standards for life by developing a system of government "designed for a Christian people that is wholly inadequate for any other."
- ⇒ In a country that values free speech we are told not to discuss politics or religion at work because they are divisive and cause a hostile workplace.
- ⇒ Can we really read God's word, go to church, and live to please God then simply turn our beliefs off at work. Do you ever feel like society is trying to train Christianity out of you.
- ✖ We have advanced so far in our knowledge.
 - ✖ I was talking to someone last Saturday about the many processes the human body has to complete to clot blood and stop us from bleeding to death over a simple cut.
 - I wanted to impress y'all with some medical facts but after reading about the 12th system that is triggered by the first system for our blood to clot at the right time, in the right place I stopped wasting time.
 - Yet there are many doctors that are NOT believers, how.
 - ✖ On February 15, 2013, scientists were able to study the awesome effects of a 60 ft diameter meteorite that exploded over Chelyabinsk Russia.
 - Traveling at Mach 60, the sound barrier was broken 90 seconds after the light streaked across the sky.
 - The object broke apart 18.6 miles above a Siberian forest.
 - The explosion created a hot cloud of dust and gas that spread as far as 16 miles.
 - 1,491 people were injured badly enough to need medical attention from indirect effects, not the meteorite itself.
 - The shock wave damaged 7,200 buildings in six cities across the region.
 - The blast was estimated to release 30 times more energy than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.
 - ✖ Did this event help illustrate how the four cities of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim were realistically destroyed by fire and brimstone in **Deuteronomy 29:23**.
 - ✖ 2 years after the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens when water and debris trapped behind a log jam in Spirit Lake broke loose observations provide valuable, observable evidence for catastrophic geology: showing high-velocity water and sediment flows can erode deep, steep-walled canyons and create layered strata far faster than previously assumed.
 - ✖ Was God giving us repeatable scientific proof of the Genesis flood account or the origin of the Grand Canyon via a global flood.
- ✚ Yet our education system and scientific community target our children, promoting every theory except creation and sowing doubt about God as early as possible in their lives.
3. People attribute natural events to mother nature, instead of giving God credit for creation.
- a) Most of us at 1 time or another have fallen into the trap of acknowledging false gods.
 - We have been taught to credit Greek mythological gods like Gaia, the primordial goddess of the Earth, who gave birth to the sky, mountains, and seas, embodying fertility and life itself, She is better known as mother earth and over time has changed to mother nature.
 - We know there is no such thing as mother nature. So don't be duped into giving a false god of baal (Gaia) credit for creation or for disasters,

- Could you count how many times you have heard look at the beauty of mother nature, or don't mess with mother nature.
- Disasters happen because we live in a fallen world due to sin, not some false god.
- What's really sad insurance companies actually get the truth a lot of people don't, they deny claim's based on "an act of God" they never deny claims based on an act of mother nature.

III. We need to understand the word of God and acknowledge what He has done for us individually, as a country and more importantly as our God, because the next thing **Verse 6** addresses is God's rejection of Israel as priests for Him.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, **I also will reject you from being priest for Me**; stop Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

- The Israelites didn't just turn away from the Lord through some bad decisions, it's deeper than that. Instead of teaching the nations around them about the living God, they prostituted themselves out to false Gods.
- Listen to what **Rahab** said to the spy's in **Joshua 2:9** "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you.

Jos 2:10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction.

Jos 2:11 And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

1. Understand what Rahab told them,

- ✓ we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea,
- ✓ our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man
- ✓ for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

a) These are powerful statements. When it comes to evangelism the nations around Israel were ready to learn about the God of Israel.

- God didn't set the Jews apart to drive us to jealousy or because He's God and can play favorites.
- God had a plan.

Deuteronomy 7:6 "For you *are* a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

And God said to Moses: "And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel" **Exodus 19:6**

- These blessings were never fully realized because Israel did not uphold their part of the Mosaic covenant that they agreed to as a nation.
- Slowly over time they allowed the corruption of the priests and false prophets who were getting rich off the sins of the people, to lead them so far astray they eventually rejected God as a nation.
- Israel's job was to be a kingdom of priests to the gentiles. This is what God called them to do and as evidenced through the words of Rahab... they had ample opportunity.

2. As Christian's we need to ask, what is our job, what is expected of Christians today?

1Peter 2:5 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.

✠ God has given us, the responsibility to know what the spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ are. As God's royal priesthood Christians have an important job to do:

- And every Christian needs to know their job,
 - we need to grow in the knowledge of God to do our job to the best of our abilities
 - we need to be set apart from this world to effectively do our job

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” **Matthew 28:19-20**

- Christians should be reaching out to the rest of the gentiles in this world; heaven isn’t full yet or we would be home. God calls us and prepares us to do His will because Christians:

1Peter 2:9 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.

- This is directed to Christians, those called out of darkness into His marvelous light. A people for His own possession, Gods people haven’t had a change in their job description for over 3000 years.

• 1Peter a chosen race, • 1Peter a royal priesthood, • 1Peter a holy nation, • 1Peter a people for his own possession	• Exodus 19:6 a kingdom of priests • Exodus 19:6 a holy nation • Deut 7:6 God has chosen you to be a people for Himself
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- Did God know the nation of Israel would fail, yes. God knows the heart of man, He knows our heart and has made clear what He expects of us as His people.

a) God’s alternate plan included the gentiles, as outlined in **Romans 11:25-29**:

- Paul is telling the Jews he doesn’t want them to be unaware of this mystery: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.
- Paul tells them to... look at your scriptures, “The Deliverer will come from Zion; he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”; **27** “and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”
- regarding the gospel, Paul says the Jews are enemies for our sake. But in regards to election, the Jews are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.
 - God does not forget, forsake or change His promises.

b) Another part of God’s plan was to preserve His word and get it into the hands of the gentiles so we could know God and come to the saving knowledge of Christ and the Jews did a wonderful job of preserving His word.

- The Partial hardening is the reason there are Messianic and Orthodox Jews today .

IV. the final chastisement In verse 6

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, **I also will forget your children.**

1. This happened when Israel was dispersed amongst the nations starting with the Babylonians around 597 BC and it is still ongoing today.

a) We need to understand what I will forget your children means: the Greek word (**shaw-kakh', shaw-kay'-akh**)

- Can mean what we think of when we forget where we laid our keys = to be unmindful of.
- But the way the Greek word is used here is not wanting to give attention to, or to purposefully lay aside.

b) We can be obedient and fulfill God’s plan for us; or we can choose to be disobedient, but Gods plan will succeed.

- What is important to know is when we choose disobedience God may choose to bless someone else with the job He wanted to bless you with. Or worse He may stop asking anything of you.
- c) I mentioned last week only a new covenant can replace or break the Mosaic Covenant.
 - If the Jews as a nation don't accept Jesus during the church age (**Messianic Jew**) they will be given another chance.

VI. There are many examples throughout Hosea of the timing when this chance will be given, starting in:

Hosea 1:11 Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel Shall be gathered together, And appoint for themselves one head; And they shall come up out of the land, For great *will be* the day of Jezreel!

1. The timing mentioned here is “for great will be the **day** of Jezreel”.
 - a) Like most of the examples we find throughout Hosea, we can read right past them... glossing over them as we read without really understanding what is being said.
 - Today, the Jezreel Valley is a green, fertile plain, covered with fields of wheat, cotton, sunflowers, and corn, it is grazed by sheep and cattle.
 - Because of its location in the valley of Megiddo, it is considered to be the spot for the future battle of Armageddon. The Valley Megiddo is often referred to as the Valley of Jezreel.
- ✠ So, the timing given by Hosea is the second coming of Christ, at the end of the tribulation period.
- Jesus mentions the tribulation period in **Mathew 24** telling us there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

Just like the Jews, the gentiles will be given a second chance to except Jesus, unfortunately it is during the tribulation period as well.