

The Minor Prophets

Hosea – Chapter 4

The Book of 12 ("Minor Prophets")



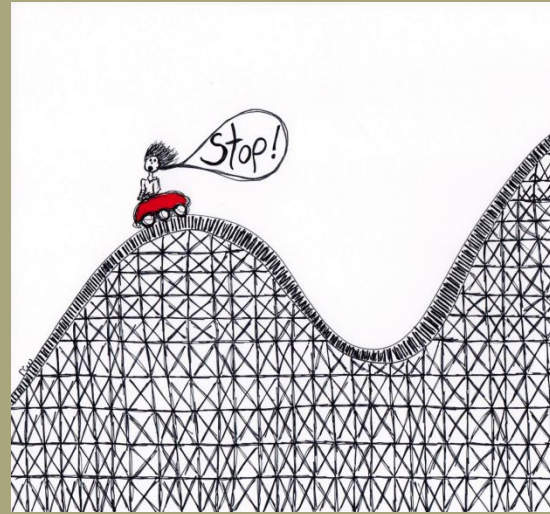
Hosea



Chapters 1 - 3



Chapters 4 - 14



4:1 Hear . . . O children of Israel . . .

Controversy

5:1 Hear . . . O priests . . .

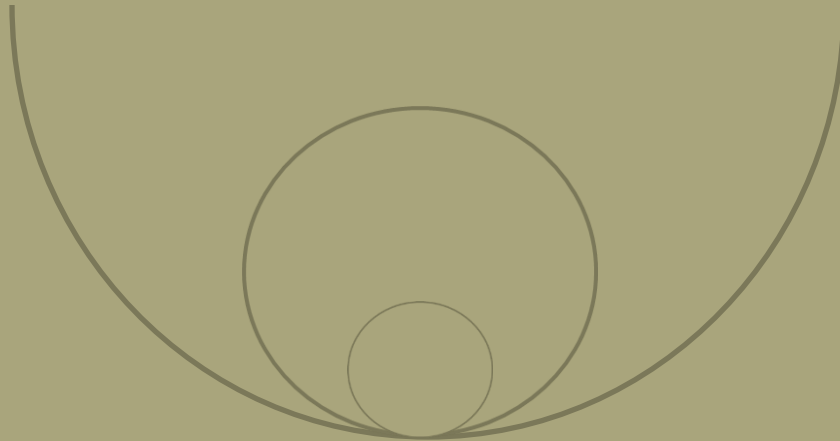
Judgment

6:1 Come let us return to the Lord . . .

6:7 But

4:1 Hear . . . O children of Israel . . .

4:15 Though you play the whore, O
Israel, let not Judah become guilty.



World
Israel
Judah

God's Controversy With Israel

No faithfulness or steadfast love (v1)

No knowledge of God (v1)

Lawlessness (v2)

three points repeatedly addressed in 1 John

The Result

As man is punished, all of God's
creation is afflicted (v3)

c.f. Romans 8:22

Verse 4

Yet let no one contend, and let none accuse, for with you is my contention, O priest. (ESV)

Yet let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof; For your people are like those who contend with the priest. (NASB)

God Himself is Dealing With This

Because they lack knowledge of God,
People, Priest, and Prophet all shall
stumble (Verses 5, 6)

**False prophets,
not of the Baals
but of YHWH**

**Lack of knowledge
of God is no excuse
in Israel.**

In Other Words....

Blessing increased the sin of the people,
so God will take the blessing away **(v7)**

Priests profited from the sin of the people
and are anxious for more. **(v8)**

Therefore both the priests and the people
must be punished. **(v9)**

How Will They Be Punished?

God will let them have what they want . . .

But it will not make them happy or more numerous in the land. **(v10)**

Their understanding will continue to decline until their idolatry makes them ridiculously stupid. **(vv11,12)**

A Spirit of Whoredom

Numerous places of corrupt worship will lead them into to outrageous sexual immorality (and other corruption) throughout society and the nation shall come to ruin. **(vv13,14)**

Verse 15

To some extent Judah will be protected from the Spirit of Whoredom which possesses the Northern Kingdom.

If they can avoid visiting places like Gilgal and Beth-aven and saying carelessly things like “As the Lord lives.”

Verse 16

It is easy to see how Israel is like a stubborn heifer (young female cow).

Can the LORD now feed them like a lamb in a broad pasture?

Leave Him Alone

Ephraim = Israel (Northern Kingdom)

Their Spirit of Whoredom and their rulers
will bring them to a shameful place,
and the LORD will let that happen.
(vv. 17, 18, 19)