

Midweek Bible Study

Exposition of Hosea

The Case Against Faithless Israel (1)

Hos. 4:1-14

Introduction (second main section)

1. This is a lawsuit (rib) oracle. A courtroom speech.
2. It extends from 4:1-11:11
3. 4:1 lays out the three indictments

(1) No *emet*

(2) No *hesed*

(3) No knowledge of God

The indictments are then addressed in reversed order

No knowledge of God (4:2-6:3)

No lovingkindness (6:4-10:15)

No truth (11:12-14:9)

I. The Summons

- A. Hear/listen to the Word of the LORD, O sons of Israel
- B. Yahweh has a case against the inhabitants of the land

II. The Indictments

- A. No faithfulness
- B. No kindness
- C. No knowledge of God

III. The Specific Violations (2)

- A. Swearing - cursing (3rd commandment, Ex. 20:7; Dt. 5:11)
- B. Deception (9th commandment, Ex. 20:16; Dt 5:20)
- C. Murder (6th commandment, Ex. 20:13; Dt 5:17)
- D. Stealing (8th commandment, Ex 20:15; Dt 5:19)
- E. Adultery (7th commandment, Ex. 20:14; Dt 5:18)
- F. Employ violence (ESV, they break all bounds)
*to tear, to break, signifies in this instance a violent breaking in upon others, for the purpose of robbery and murder*¹ -- So that bloodshed follows bloodshed

IV. The Sentence (3)

- A. A picture of drought - Lev. 26:19; Dt. 28:22-24
- B. Life and land suffer because of the sins of the nation

¹ Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch, [Commentary on the Old Testament](#), vol. 10 (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996), 51.



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V. Accusations Against Priest and Prophet (4-10)

- A. The lawsuit focuses on the priest (4-5)
- B. The Failure of Spiritual Leadership (6)
- C. The Spread of Failed Spiritual Leadership (7)
- D. They feed on the people's sins (8)
- E. The Influence of Spiritual Leadership (9-10)

VI. Accusations Against False Worship (11-14)

- A. Spiritual whoredom destroys one's mental/spiritual abilities (11-12)
- B. Those without understanding are ruined (13-14)

Conclusion

