

Hosea 4 The Great Controversy

Note: This is a great preaching chapter.

The man of God is called to *preach the word*, 2 Tim 4:1-2.

Overview :

"No doubt, Hosea's neighbors talked about Gomer's sins and pointed a finger at her. But now God tells the prophet to point the finger at the nation and reveal their sins." The priests had abandoned their duty of preaching *the word of the LORD*, i.e. *truth*. And the result was sin abounded in the nation: swearing, lying, drunkenness, murder, treachery, adultery and idolatry were rampant. When the sinners resist God's pleas for repentance, so that He may apply *mercy* : judgment will fall (v 9 & 3).

v1 *controversy* def: dispute, agitation of contrary opinions
HB - 13x in 12 v first = Deu 17:8 last = 1 Tim 3:16

no truth - John 8:44 the source of the trouble
In the Old Testament *mercy* flows from *truth* - Pr 3:3 & 16:6
knowledge of God brings righteousness - 1 Cor 15:34

v3 Sin brings full misery : *the land mourns ... every one languish*
def: *languish* - to lose strength or animation; to be dull, spiritless, to wither or fade
hx: fulfilled 100 years later - Jer 14:1-6
spir: If man (the creature) won't serve God (the Creator) :
then the creation won't serve the creature.

v4 *people strive with the priest* = a violation of the law, Deu 17:12
no man reprove another = societal restraint is gone, Lev 19:17

v5 *Therefore shalt thou fall* = the fall of the wicked, Pro 11:5
the prophet also = Micah 3:5-7
thy mother - hx: the land spir: 'mother' church doctr: Rev 17:5

v6 the root: the people *rejected knowledge*
the result: *they are destroyed and rejected...* by the LORD, v 1 Pr 29:18
the roster: *priests, people,....and children !!* Exo 20:5 Ps 137:8-9

v7 Prosperity is a trap. God has warned us in the OT Deu 6:10-12 & the NT 1 Tim 6:9
spir: Rev 3:14 & 17
Take heed to the *words of Agur* in Proverbs 30:8-9

Verses 8-11 describe the problem of leaders being led by the people rather than taking the lead. God's pastors are to follow God's Son and His word, not the wishes of the flock. Leaders are to lead by precept and principle, not by popular opinion and polls. [Good night to Rick Warren and *The Purpose Driven Church*]

v8 *They* = the rejected, apostate *priest* of verse 6.

hx: The priests were eating the sin offering. This is forbidden - Lev 6:30

spir: Today's pastors *eat* (i.e. read & watch) the same stuff their people eat : novels, magazines, popular TV shows, movies, current events....

v9 This is backward (i.e. *froward*).

God's desire is exactly the opposite : "like priest, like people" .

hx: Exo 32 - When Aaron foolishly let the people lead him to make a *molten calf*.

spir: Paul warned Timothy of this perpetual problem 2 Tim 4:3

v10 Un-Biblical religious activity leaves one unsatisfied.

v11 *Whoredom and wine* = lustful activities, banquetings, orgies...

new wine = fresh grape juice from new harvest.

Here it symbolizes material prosperity.

Verses 12-14 The people have descended into the vanity of bowing down to idols and asking them for counsel !?!

v12 ~ Isa 44:17

great truth = Jer 10:8

spir: The *doctrine of vanities* today = "the originals".

The so-called scholars *their staff declareth* we need the originals to know God's words, but that *spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err* and go *a whoring from God*.

v14 God's merciful delay, Eccl 8:11 causes them to persist in their sin
therefore the people that doth not understand shall fall ... into hell-fire.

Verses 15-19 God woos Judah to separate from Israel with a beautiful promise of provision, v 16.

v15 *Beth-aven* = house of idols. spir: today = the Roman Catholic church

v16 *backsliding* Pro 14:14

v17 A verse for Mormons, along with Psalm 78:67

v 18 *Give ye* see Proverbs 30:15