

**Sin – There Are Some You Do, and Some You Don't
Charges Against Israel and the Culture Today
Hosea 4:1 – 3**

Scripture quotations are taken from the following translations:

ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB),
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,
1975, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission. www.Lockman.org**

Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2016 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

The Good News Translation Bible (GNB) text used in this product is being used by permission. Copyright © American Bible Society, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible: International Standard Version® Release 2.0. (ISV) Copyright © 1996–2011 by the ISV Foundation. Used by permission of Davidson Press, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED INTERNATIONALLY

Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV), Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and are used by permission. All rights reserved

In the first three chapters of Hosea, we established the allegory of Hosea and Israel. Hosea's homelife consisted of being married to a woman who was unfaithful and that is compared to Israel who was supposedly married to YAHWEH yet was also unfaithful. The rest of the book departs from that allegory.

What we see beginning in chapter 4 is a prophetic word against Israel that continues through to the end of the book.

"Everything that has been said up to this point has been in the way of generalization. God has said, "They have sinned. They have played the harlot and been unfaithful to Me." Now God is going to bring them into court, spell out certain charges against them, and prove those charges." (McGee 1997, 626)

God will get to specifics. This will involve the law, the covenant, and the Big 10. Not the NCAA Big 10, but God's.

As we begin to look at the next 11 chapters, we will encounter places where it feels very uncomfortable to us. That is the Holy Spirit at work. Hosea will be addressing the sins of the nation of Israel, and he will also touch on Judah's as well. Here's the thing, as we go over these chapters, we will clearly see Israel's sins, but we will also see the sins of our culture today. Here, living in the 21st century, we will find out we are no better off than Israel in 720 BC.

I am reminded of something Thomas Jefferson said that has been retained for us to read.

At the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, we have all seen his words inscribed: "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever." (Nieuhaus 2001, 73)

We know, thanks to Hosea 2, that restoration is in the future for Israel, but not in Hosea's today. There is still a serious sin problem.

The justice of God will indeed come into play and Israel will find themselves suffering the consequences of their choices. They had decided the list of items not to do on the cursings side of the equation given by Moses (Deuteronomy 27 & 28) were just too attractive to not give them a try.

They opted for a lie rather than the clearly revealed path outlined by Moses, Joshua and Solomon that would bring blessings on them. Are we any better as a nation today? Israel's leaders lied to them, do ours?

God's pattern for blessing a nation is clearly outlined for us in His law. In some places in the OT, it is stated in such a way to show us there is also personal applicability available. For example, in Genesis 12 when God first called Abram, we see this about a blessing that is still applicable to nations as well as individuals who love the nation of Israel today.

Genesis 12:3

"I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (ESV)

As we study the next 11 chapters, we will learn a simple truth. Israel needed a revival. So do we. "I don't know how much farther we're going to go, but the day will come when God gives us up, and we'll go down the tube just like all those great nations of the past. As this moral decline continues, God is either going to have to judge America or else He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah for what He did to those two cities because of this very thing." (McGee, Love, Lincation & the Law: The Ten Commandments 1995, 115-116)

Just as we saw redemption pop up unexpectedly in the first three chapters, this pattern continues in the last 11 chapters. "Throughout this material, moreover, promises of redemption appear as suddenly and unexpectedly as did the reversals of judgment in 1:2-3:5. Thus this is not simply a book of accusation, but also of redemption." (Garrett 1997, 105-106)

There are consequences connected to willful sin. We have seen that already in this book and that theme will continue in the scriptures.

Galatians 6:7-9

"Do not be deceived. God will not be made a fool. For a person will reap what he sows, because the person who sows to his own flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So we must not grow weary in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not give up." (NET)

We are going to see in these 11 chapters, and quite clearly too, that Solomon was right.

Ecclesiastes 1:9-11

"What has happened before will happen again. What has been done before will be done again. There is nothing new in the whole world. "Look," they say, "here is something new!" But no, it has all happened before, long before we were born. No one remembers what has happened in the past, and no one in days to come will remember what happens between now and then." (GNB)

Hosea begins chapter 4 with an indictment against Israel. A listing of the charges being brought by YAHWEH in His lawsuit against them. They are intentionally engaging in what they were told not to.

They do know better.

Hosea 4:1–3

“Listen to the word of the LORD, you sons of Israel, Because the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, For there is no faithfulness, nor loyalty, Nor knowledge of God in the land. There is oath-taking, denial, murder, stealing, and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, And everyone who lives in it languishes Along with the animals of the field and the birds of the sky, And even the fish of the sea disappear.” (NASB 2020)

So that the listener knows that this is not Hosea’s own spin on what God is saying to him, he reflects to his listeners that this indictment comes straight from the mouth of God. What is to follow is the word of the Lord and this is stated in the imperative. Listening is not optional. The first word is shema...hear. The indictment is a summary of the charges against Israel from YAHWEH. The indictment contains sins of omission, sins of commission, and shows us the consequences of sin on the land.

This is a simple categorization that comes to us from the Lord direct. It is quite simple and quite elegant at the same time. We are going to learn a lesson about sin. It reflects what is inside. It is more deadly and infectious than we ever thought it was.

All sins can be placed into two broad categories: sins of commission and sins of omission. This means that some sins are doing what we should not do, and others are not doing what we should do. (Geisler 2004, 101)

The charges begin with a listing of those things which Israel has not done. We would call them sins of omission. What is a sin of omission?

As an imager of God, and as His own chosen people, there is an expectation of how Israel would be going about doing life. This is no different than the expectations Jesus has expressed in the NT for His expectations of those who follow Him. He provided us guidance as part of His final briefing to His disciples before going to the cross.

John 13:34–35

“I give you a new commandment—to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. Everyone will know by this that you are my disciples—if you have love for one another.” (NET)

This tells us what the believer lifestyle should be characterized by. This commandment from our savior is not optional. God is love. Jesus perfectly reflected the Father to us. Jesus is love. We are supposed to reflect Jesus in what we do, it follows then that we should also be love. There is a self-exam for us in 1 Corinthians 13.

Each time you see the word “love,” replace it with your name.

1 Corinthians 13:4–8

“Love is patient, love is kind, it is not envious. Love does not brag, it is not puffed up. It is not rude, it is not self-serving, it is not easily angered or resentful. It is not glad about injustice, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But if there are prophecies, they will be set aside; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be set aside.” (NET)

Praise the Lord 1 John 1:9 is in the Bible because I still have a long way to go. How about the Israel of Hosea?

Sins of Omission

Hosea 4:1b

“...Because the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, For there is no faithfulness, nor loyalty, Nor knowledge of God in the land.” (NASB 2020)

- No faithfulness
- No loyalty
- No knowledge of God

The case is against the inhabitants of the land. There is an epidemic going on and the disease is sin. And we start with what is not being done that should be done. Sins of omission.

James really helps us nail down what this is.

James 4:17

“So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.” (ESV)

A sin of omission is a sin that is the result of not doing something God’s Word teaches that we should do. (Got Questions Ministries 2002-2013)

What does this look like in action? Are there examples we can really sink our teeth into? Jesus talked about this because it was a problem in Israel when He was here the first time. Hint – It still is.

Luke 10:30–37

“Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?” And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”” (NKJV)

Priest – intentionally avoided doing good when he had the opportunity to do so. Could not let himself become unclean by being defiled. Sin of omission.

Levite – the same. Sin of omission.

But they are going from Jerusalem back to their homes. Temple duties have been concluded so the issue over defilement was no longer paramount. Both simply made a conscious decision not to stop and render aid, even though they are professional aid givers, they decide not to honor the covenant with YAHWEH and they walk on by.

This would be the same today as police or fire deciding not to stop at a traffic accident or fire.

Samaritan – showed compassion to someone in need. He showed compassion and covenant faithfulness to YAHWEH by rendering aid.

Today, this would look like a group of prisoners in jail deciding it is more important to save a sheriff deputies life than to simply watch him die from a heart attack.

From CNN we learn about the actions of modern-day Samaritans and how they are still around us today.

Three Georgia inmates are being praised by the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office after saving a deputy's life. "We are deeply appreciative to these three inmates for the courage, determination and kindness they displayed," the GCSO said in a Facebook post on Tuesday. "These inmates came to his aid because our deputy, like most law enforcement officers, treats people with the dignity they deserve. These inmates had no obligation whatsoever to render aid to a bleeding, vulnerable deputy, but they didn't hesitate," the statement said. "Many people have strong opinions about law enforcement officers and criminals, but this incident clearly illustrates the potential goodness found in both." (Holcombe and Mack 2020)

Jesus did not let the matter drop there. He continues to keep this idea of actions over inaction a topic. The decision to stop and render aid, to love your neighbor as yourself, becomes a qualifying action for entry into the Kingdom of God after the end of the Tribulation. Yes, there will be some who go to hell because they failed to act when they could have.

Jesus discusses the sheep and goats judgement where final decisions are made regarding who enters the kingdom, and who does not.

Matthew 25:34–40

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’ “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ **“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’”** (NLT)

There is a reason why charges involving sins of omission are listed first. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:36–39, ESV)

Loving God with all our heart means we act, think and love as God does. That drives action, not inaction. That drives compassion, not heartlessness. Then when you add loving your neighbor on top, we can begin to see how failing to do something when we know better can become a bit of a problem. If you have been in an accident and need help, do you want someone, anyone to stop and help?

It would seem that a sin of omission is more grievous than a sin of transgression. (Aquinas n.d.)

What we see is the Lord beginning His indictment of Israel by pointing out, they know better.

Sins of omission are not doing what we should do. (Geisler 2004, 101)

Looking at the “Big Ten” in Exodus 20, and matching them up with the indictment, we see that Israel has run afoul of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Commandments so far, as per the indictment.

Hosea 4:1b

“...Because the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, For there is no faithfulness, nor loyalty, Nor knowledge of God in the land.” (NASB 2020)

1. No faithfulness - “You shall have no other gods before me.” (Exodus 20:3, ESV)
2. No loyalty - “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.” (Exodus 20:7, ESV)

3. No knowledge of God - ““You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,” (Exodus 20:4–5, ESV)

No knowledge of God is not just about having no Torah knowledge. “But the Hebrew words for knowing and knowledge imply more than a content. They imply an acknowledgment and participation in relationship.” (Birch 1997, 47)

It is the same word used elsewhere in the Old Testament to describe the intimacy that exists between a husband and a wife.

Genesis 4:1

“Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the LORD.”” (NKJV)

There is no intimate relationship with YAHWEH at all. This harkens back to the analogy we studied in the first three chapters. “To know God is to acknowledge intimate relationship to God. Covenant is not for Hosea a matter of external obedience. It is a matter of intimate partnership. To keep covenant is to know God.” (Birch 1997, 48)

YAHWEH does not stop with what they should have been doing, He moves on to what they are doing. They are not doing what they should be doing and instead they are doing what they should not be doing. When we are following the Lord in the Spirit, we find we have no problem with living in accordance Matthew 22:37 – 40.

Matthew 22:37–40

“Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”” (NKJV)

When our actions cease to reflect this reality though, then actions of sin become easier to do. The second charge leveled by YAHWEH involves sins of commission. The things that Israel is doing. They are no longer living or acting like Jews. They have gone full pagan.

Sins of Commission

Hosea 4:2

“There is oath-taking, denial, murder, stealing, and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed.” (NASB 2020)

First off, these sins are in the infinitive form, “nounal expressions of habitual or continued actions.” (Spence-Jones 1909, 98)

The grammar tells us that these are not one offs but this has become a lifestyle issue. They have gone full pagan.

When a people reject God, they have started on a path that will ultimately lead to the embracing of conduct previously thought to be unthinkable. Israel, when they split away from Judah 200 years prior, followed a leader who decided to reject Temple worship for political reasons and as part of that, he also rejected YAHWEH. He played with being a pagan.

There is no way they would ever have thought that by being politically correct, they would become what the Lord is describing in Hosea 4. They have gone full pagan.

1 Kings 12:26–31

“And Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David. If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.” So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one. He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites.” (ESV)

At that point, Israel made a choice and opted to follow a leader who was not listening to the Lord. It only took a little more than 200 years to arrive at the point they are now at. Israel has gone full pagan.



(Bolen 2012, Used with Permission)

Today

From 30,000 feet, much of the Laodicean side we see infiltrating the church today has roots with a bunch of dead German theologians from the late 18th and early 19th century. They began to question the authorship and authority of the Bible. They played with the idea of being pagan. Once you undermine the Word, why be a Christian?

“In one word, the formative forces of the Higher Critical movement were rationalistic forces, and the men who were its chief authors and expositors, who “on account of purely philological criticism have acquired an appalling authority,” were men who had discarded belief in God and Jesus Christ Whom He had sent. The Bible, in their view, was a mere human product. It was a stage in the literary evolution of a religious people.” (Hague 2005, 20)

Once that process began and God’s word was set aside, then came the second wave of humanism and rationalism resulting in what we see today in our culture today. A little more than 200 years after it all began. Francis Schaeffer discussed this problem at length in several of his books. He came up with a rule for our culture today.

“Here is a simple but profound rule: if there are no absolutes by which to judge society, then society is absolute.” (Schaeffer 1982, 224) We have gone full pagan.

Israel had arrived at this point a little more than 200 years after it began. It didn’t take long at all did it?

Now, Hosea is relating the charges YAHWEH has against them. Going full pagan has consequences, especially when you knew better.

Picking right back up with the 3rd commandment, YAHWEH accuses Israel of false swearing. This points out that there is now an integrity issue in Israel. My word is not my bond unless I invoke God in it.

Because deception is prevalent, the folks in Israel are now invoking God to prove they are on the up and up.

By swearing cavalierly, one mocked God as weak and useless. Cursing conveys the impression of integrity. If, however, the oath is made with the intention of deceiving, the basis of good-faith exchanges within the community evaporate in the heat of conflict. (Guenther 1998, 92)

Today this looks like placing your hand on a Bible to invoke God's word in what you are about to say and then swearing to support and defend the constitution of the United States. Then turning right around and undermining it.

We see this happening with too frequent of a regularity with our elected officials, which is simply reflective of what is already taking place in the broader culture around us. Florida is scam and fraud central and has been for well over 100 years, even with laws in place to enforce integrity, it is still something folks navigate around way too much these days. I doubt they were getting phone calls in Israel about the warranties on their chariots.

This leads to point number two, denial. Imagine that. The people in Israel first reflecting an integrity problem with false swearing and then denying they ever did it.

I am so glad we don't see that in our culture today, aren't you? Denial is nothing more than deception. It is lying. I like how Scott Adams, the author of Dilbert, talks about it.

The common situation—and the one you should treat as true—is that we are deeply flawed humans pretending to be otherwise. (Adams 2019, 36)

And without Christ, the spin never ends. Israel found itself in the same place we find ourselves today. Looking out for number one results in the routine violation of the 2nd and 9th commandment. The full pagan lifestyle has now been fully embraced by Israel.

Such a society becomes self-protective, suspicious, retaliatory, and vengeful; it breaks down at the level of common, day-to-day relationships. (Guenther 1998, 92)

Hosea 4:2

“There is oath-taking, denial, murder, stealing, and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed.” (NASB 2020)

It's a logical progression then to see murder, follow integrity issues.

When a people reject God's covenant and they reject His word, the outcome naturally becomes the exploitation of each other. Here is the bad news, we are not good people without Jesus, not even close.

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it?” (NRSV)

Exploitation ultimately ends in this. When integrity goes out the window, so does the limitation on exploitation. The ultimate, is premeditated murder, 6th commandment kind of stuff.

We have already pointed out the strange similarities with the Israel of 720 BC and our culture today, this point dealing with murder is not a variation from that. “Homicides in major American cities ticked up in 2021, with a 5% increase from 2020 and a 44% increase over 2019, according to a new analysis of crime trends released Tuesday by the Council on Criminal Justice (CCJ).” (Sganga 2022)

We wonder why is this? Why the lawlessness? There are two reasons.

One

We consume violence in the media on a regular basis. Video games are on example. “There are games in which a player can re-enact the killings at Columbine High School and Virginia Tech. The goal of one game is to rape a mother and her daughter, of another game to rape Native-American women. There is an ethnic cleansing game in which players can choose to gun down African-Americans, Latinos, or Jews.” (Boffey 2019)

By the time they reach age 18, American children will have seen 16,000 simulated murders and 200,000 acts of violence (American Psychiatric Association, 1998). Media violence can be hazardous to children's health, and studies point overwhelmingly to a causal connection between media violence and aggressive attitudes, values and behaviors in some children (Congressional Public Health Summit, 2000). (Muscarello 2002)

Two

The second reason has to do with the simple fact that we are living in the last days immediately before the return of Jesus Christ for His church. Lawlessness and violence are to be expected.

Matthew 24:12–13

“And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” (ESV)

For Israel, murder without justice results in the land being corrupted.

Numbers 35:30–34

“Whoever kills any person, the murderer must be put to death by the testimony of witnesses; but one witness cannot testify against any person to cause him to be put to death. Moreover, you must not accept a ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of death; he must surely be put to death. And you must not accept a ransom for anyone who has fled to a town of refuge, to allow him to return home and live on his own land before the death of the high priest. You must not pollute the land where you live, for blood defiles the land, and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed there, except by the blood of the person who shed it. Therefore do not defile the land that you will inhabit, in which I live, for I the LORD live among the Israelites.”(NET)

We will see that the sin of Israel does indeed have an impact on the land, as promised by YAHWEH.

This idea continues today.

Murder is the theft of someone's life, so it follows the next sin to be referenced is stealing.

As part of their idol worship, Israel was involved in human sacrifice. They were sacrificing their children to the false gods (2 Kings 17:17). Not only was this murder it was also idolatry, and it was theft. This is a reference to the violation of the 8th commandment. The term is also used to describe kidnapping a person. The law provided for the death penalty for kidnapping (Exodus 21:16).

Hosea 4:2

“There is oath-taking, denial, murder, stealing, and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed.” (NASB 2020)

We see what is going on all around the planet. The pandemic, war in various places, earthquakes. We are seeing everything that Jesus said we would be seeing in Matthew 24 take place just before He comes for His church.

The term bloodshed follows bloodshed, literally one bloody dead is now following another in Israel. And in our culture today? We see the same thing and it is reflected in the global death rate for 2021.

Abortion was the leading cause of death globally in 2021, with nearly 43 million unborn babies killed in the womb, according to data provided by Worldometer.

As of noon on December 31, 2021, there were 42.6 million abortions performed in the course of the year, Worldometer revealed, while 8.2 million people died from cancer, 5 million from smoking, 1.7 million of HIV/AIDS, 1.3 million from traffic fatalities, and 1 million from suicide.

Totaling all the deaths in the world from causes other than abortion reveals a figure of 58.7 million, meaning that abortions accounted for just over 42 percent of all human deaths in 2021. (Williams, PhD 2021)

Murder and the theft of life from millions today all in the name of convenience. For Israel, it was an attempt to increase the fertility of the land through human sacrifices to Baal.

The last item God will reference is a contributing factor to this. When life is out of control, there are consequences. The last item is the source of some of those consequences.

The last act we see listed is adultery. Part of the worship of Baal involved participating with male and female prostitutes at the temple. This results in unwanted children who are then sacrificed to Baal, continuing the cycle.

Adultery had become normative. We have seen how much pain this caused Hosea and it still causes pain today.

Israel was deliberately breaking the 1st, 2nd, 7th, 8th and 10th Commandments. They had gone full pagan. As such, the way adultery was practiced in Israel was a form of pagan idol worship, it forced men and women to enter prostitution and resulted in stealing away the hearts of men and women from their spouses. As clearly seen with Gomer and Hosea.

It also resulted in unwanted babies.

Yes, coveting the temple prostitute became a thing just as chasing after the neighbor's spouse. But let's go back to the problem of murder. Just how prevalent was it in Israel just prior to the fall? The term “They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed” makes it appear this has become a real problem. When you consider the child sacrifice going on, then we see how extensive violence and bloodshed had become. Then there is the more recent problem of the King attacking Judah and returning with 200,000 captives.

2 Chronicles 28:8–11

“The Israelites carried away 200,000 women, sons, and daughters from among their own relatives. They also took a great deal of plunder, and brought it all to Samaria. But a prophet of the LORD was there named Oded. He went out to greet the army as it arrived in Samaria. He warned them, “Look! Because the LORD God of your ancestors was angry at Judah, he delivered them into your control, but you have killed them with a vehemence that has reached all the way to heaven! Now you're intending to make the

men and women of Judah and Jerusalem to be your slaves. Surely you have your own sins against the LORD your God for which you're accountable, don't you? So listen to me! Return the captives whom you've captured from your brothers, because the anger of the LORD is burning hot against you!" (ISV)

Israel did as the prophet told them to, but it became one more count falling under what we see here in verse 2.

Hosea 4:3

"Therefore the land mourns, And everyone who lives in it languishes Along with the animals of the field and the birds of the sky, And even the fish of the sea disappear." (NASB 2020)

Now we come to the consequences of both categories of sin. Sin brings ruin to the land. A drought is coming.

"As God has given to man the dominion over all beasts, and over all the earth, that he may use it for the glory of God; so does He punish the wickedness of men by pestilences, or by the devastation of the earth. The mourning of the earth and the wasting away of the animals are the natural result of the want of rain and the great drought that ensues, such as was the case in the time of Ahab throughout the kingdom of the ten tribes (1 Kings 17:18), and judging from Amos 1:2; 8:8, may have occurred repeatedly with the continued idolatry of the people." (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 51)

The grammar here says this is a current ongoing problem for Israel.

If bloodshed is the lot of the human community, then weakness and loss infect the land's nonhuman inhabitants as well. This is tantamount to the reversal of creation and its good order, undone by human fallibility and culpability. Whereas the human community (and most certainly Israel) is designated collectively as God's stewards, intended to bring order and rule in a good creation, human failure permeates creation with disorder and debilitation. (Dearman 2010, 153)

The judgement for what they have done is a judgement they had been warned about by Moses. Drought.

"The judgment seems to take the form of drought—a sentence appropriate to crimes committed in search of fertility through the Baals." (Hubbard 1989, 107)

They turned away from the source of everything and turned to a false god to see the land become fertile, but YAHWEH says the exact opposite will happen.

A lack of rainfall will hamper crop development. If there are no crops, then there is also no forage for the animals.

Those birds who migrate through Israel every year would go elsewhere as there is nothing for them to eat.

If there is no rain, then there is no water left to run in the streams or come into the Sea of Galilee. This would reduce the amount of water available for the fish in the lake and their numbers would naturally decrease.

For Israel, their sin is leading to a reversal of creation. The land suffered from climate change but one centered in Israel.

Hosea is saying that the earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof, but that the earth and its fullness are all of a piece with the life of the covenant people, because the covenant God has a covenant also with the earth in all its fullness (Gen. 8:8–10). Autonomy, either of mankind or of nature, is one of our modern myths. (Beeby 1989, 49)

That is the indictment, the charges that God is bringing to the table for His lawsuit against Israel. We see that the charges are similar to things taking place around us today and I must wonder, is this the groundwork laying out the lawsuit and judgement that takes place in the Tribulation?

We wonder if there is any hope left for Israel, yet we know that He has already said restoration is coming for them. We also know that for us today, Jesus' incredible gift of salvation remains available to us.

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God’s way of putting people right with himself has been revealed. It has nothing to do with law, even though the Law of Moses and the prophets gave their witness to it. God puts people right through their faith in Jesus Christ. God does this to all who believe in Christ, because there is no difference at all: everyone has sinned and is far away from God’s saving presence. But by the free gift of God’s grace all are put right with him through Christ Jesus, who sets them free.” (GNB)

Works Cited

- Adams, Scott. 2019. *Losers think: How Untrained Brains Are Ruining America*. Kindle Edition. New York, NY: Portfolio/Penguin.
- Aquinas, Thomas. n.d. *Summa Theologica*. Translated by Fathers of the English Dominican Province. London: Burns Oates & Washbourne.
- Beeby, H. D. 1989. *Grace Abounding: A Commentary on the Book of Hosea, International Theological Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.
- Birch, Bruce C. 1997. *Hosea, Joel, and Amos, Westminster Bible Companion*. Edited by Patrick D. Miller and David L. Bartlett. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.
- Boffey, Philip M. 2019. "Do Violent Video Games Lead to Violence?" *Dana Foundation*. November 1. Accessed March 23, 2022. <https://dana.org/article/do-violent-video-games-lead-to-violence/>.
- Bolen, Todd. 2012. "Dan High Place Aerial." *Pictorial Library of Bible Lands Revised & Expanded, Volume 1, Galilee and the North*. Prod. Todd Bolen.
- Dearman, J. Andrew. 2010. *The Book of Hosea, The New International Commentary on the Old and New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.
- Garrett, Duane A. 1997. *Hosea, Joel, The New American Commentary*. Vol. 19A. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.
- Geisler, Norman L. 2004. *Systematic Theology, Volume Three: Sin, Salvation*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers.
- Got Questions Ministries. 2002-2013. *Got Questions? Bible Questions Answered*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.
- Guenther, Allen R. 1998. *Hosea, Amos, Believers Church Bible Commentary*. Scottdale, PA: Herald Press.
- Hague, Canon Dyson. 2005. *Chapter I: The History of the Higher Criticism*. Vol. 1, in *The Fundamentals: A Testimony to the Truth*, edited by R. A. Torrey, Charles Lee Feinberg and Warren W. Weirsbe. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.
- Holcombe, Madeline, and Janine Mack. 2020. "3 Inmates in Georgia are praised for saving a deputy's life." *CNN*. July 29. Accessed March 23, 2022.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/29/us/gwinnett-county-inmate-save-deputy-trnd/index.html>.

- Hubbard, David A. 1989. *Hosea: An Introduction and Commentary, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*. Vol. 24. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Keil, Carl Friedrich, and Franz Delitzsch. 1996. *Commentary on the Old Testament*. Vol. 10. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.
- McGee, J. Vernon. 1995. *Love, Lincration & the Law: The Ten Commandments*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.
- . 1997. *Thru the Bible Commentary*. Electronic Edition. Vol. 3. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.
- Muscari, Mary. 2002. "Media violence: advice for parents." *Pediatric Nursing* 28 (6): 585-91.
- Nieuhaus, Richard John. 2001. "A Continuing Survey of Religion and Public Life." *First THings*.
- Schaeffer, Francis A. 1982. *How Should We Then Live?* Vol. 5, in *The Complete Works of Francis A. Schaeffer*, by Francis A. Schaeffer. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books.
- Sganga, Nicole. 2022. "Homicides in Major American cities increased in 2021, new study finds." *CBS News*. January 26. Accessed March 23, 2022.
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/homicides-2021-increase-council-on-criminal-justice/>.
- Spence-Jones, H. D. M., ed. 1909. *Hosea, The Pulpit Commentary*. London: Funk & Wagnalls Company.
- Williams, PhD, Thomas D. 2021. "Abortion Leading Global Cause of Death in 2021 With 43 Million Killed." *Breitbart*. December 31. Accessed March 23, 2022.
<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/12/31/abortion-leading-global-cause-of-death-in-2021-with-43-million-killed/>.