

THE BOOK OF HOSEA
CHAPTERS 4 – 6
“MY PEOPLE PERISH FOR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE!”

CHAPTER 4 - “HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD”

(v1) The results of “no truth or mercy or knowledge of God”:

> There is “*swearing – lying – killing –stealing – adultery – no restraint*” – This is the way of our movies, our television shows, our music and our society.

(v2-6) “God’s people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” - Warren Wiersbe writes, “The basic sin was ignorance; there was "no knowledge of God in the land." "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hos 4:6). This means much more than knowledge about God: it refers to a personal knowledge of God. The Hebrew word describes a husband's most intimate relationship with his wife (Gen 4:1; 19:8). To know God is to have a personal relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ (John 17:3).”

(v7-11) “Because they have ceased **OBEYING THE LORD”** - **What is **OBEDIENCE**?** - God summons people to active obedience to His revelation. Man's failure to obey God results in judgment. In the Old Testament covenant between God and man, obedience was the basis for knowing God's blessing and favor (Ex 19:5; 24:1-8). In the New Testament, the obedience of Christ stands in contrast to the disobedience of Adam. The disobedience of Adam brought death, but the perfect obedience of Christ brought grace, righteousness, and life (Rom 5:12-21).

(v12-18) What happens when we forsake God’s counsel? – Read **Proverbs 1:20-33**.

(v19) In the church we must combat the “winds of false doctrine” - **Ephesians 4:14-15** – *“that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ”*

CHAPTER 5 - “HEAR O’PRIEST, TAKE HEED O’ISRAEL”

(v1-7) “they do not know the LORD”:

> Warning to **CHURCH LEADERS** - “Pastors & Priests” - **2 Corinthians 11:1-4; 13-15**

> Warning to **CHURCH GOERS** - “the people” - **2 Timothy 4:3,4**

(v8-15) Judgment is coming! – Read **2 Kings 17:24-41**

> **Remember what our Lord Jesus said in Matthew 5:13-16** - *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

CHAPTER 6 - “COME LET US RETURN TO THE LORD”

(v1-6) Warren Wiersbe sheds great light upon shallow hearts for God, “When you read these words, you get the impression that the nation is sincerely repenting and seeking the Lord, but when you read what God says, you see how shallow their "confession" really was. "They do not return to the Lord their God, nor seek Him" (7:10). "They have spoken lies against Me" (v. 13). "They return, but not to the Most High" (v. 16). What went wrong with this "confession"?

To begin with, their concern was for healing and not for cleansing. They saw their nation in difficulty and wanted God to "make things right." but they did not come with broken hearts and surrendered wills. They wanted happiness, not holiness, a change of circumstances, but not a change in character. Many times in my own ministry I've met people in trouble who treated God like a

celestial lifeguard who should rescue them from danger but not deliver them from their sins. They shed tears of remorse over their suffering, but not tears of repentance over their sin.”

(v7-11) Blessing or cursing is a result of our obedience or disobedience to the Word of God, Deuteronomy ch. 28.

> All Christians “Come and be SEPARATE!”- 2 Cor. 6:11 – 7:1

◆ *His Word “preserves our families”- Deuteronomy 6:24,25*

◆ *His Word “prosperes our way”- Joshua ch. 1:8*

◆ *His Word “blesses our lives”- Psalm 1*

◆ *His Word “brings answers to prayer” - John 15:1-8*

◆ *His Word “saves us from the great tribulation” – Rev. 3:7-13*