



Hosea

**“And it will be
like people, like priest;”**

Hosea 4:1-10

Listen to the word of the LORD, O sons of Israel,
For the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land,
Because there is no faithfulness or kindness
Or knowledge of God in the land.

² *There is* swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery.
They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed.

³ Therefore the land mourns,
And everyone who lives in it languishes
Along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky,
And also the fish of the sea disappear.

Hosea 4:1–3 (NASB 95)

Hosea 4:1-10

Yet let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof;
For your people are like those who contend with the priest.
⁵ So you will stumble by day,
And the prophet also will 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 also will reject you from being My priest.
Since you have forgotten the law of your God,
I also will forget your children.

Hosea 4:4–6 (NASB 95)

Hosea 4:1-10

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

⁸ They feed on the sin of My people
And direct their desire toward their iniquity.

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

¹⁰ They will eat, but not have enough;
They will play the harlot, but not increase,
Because they have stopped giving heed to the LORD.

Hosea 4:7–10 (NASB 95)

Wake Up Call !!

Listen to the Lord's message, you Israelites!
For the Lord has a covenant lawsuit against the people of Israel.

NET 2nd

“So they are without excuse.”

²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

Romans 1:21–28 (ESV)

Cursed

³Therefore, the land will mourn, and all its inhabitants will perish.
The wild animals, the birds of the sky, and even the fish in the sea will perish.

NET 2nd

*“But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, **then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.** ¹⁶ Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. ¹⁷ Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ¹⁸ Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ¹⁹ Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.”* **Deut 28:15-19**

Who's at Fault?

⁴ Do not let anyone accuse or contend against anyone else:

for my case is against you priests!

⁵ You stumble day and night, and the false prophets stumble with you;
you have destroyed your own people.

NET 2nd

⁴ “But let no one bring a charge, let no one accuse another,
for your people are like those who bring charges against a priest.

⁵ *You* stumble day and night, and the prophets stumble with you.
So I will destroy your mother –

NIV

My people are destroyed! v. 6

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

(NASB 95)

References

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and *whoever loves* has been born of God and *knows God*.

⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:7–8 (ESV)

⁵ Now therefore, **if** you will indeed obey my voice and *keep my covenant*, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and *you shall be to me a kingdom of priests* and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall *speak to the people of Israel*.”

Exodus 19:5–6 (ESV)

v. 7

The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me;
I will change their glory into shame.

(NASB 95)

v. 8

They feed on the sin of My people
And direct their desire toward their iniquity.

(NASB 95)

They feed on the sin offerings of my people;
their appetites long for their iniquity!

(NET 2nd ed.)

v. 9

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

(NASB 95)

Behold, the LORD lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface and scatters its inhabitants. ² *And the people will be like the priest*, the servant like his master, the maid like her mistress, the buyer like the seller, the lender like the borrower, the creditor like the debtor. ³ The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the LORD has spoken this word.

Isaiah 24:1–3 (NASB 95)

v. 10

They will eat, but not have enough; They will play the harlot, but not increase,
Because they have stopped giving heed to the LORD.

(NASB 95)

Summary

- The people were ruled by illegitimate kings and taught by illegitimate priests.
- Neither the people nor the priests knew God so their hearts were inclined toward worship of idols and pursuing pleasure and treasure.
- God held the priests and the people accountable for their sinful choices.
- They were equally responsible for the destruction of the northern kingdom.
- They were without excuse!

How did we get here?

If a nation seriously strays from its Judeo-Christian origins across 250 years, should we blame the church?

What are the necessary and sufficient conditions for a culture to become “woke”?

What are the necessary and sufficient conditions for that culture to “recover”?

Relevance of Hosea

Without a widespread reawakening of the national conscience and a wholesale return to the teachings of the Word of God, our own beloved America is already launched upon a collision course with disaster. These remarkable chapters in Hosea have an urgent relevance to our entire generation.

James B. Coffman; 1986

Farewell Prayer

"I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would...most graciously be pleas'd to dispose us all to do Justice, to love mercy and to demean ourselves, with that Charity, humility & pacific temper of mind, which were the Characteristicks of the Divine Author of our blessed Religion & without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation."

George Washington's "Circular Letter to the States"; June 8, 1783

Occasion: Washington's formal farewell to the governors of the thirteen states as he prepared to retire from military service after the Revolutionary War.

