

Hosea 4

The Lord's Controversy - No Knowledge

1. Hosea 4:1-5 – The LORD's Controversy

- a. *"the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel"* – First since 1:2, and the true audience
- b. Controversy ~def. Formal dispute, or case of legal contention - Deu 17:8-12
 - i. Sometimes Israel made a legal claim on the covenant, but more often God did.
- c. *"no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God"* – Summary of ch. 4-7 (also Matt 23:23)
- d. 2 – Without the law of God, sin leads to sin and blood - Matt 23:35, Acts 7:52, 1Th 2:15
- e. 3 – The punishment will leave the land desolate and people hungry or removed (ch.8-10)
- f. 4 – *"strive with the priest"* - As one without knowledge and fear - 4:6, Rom 3:18
- g. 5 – Israel will fall "in the day" to be seen, prophets fall in darkness (none see)
- h. *"I will destroy thy mother"* – Israel, who taught them their whoredoms/idolatry

2. Hosea 4:6-11 – Lack of Knowledge

- a. *"destroyed for lack of knowledge"* – Speaking of the knowledge of God – Prov 9:10
 - i. Knowledge is better than ignorance (foolishness) – Prov 15:14, 18:15
- b. *"I will also reject thee"* – The LORD is where knowledge is found - Prov 2:5-6
- c. *"thou shalt be no priest to me"* - The priest's lips should keep knowledge - Mal 2:7
- d. *"thou hast forgotten the law"* -The people need to know the law -Mal 4:4, Deu 11:16-28
- e. 7 – *"as they were increased, so they sinned ..."* – Grew in number/prosperity ...and sins.
- f. *"change their glory into shame"* – see ch, 8-10, no blessing (8), no land (9), no king (10)
- g. 8 – *"eat up the sin of my people"* – Priests eat the sin offerings, but with hearts to sin
- h. 9 – Sacrifice for sins refused, they will be punished with the people – Mal 2:2-3
- i. 10 – *"not have enough... not increase"* – Mic 6:2,14, Lev 26:23-26, Amos 4:6
- j. 11 – *"take away the heart"* Instead of joy in Lord, they find joy here - Isa 28:1,7, Pro 23
 - i. Paul says it this way – Rom 13:14, Eph 5:18, and Phi 4:4-7

3. Hosea 4:12-14 – The Spirit of Whoredoms

- a. 12 – *"stocks...staff"* - tree gods and magic wands Hab 2:19, Isa 44:19, Jer 10:1-5,8,14,21
- b. *"spirit of whoredoms"* - lack of faithfulness to their LORD - Deu 6:4-5, 13-14
- c. 13 – *"They sacrifice..."* – Wrong religious worship - Deu 11:16, 12:2,16:21-22
- d. *"because the shadow thereof is good"* – Their own pleasure, darkness, convenience
- e. *"therefore"* – Whoredom/adultery is the product of idolatry (not worshiping God)
- f. 14 – *"I will not punish..."* – Why not? They learned it at "church" (see v12-13)
- g. *"they sacrifice with whores/harlots"* → The priests and rulers of Israel
- h. *"therefore..."* - People act out what is in them, no understanding will lead to a fall.

4. Hosea 4:15-19 – A Warning

- a. *"Gilgal..."* At the time a center of idolatry (downfall of Gilgal 1Sa 13:8-14, 15:12-23)
 - i. *"Beth-aven"* – house of vanity - Josh 7:2, 1 Kings 12:25-33
- b. 16 – *"backsliding heifer"* Refusing to be 'bound' to God, God sets them 'free' Rom 1:28
 - i. Backsliding refers to Israel in Jer 3:6-7, 12-14, 22
- c. 17 – Leave Ephraim alone (separate from him) – he is "married" to idols
 - i. (Which doesn't give hope to Japan, Armstrong's Britain, or Joe Smith's religion)
- d. 18 – Wine is vinegar: continual commitment (to whoredom): "Give ye" - Deu 16:16-20
- e. 19 – They are going to get blown away and it will expose their shame (idolatry)