

Class 2:

Spiritual and Physical Adultery of Israel (Hosea 4-5)



Hosea 4: The Outline of Indictment



| THE INDICTMENT | BOOK OF HOSEA |
|------------------------------|---|
| Summons To Hear | “Hear the word of the LORD” |
| Name Of The Accused | “O people of Israel...inhabitants of the land” |
| Name Of The Accuser | “For the LORD” |
| Announcement Of Trial | “has a controversy” |
| General Accusation | “There is no faithfulness or kindness, and no knowledge of God in the land” |

Complaints Against Israel

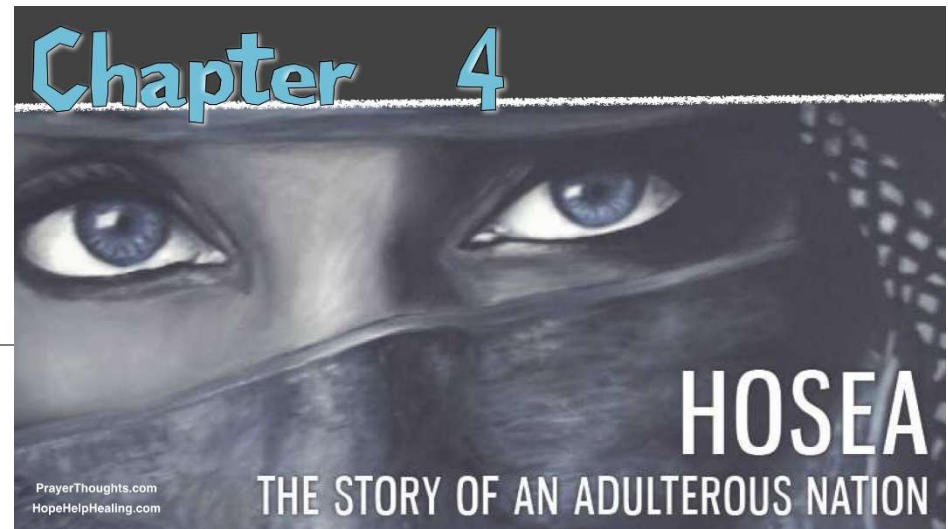
Complaints Against Israel:

1. **threefold indictment** (Hosea 4:1-19)
2. **three guilty parties** (Hosea 5:1-7)
3. **threefold alarm** (Hosea 5:8-15)

Hosea 4: Divine Summary

“Hosea 4 offers a summary of the entire book’s prophetic message. It begins a long indictment on the morally corrupt, politically decaying, and spiritually dead nation presented from God’s point of view....All of nature suffers the tragic consequences of human sin.”

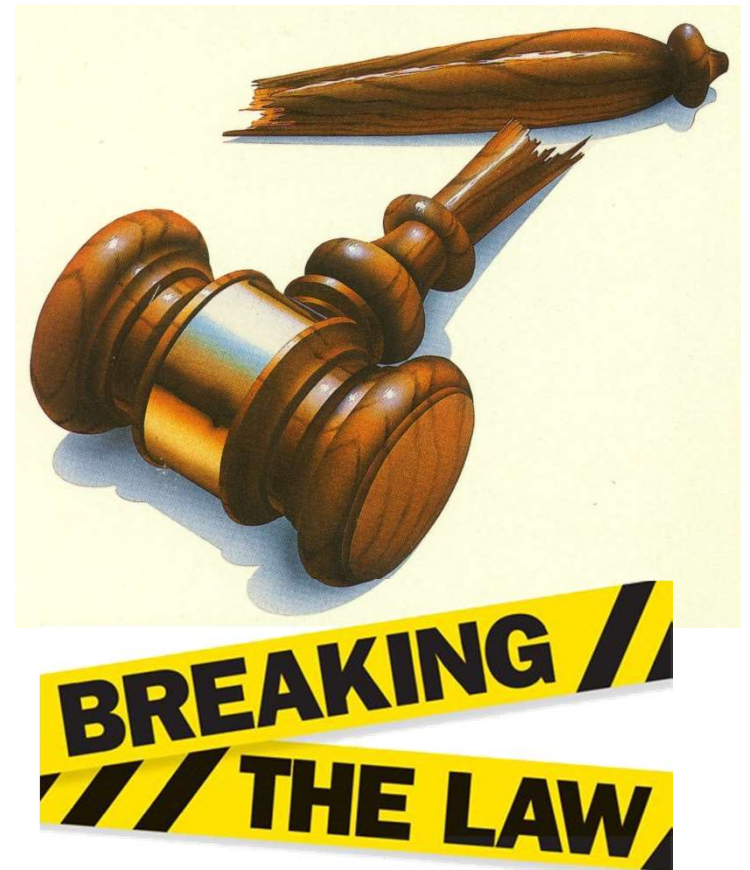
-Zdravko Stefanovic, *Thus Says the Lord: Messages From the Minor Prophets* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2012), p. 21.



Hosea 4: Inexorable Laws of History and God

“What we do morally and spiritually will ultimately take its toll on what we are politically. Perhaps the most significant factor in the collapse of Israel was the moral and spiritual degeneracy of the people.”

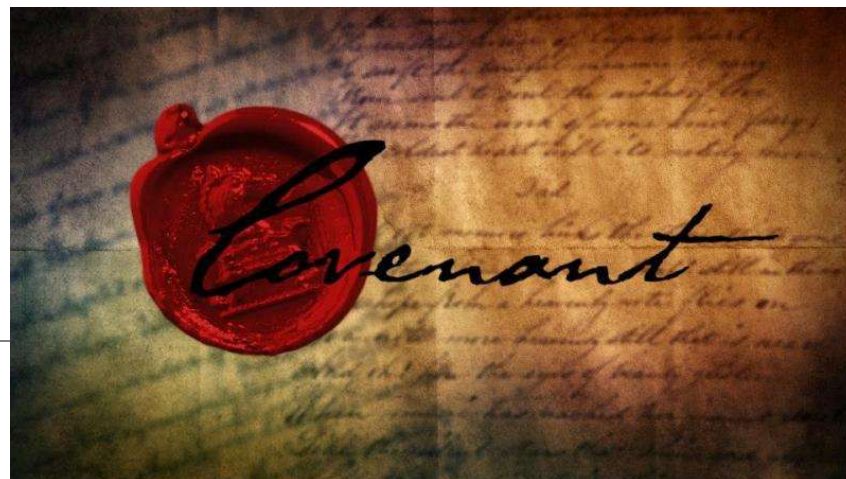
David Allan Hubbard, *With Bands of Love: Lessons From the Book of Hosea* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1968), p. 41.



Breach of Covenant

“The **messages** of the **prophets** are essentially **indictments of Israel for breach of covenant.**”

George E. Mendenhall, *Law and Covenant In Israel and the Ancient Near East* (Pittsburgh, PA: The Biblical Colloquim, 1955), p. 19.



The Basis of the Indictment

“Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is **no faithfulness** or **steadfast love**, and **no knowledge of God** in the land...**my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge**”

- Hosea 4:1, 6

Unfaithful Israel

“The **people of Israel** and the **people of Judah** have been **utterly unfaithful** to me,” declares the LORD.”

- Jeremiah 5:11 (NIV)



“They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, who refused to hear my words. They have gone after other gods to serve them. The **house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant that I made with their fathers.**”

- Jeremiah 11:10

Hosea 1:2 “A Wife of Whoredoms”: A Unique Phrase Only in Hosea

The phrase **'ēšet zēnûnîm** (“wife of whoredoms”), that is a **married woman who is promiscuous**, is only found in **Hosea 1:2**.

In regards to the phrases “a **promiscuous wife**” and “**children of whoredom**.” Both phrases are unique, **occurring only here in Hosea.**”

Francis I. Andersen and David Noel Freedman, *The Anchor Bible: Hosea* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1980/2004), pp. 157, 162.

Hosea to Our Time: Similarities?

**Time of
Hosea**

“they are all
adulterers”
(Hosea 7:4)

**Time of
Christ**

“an evil and
adulterous
generation”
(Matthew 12:39)

**Time of
End**

?



WARNINGS FROM GOD'S WORD

"¹⁸For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. ¹⁹While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage...."

2 Peter 2:18-19

Learning Lessons From The Book of Judges

**“permissive morality
leads to misery and
bondage”**



- Edward M. Blaiklock (1903-1983), professor emeritus of Classics at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, in E.M. Blaiklock, “The Breath of Hell: Perils of Permissiveness,” *Christianity Today*, May 7, 1976, p. 14.

TAPESTRY OF GRACE

“The prophecy of Hosea is a tapestry of grace. As the prophet loved a woman whose crudeness and brazenness must have hurt him deeply, so God’s grace comes to his people in their unloveliness. **Our spiritual condition is never so low that God cannot woo and receive us back to himself as Hosea received Gomer.”**

Thomas Edward McComiskey, ed., *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expository Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009), p. 17.

Hear, Listen, O Israel!!

“**Hear** [shâma] the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is (1) **no faithfulness** or (2) **steadfast love**, and (3) **no knowledge of God** in the land”

- Hosea 4:1

“**Hear** [shâma] this, **O priests!** Pay attention, **O house of Israel!** Give ear, **O house of the king!** For the judgment is for you; for you have been a snare at Mizpah and a net spread upon Tabor.”

- Hosea 5:1

“My God will reject them because they have **not listened** [shâma] to him; they shall be wanderers among the nations.”

- Hosea 9:17

Hosea 4: The Divine Summary

“there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; **they break all bounds**, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.”

- Hosea 4:2

“the concluding phrase of Hosea 4:2, *wědāmîm bědāmîm nāgā û* (**‘bloodshed touches bloodshed’**), which **seems to describe an unending series of crimes**”

Göran Eidevall, *Grapes in the Desert: Metaphors, Models, and Themes in Hosea 4-14* (Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International, 1996), p. 53.

Hosea's Perspective on the Knowledge of God

“Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no **knowledge [da`ath] of God** in the land”

- Hosea 4:1

“My people are destroyed for lack of **knowledge [da`ath]**; because you have rejected **knowledge [da`ath]**, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”

- Hosea 4:6

“Let us know, let us pursue **knowledge [da`ath] of the LORD**; his coming is as certain as the dawn. He will come to us like the rain, like the autumn and spring rains come on the earth.”

- Hosea 6:3 (ISV)

“For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the **knowledge [da`ath] of God** rather than burnt offerings.”

- Hosea 6:6

The Beauty of Knowledge

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: **seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God**, I will also forget thy children.”

- Hosea 4:6



“I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing.”

- Hosea 8:12

Knowing God and Being Known of God: Yada, Yada, Yada

“I know [yada`] **all about Ephraim**; Israel is not hidden from me. Ephraim, you have now turned to prostitution; Israel is corrupt.”

- Hosea 5:3 (NIV)

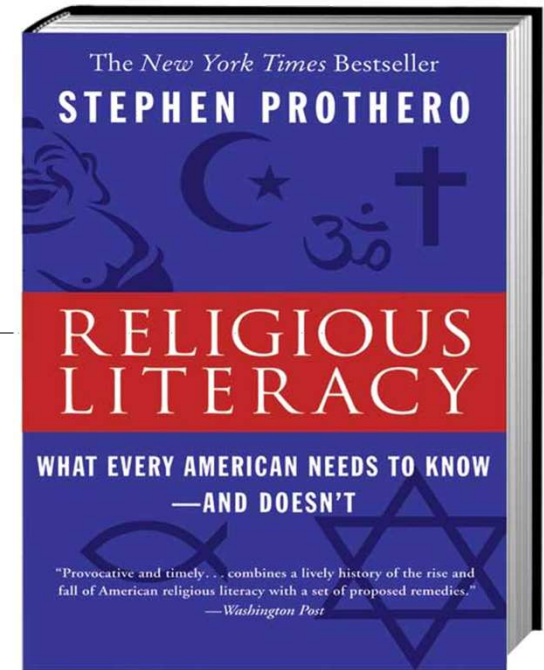
“But I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and besides me there is no savior. **It was I who knew** [yada`] **you in the wilderness**, in the land of drought”

- Hosea 13:4-5

“Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. For the spirit of whoredom is within them, and they **know** [yada`] not the LORD.” (Hosea 5:4)

“I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall **know** [yada`] the LORD” (Hosea 2:20)

Our Joy and Heart's Delight?



“Bible reading has declined since the 1980s and ‘basic Bible knowledge is at a record low.’”

Stephen R. Prothero,
Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know – And Doesn't (San Francisco, CA: HarperSanFrancisco, 2007), p. 30.

“When **your words** came, I ate them; they **were my joy and my heart's delight**, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty.”

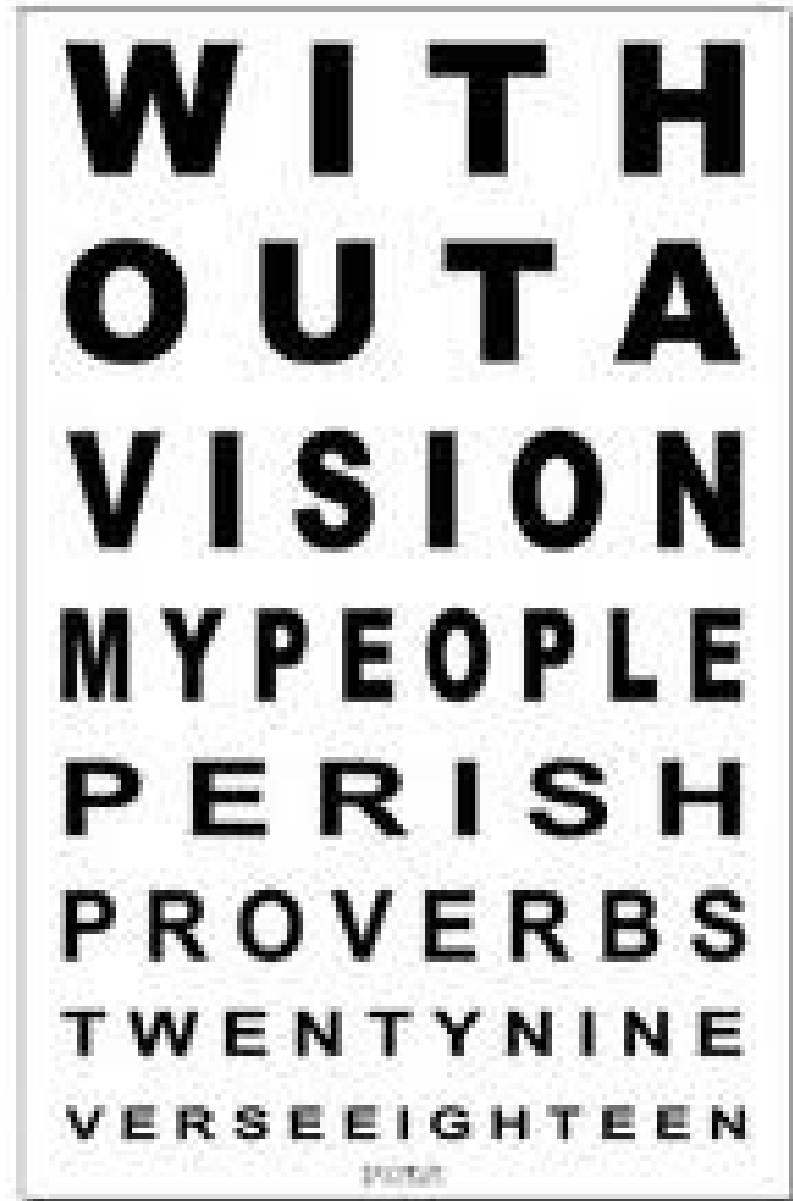
- Jeremiah 15:16 (NIV)

Only one-third of Americans know that Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, ten percent of Americans believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife, and a significant number of Americans believe that Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife.

Without Divine Guidance: Runnin' Wild?

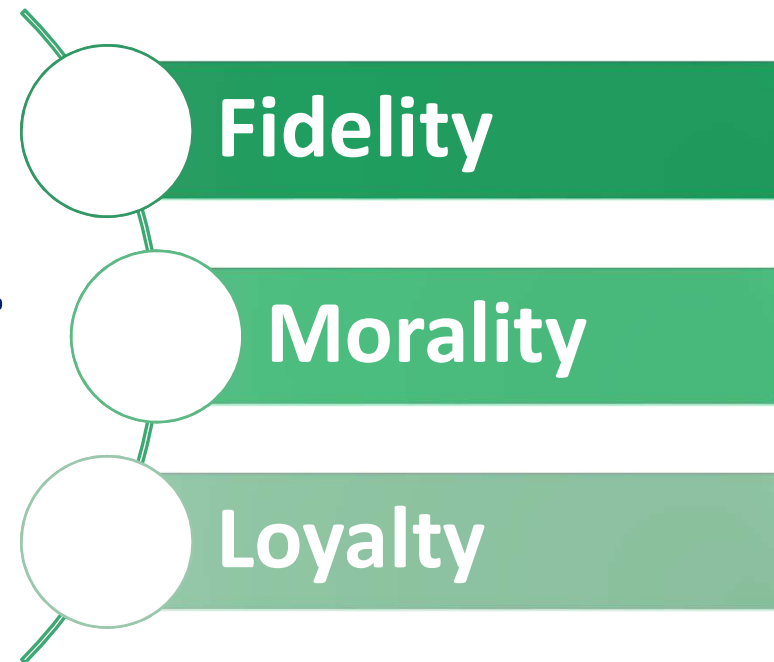
“When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful”

- Proverbs 29:18 (NLT)



The Source of Morality: Fidelity and Love of Family

American Lutheran religious scholar Martin Marty (1928 -) observed: **“A lot of morality comes from fidelity. People say: ‘I am not going to do something that would embarrass or hurt my spouse or family.’”**



“The State of American Values,” *U.S. News & World Report*, December 9, 1985, p. 55.

What's The Point?

“The widespread belief that monogamous marriage is obsolete is a **grave portent for our society.”**

George F. Gilder, *Sexual Suicide* (New York: Bantam Books, 1973), p. 47.

Hosea 4: The Divine Summary

“Therefore the **land mourns**, and **all who dwell in it** languish, and also the **beasts** of the field and the **birds** of the heavens, and even the **fish** of the sea are taken away.”

- Hosea 4:3

Michael De Roche contends that **Hosea 4:3** speaks of a “reversal of creation.”

Michael De Roche, “The Reversal of Creation in Hosea,” *Vetus Testamentum* 31 (4) October 1981, pp. 401-409.

The Genesis Directive

“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”

- Genesis 2:15

The Hebrew word “**keep**” in **Genesis 2:15** is **shâmar** which means “to guard, protect, preserve, save.”

“The ravaged world, the polluted atmosphere, the poisoned rivers, dead lakes, encroaching desert, and all the irreversible damage to man's fragile environment comes from treating the globe we live on with contempt. **Modern man is arrogant and domineering. Man was put in a garden, says the old Hebrew account in Genesis ‘to tend it.’**”

E. M. Blaiklock, *The Psalms of the Great Rebellion* (London: Lakeland, 1970), p. 39.

Glory in the Book of Hosea

“The more priests there are, the more they sin against me. **They have exchanged the glory of God for the shame of idols.**”

- Hosea 4:7 (NLT)

“Their drink is sour: they have committed harlotry continually: **her rulers love shame more than glory**” *

- Hosea 4:18 (King James 2000 Bible)

* *The phrase “more than glory” not in most translations.*

“**Ephraim’s glory shall fly away like a bird**— no birth, no pregnancy, no conception!”

- Hosea 9:11

“The inhabitants of Samaria tremble for the calf of Beth-aven. Its people mourn for it, and so do its idolatrous priests— those who rejoiced over it and over **its glory— for it has departed from them**”

- Hosea 10:5

Israel: Under the Spell of Idols

“Preferring Disgrace to Honor”

"The people of Israel are under the spell of idols. Let them go their own way. **After drinking much wine, they delight in their prostitution, preferring disgrace to honor.**"

- Hosea 4:17-18 (GNT)



"They made kings, but not through me. They set up princes, but I knew it not. **With their silver and gold they made idols for their own destruction.**

I have **spurned your calf, O Samaria.** My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of innocence?

For it is from Israel; a craftsman made it; it is not God. **The calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces.**"

- Hosea 8:4-6

The Genesis of Corruption

CORRUPTION

“You grow rich from the sins of my people, and so you want them to sin more and more.”

- Hosea 4:8 (GNT)

“A commercial attitude to life always breeds callousness and lack of humanity, culminating in unscrupulous actions. **‘The love of money is the root of all evils’.**”

-J.T.E. Renner, *Chi Rho Commentary on Hosea* (Adelaide: Lutheran Publishing House, 1979), p. 81.



Hosea 4:10-15:

Ephraim “Playing The Harlot” with Assyria

“But they acted treacherously against the God of their fathers and played the harlot after the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God had destroyed before them. So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul, king of Assyria, even the spirit of Tilgath-pilneser king of Assyria, and he carried them away into exile, namely the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and brought them to Halah, Habor, Hara and to the river of Gozan, to this day.”

- 1 Chronicles 5:25-26 (NASB)

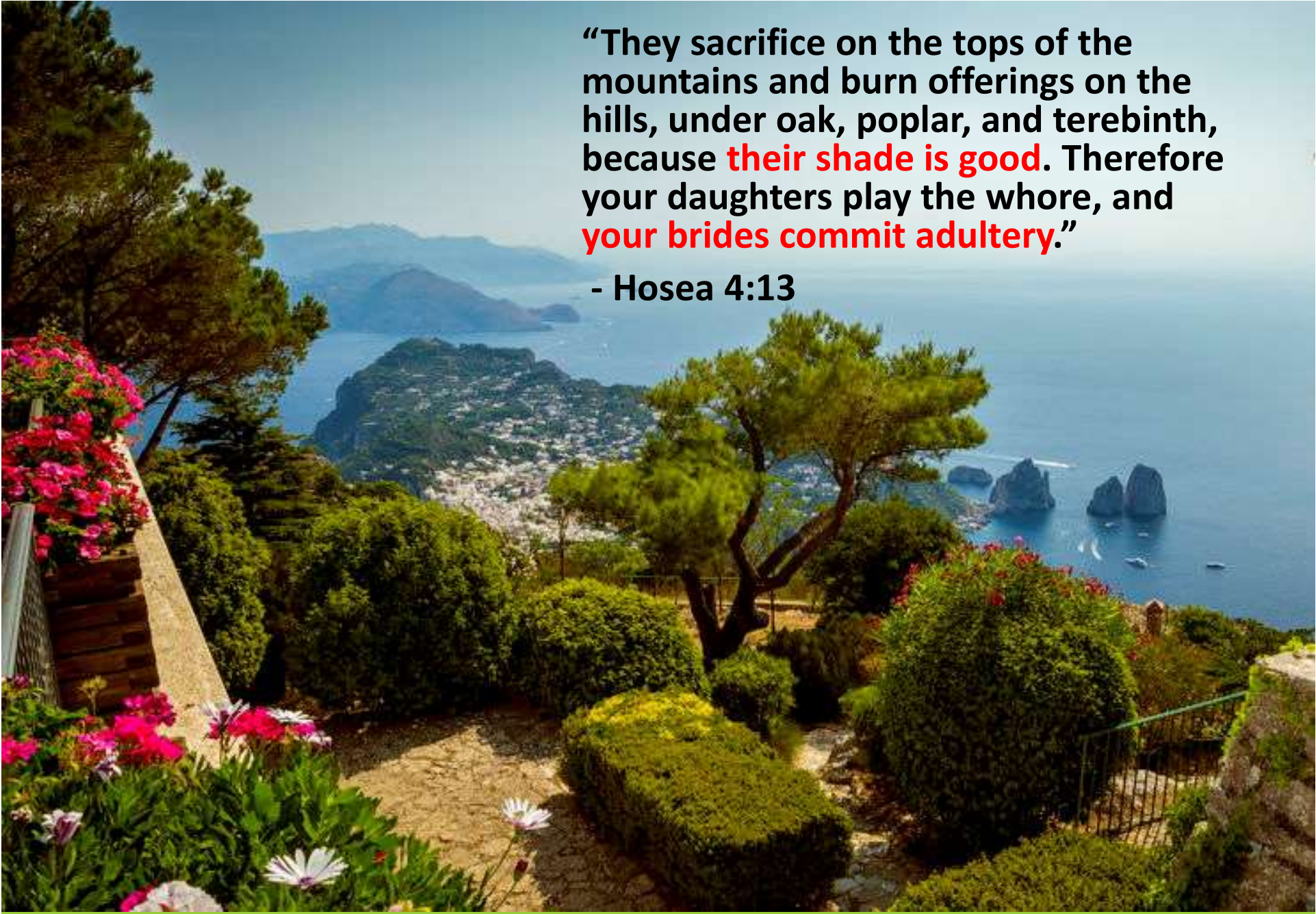
Hosea 4:11: Deuteronomy and Hosea

“The central theological issue of *covenant faithfulness* is also developed in terms of *Deuteronomic ideas*. The statement of Hosea 4:11 is that wine and new wine take away ‘the heart of my people,’ the heart being the center of loyalty and decision-making. They are unable to choose or honor the choices they have made. This is an indictment which is closely related to the summons of **Deuteronomy 6:5: ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart.’”**

“Harlotry, wine and new wine take away the understanding”

**- Hosea 4:11
(NASB)**

Walter Brueggemann, *Tradition for Crisis: A Study in Hosea* (Atlanta, GA: John Knox Press, 1968), pp. 44-45.



“They sacrifice on the tops of the mountains and burn offerings on the hills, under oak, poplar, and terebinth, because **their shade is good. Therefore your daughters play the whore, and **your brides commit adultery**.”**

- Hosea 4:13

Israel Has “Played the Harlot”

“**For their mother has played the harlot**; She who conceived them has acted shamefully. For she said, 'I will go after my lovers, Who give me my bread and my water, My wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.'”

- Hosea 2:5 (NASB)

“Then I said to her, ‘You shall stay with me for many days. **You shall not play the harlot**, nor shall you have a man; so I will also be toward you.’”

- Hosea 3:3 (NASB)

“**Though you, Israel, play the harlot**, Do not let Judah become guilty; Also do not go to Gilgal, Or go up to Beth-aven And take the oath: ‘As the LORD lives!’”

- Hosea 4:15



Idolatry at Bethel and Gilgal



“Though you play the whore, O Israel, let not Judah become guilty. **Enter not into Gilgal, nor go up to Beth-aven [Bethel]** [“Wicked House”], and swear not, ‘As the LORD lives.’”

- Hosea 4:15

“Don't worship at the pagan altars at Bethel; don't go to the shrines at Gilgal or Beersheba. For the people of Gilgal will be dragged off into exile, and the people of Bethel will be reduced to nothing.”

- Amos 5:5 (NLT)

Hosea 4: Probing of Israel's Sin of Idolatry

“Like a skillful and experienced physician, the prophet Hosea keeps probing at the core of Israel’s sin, namely, her idolatry.”

Charles Lee Feinberg, *The Minor Prophets* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1976), p. 49.



Hosea 4: Part 1

Shame in the Book of Hosea

“For their mother has played the whore; **she who conceived them has acted shamefully...**”

- Hosea 2:5

“The more they increased, the more they sinned against me; **I will change their glory into shame**”

- Hosea 4:7

“When their drink is gone, they give themselves to whoring; **their rulers dearly love shame**. A wind has wrapped them in its wings, and **they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.**”

- Hosea 4:18-19

Part 2: Shame in the Book of Hosea

“Like grapes in the wilderness, I found Israel. Like the first fruit on the fig tree in its first season, I saw your fathers. But **they came to Baal-peor and consecrated themselves to the thing of shame**, and became detestable like the thing they loved”

- Hosea 9:10

“The thing itself shall be carried to Assyria as tribute to the great king. **Ephraim shall be put to shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his idol**”

- Hosea 10:6



The Forgotten Concept of Shame

“Therefore the showers have been withheld, and no spring rains have fallen. Yet **you have the brazen look of a prostitute; you refuse to blush with shame**”

- Jeremiah 3:3 (NIV)

““Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; **they did not know how to blush.** Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be overthrown,’ says the LORD.”

- Jeremiah 6:15



What Brought Israel Shame

“Then, at the evening sacrifice, I rose from my self-abasement, with my tunic and cloak torn, and fell on my knees with my hands spread out to the LORD my God and prayed: **‘I am too ashamed and disgraced, my God, to lift up my face to you, because our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached to the heavens.’**”

- Ezra 9:5-6 (NIV)

“A whirlwind will sweep them away, and **their sacrifices will bring them shame.**”

- Hosea 4:19 (NIV)

“It will be carried to Assyria as tribute for the great king. Ephraim will be disgraced; **Israel will be ashamed of its foreign alliances.**”

- Hosea 10:6 (NIV)

There is a Point To Turn to Restore a Repentant Believer

“so you should rather **turn to forgive and comfort** him, or he **may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow**. So I beg you to **reaffirm your love** for him.”

- 2 Corinthians 2:7-8

- “Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should **restore that person gently**. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.”

-Galatians 6:1 (NIV)

“...my people are foolish...”

“**For my people are foolish**; they know me not; they are stupid children; they have no understanding. They are ‘wise’ —in doing evil! **But how to do good they know not.**”

- Jeremiah 4:22

“**The Lord has said that they don’t even know how to do right.** They have become rich from violence and robbery”

- Amos 3:10 (CEV)



Hosea 4:6: To Know God – the Quest for Wisdom

“And he [God] said to man, ‘**Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.**’”

- Job 28:28



Hosea 4:13 The Modern Problem of Instant Gratification

“Superficiality is the curse of our age. The doctrine of instant gratification is a primary spiritual problem. The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people or gifted people, but for deep people.”

Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1978), p. 1.



Complaint Against Three Parties

“Hear this, **O priests!**
Pay attention, O house
of Israel! Give ear,
O house of the king! For
the judgment is for you;
for you have been a
snare at Mizpah and a
net spread upon Tabor.”

- Hosea 5:1

“But **if we judged**
ourselves rightly,
we would not be
judged.”

- 1 Corinthians
11:31 (NASB)

Hosea 5:1:

Our Failure to Examine Ourselves

“It is always easy to discern and discuss the folly and failures of others; it is easier still to be blind to the self-same errors in ourselves.”

Herbert F. Stevenson, *Three Prophetic Voices: Studies in Joel, Amos and Hosea* (Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1969), p. 124.

Judgment Is Not the Final Word From God



“We saw how Hosea pictures the Israelites as an unfaithful wife and God as an abandoned husband. Even though the prophets announce God’s judgment upon Israel, they also dare to speak of the future in hopeful terms. **Judgment is not God’s final word....Israel’s infidelity does not lead to divorce, but rather, God’s faithfulness brings about reconciliation.**”

Christina Bucher, *The Prophecy of Amos and Hosea* (Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 1997), p. 47.

“...until there was no remedy”



“The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, **because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place.** But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD rose against his people, **until there was no remedy.**”

- 2 Chronicles 36:15-16



Hosea 5:4

A Study of Repentance in The Book of Hosea

“Afterward the children of Israel shall **return** [šûb] and seek the LORD their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the LORD and to his goodness in the latter days”

- Hosea 3:5

“**Their deeds do not permit them to return** [šûb] **to their God**. For the spirit of whoredom is within them, and they know not the LORD”

- Hosea 5:4

“I will **return** [šûb] **again to my place**, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me”

- Hosea 5:15

“Come, **let us return** [šûb] **to the LORD**; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up”

- Hosea 6:1

Justice and Mercy?

How Does God Resolve the Conundrum?



THE SOLUTION

**Our
repentance
+
Our Father's
grace and mercy**

Goodness and Severity of God: Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment



Severity
(Punishment
and Judgment)

“If you, LORD,
kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could
stand? But with you
there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with
reverence, serve
you.”

- Psalm 130:3-4 (NIV)

Goodness
(Mercy
and Love)



How Do We Resolve the Conundrum?



Threefold Alarm in Hosea 5

“Blow the **horn** in **Gibeah**,
the **trumpet** in **Ramah**.
Sound the **alarm** at
Beth-aven;
we will follow you,
O Benjamin!”

- Hosea 5:8



Coming Assyrian Invasions

- 1) **740 B.C.** – Tiglath-pileser (1 Chronicles 5:26)
- 2) **722 B.C.** – Shalmaneser and Sargon II (2 Kings 17:5-6)
- 3) **701 B.C.** – Sennacherib (2 Chronicles 32:22)



Hosea 5:11

“Ah, the proud crown of **the drunkards of Ephraim**, and the fading flower of its **glorious beauty**, which is on the **head of the rich valley of those overcome with wine!**”

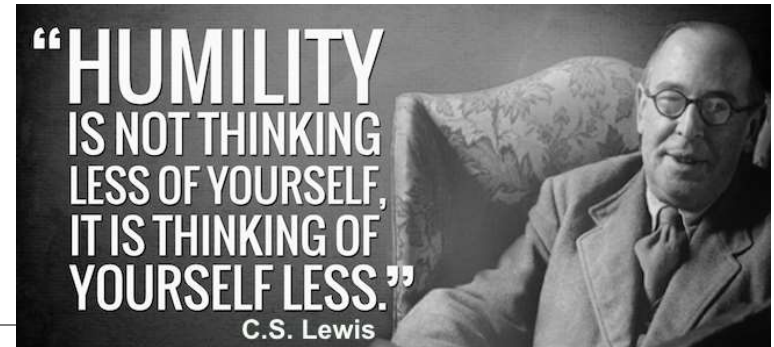
- Isaiah 28:1



“Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgment, **because he was determined** [yâ'al: resolved or pleased] **to go after filth**”

- Hosea 5:11

True Humility



Humility was so foreign a concept in the pagan world that there was **no equivalent word for it** (as defined by Judeo-Christian ethics) in any secular language.

In fact, the **Greek word for humility** (*tapeinophrosune* and *tapeinoo*) in the biblical texts has the connotation of **contempt among most contemporary and ancient pagan authors.**

E.R. Dodds, *The Greeks and the Irrational* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1951), p. 215.

Humility: The Pathway to Honor



“Before a downfall the heart is haughty, but **humility comes before honor.**”

- Proverbs 18:12 (NIV)

“The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and **humility comes before honor.**”

- Proverbs 15:33

Hosea 5:12-13

Ephraim Went to Assyria for Help

“But **I am like a moth** [‘âsh] **to Ephraim**, and like dry rot to the house of Judah. **When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah his wound, then Ephraim went to Assyria, and sent to the great king. But he is not able to cure you or heal your wound.**”

- Hosea 5:12-13

“**Therefore I'm pus to Ephraim**, dry rot in the house of Judah. When Ephraim saw he was sick and Judah saw his pus-filled sores, **Ephraim went running to Assyria, went for help to the big king. But he can't heal you. He can't cure your oozing sores.**”

- Hosea 5:12-13 (MSG)

Hosea 5:12-13

Ephraim Went to Assyria for Help

Regarding Hosea 5:12, German Protestant scholar Hans Walter Wolff (1911-1993), comments: “Moreover, the moth destroys clothing (Isa. 50:9; 51:8), not people. **That ‘pus’ is the correct meaning is conclusively shown in the continuation of Hosea 5:13a, which speaks of ‘sickness’ and ‘wound’ as the consequence of Yahweh’s theophany of judgment.** ‘Rottenness’ also destroys people, not things.”

Hans Walter Wolff, *A Commentary on the Book of the Prophet Hosea*. Translated from the German by Gary Stansell. Edited by Paul D. Hanson (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1965/1974), p. 115.

In Hosea 5:12, the Septuagint uses the milder terms of "disturbance" (xapaxn) and "goad" (kevxpov) as epithets of Yahweh rather than “pus” and “rottenness.”

The primary root of ‘âsh can either mean “pus” and “moth.”

Wounded By Sin



“From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds; they are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil.”

- Isaiah 1:6

Samaria: Source of Sin

“The **problem with Samaria was that she was toxic**; her infection had spread to Judah.”

- Warren W. Wiersbe, “Micah” in *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 2002), Vol. 4, p. 391.



Hosea 5:14: "the strongest possible metaphor of destruction"

"For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, and like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, even I, will tear and go away; I will carry off, and no one shall rescue."

Hosea 5:14



Hosea 5:15

Fundamental Principle for All

“I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me.”

- Hosea 5:15