

BROKEN HEARTS

HOSEA 4 2-5-2020



The leadership in the Northern Kingdom of Israel was failing to guard the people. God had no choice but to take them to court as He does in other biblical passages (Psalm 94:2; Isaiah 1:12; Jer. 2:9, 29; 25:31; Micah 6:2; Rom. 3:19). As we read His case against the Hebrew race, we may begin to see that it mirrors His case against the human race.

HOMELAND INSECURITY

According to the DHS website, the Department of Homeland Security has a vital mission: to secure the nation from the many threats we face. This requires the dedication of more than 240,000 employees.

DHS jobs range from aviation and border security to emergency response, from cybersecurity analysts to chemical facility inspectors. The primary goal is clear - keeping America safe.

During the days of Hosea, the nation of Israel was not secure. The fourth

chapter of Hosea could be labeled with two frightening words, *Homeland Insecurity*.

As we read through the kinds of threats that put their nation at risk, it might be a good time for us to reevaluate how secure our nation is right now.

Indictment against Corruption, 4:1-2

From this chapter forward, we move on from the instability of the home life of Hosea to the greater tragedy of ungodliness across his homeland.

Sins of Omission, v. 1

The nation stood guilty before the Supreme Court of the Universe for sins of omission listed in verse 1. What was missing in the nation? "*There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land...*"

Sins of Commission, v. 2

So what did God see happening across their nation? He lists what He saw. "*There is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.*"

Homeland Security

The Department of Homeland Security oversees border security, immigration, the Coast Guard, disaster relief (FEMA), airport security (TSA) and the Secret Service.

Insight into the Consequences, 4:3-5

Would you agree that life is made up of choices? Whether we like it or not, after we make a decision, we then must face the consequences (good or bad) that go along with the choices we have made.

It is sad sometimes when we see people that cannot connect the dots between the choices they have made and the ensuing repercussions of those decisions.

In Hosea 4:3-5 the prophet attempts to help the nation see the realities that are connected to the poor choices the people had made.

1. Connecting the Consequences to the Choices, v. 3

Some scholars believe that this is a reference to a severe drought that would come to the region. Apart from Hosea's assistance, would they even conclude that the difficulties of the drought were a result of the decisions to disobey the Lord?

2. Accepting the Consequences of the Choices, v. 4

One of the most popular default settings for reaping what we ourselves have sown is attempting to shift the blame to someone else. The prophet would have none of that! Have you ever seen others try to hang the blame for the fallout from their sin on someone else?

3. Approaching the Consequences for the Choices, v. 5

Much like a time-released pill, the people were not yet reaping the entire harvest yet. There would be more to come! The "mother" was the nation of Israel.

Information within the Commandments, 4:6

Next, the Lord breaks down how their bad decisions came about. The root problem began with a lack of biblical information.

This is why across our nation and any nation it is so vital that we are in the Word daily and participate in a local, bible-teaching church.

Access to the Information

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."

Rejection of the Information

"...because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to Me."

Indifference to the Information

"...And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children."

Romans chapter 10 addresses these same key issues on the mission fields. People just need to hear the Word in order for faith to be produced in their hearts.

Increase without Contentment, 4:7-10

How much does it take to be happy? One survey conducted in 13 regions around the world discovered that many feel they would need \$161,810 in order to feel "really happy".

I disagree. Philippians 4:11-13 tells us the secret to contentment is not based upon what we have but Who we have in life.

Hosea confronts a prosperous people who were about to make a downward spiral and lose it all. Let's follow the downward staircase and see how a wealthy nation lost everything.

disobedience, vs. 7, 10

dishonor, v. 7

dishonesty, vs. 8-9

discipline, v. 9

dissatisfaction, v. 10

disappearance, v. 10

Infidelity at the Core, 4:10-13

What was at the core of this nation in disarray? Spiritual adultery. Just as Hosea had experienced the tragedy of an unfaithful spouse, God was charging Israel with unfaithfulness to Him. The root problem was not the economy, the politicians, the enemies, and so forth.

Let's see what Hosea tells us about the problem of unfaithfulness. It is like a cancer that can silently devour the heart and soul of a nation.

infidelity leads to emptiness, v. 10

infidelity begins with error, v. 10

infidelity briefly brings enjoyment, v. 11, 13

infidelity always ends with enslavement, v. 11

BeliefNet has an article on the rise of adultery in the US. It states that in 2005 the percent of adultery was 22% but by 2016 it had risen to 33%. The death of loyalty is a serious issue for any family, any nation and any people.

Influence upon the Children, 4:13-16

They say that when it comes to children, "*more lessons are caught than taught*". This is why the worst part about straying from the Lord is the bad influence that it brings upon the children.

Hosea warns the people of the terrible impact their conduct would have upon future generations of Israeli young people in Hosea 4:13-16. The current generation was stubborn about their sin so the effects were going to trickle down to the behavior of the next generations with even more immorality and more unfaithfulness. How sad to read, "*Therefore your daughters play the whore...*"

Income from the Compromises, 4:17-19

Thomas Jefferson once said, "*Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just.*"

What Jefferson was referring to was the justice of God. Galatians 6:7 says, "*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*" Similarly, Paul said in Romans 6:23, "*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"

Withdrawal of God, v. 17

"Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone."

A professor once asked our class in seminary, "Class, which would you rather experience for discipline - the removal of the hand of God's blessing and protection, or the sting of God's hand of rebuke and discipline?" Read what David chose when given three options for discipline in 2 Samuel 24:10-14. Another cross-reference is Proverbs 1:24-31.

Shame without God, vs. 18-19

"...their rulers dearly love shame...they shall be ashamed..."

Proverbs 3:35 is a clear word about fools displaying disgrace. Jeremiah 6:15 is a sad commentary on the lowest level people can reach where they no longer even feel shame over sinful behavior.

Hosea 4, ESV

- ¹ *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;*
- ² *there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.*
- ³ *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.*
- ⁴ *Yet let no one contend, and let none accuse, for with you is My contention, O priest.*
- ⁵ *You shall stumble by day; the prophet also shall stumble with you by night; and I will destroy your mother.*
- ⁶ *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, 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.*
- ⁷ *The more they increased, the more they sinned against me; I will change their glory into shame.*
- ⁸ *They feed on the sin of my people; they are greedy for their iniquity.*
- ⁹ *And it shall be like people, like priest; I will punish them for their ways and repay them for their deeds.*
- ¹⁰ *They shall eat, but not be satisfied; they shall play the whore, but not multiply, because they have forsaken the Lord to cherish*
- ¹¹ *whoredom, wine, and new wine, which take away the understanding.*
- ¹² *My people inquire of a piece of wood, and their walking staff gives them oracles. For a spirit of whoredom has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the whore.*
- ¹³ *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.*
- ¹⁴ *I will not punish your daughters when they play the whore, nor your brides when they commit adultery; for the men themselves go aside with prostitutes and sacrifice with cult prostitutes, and a people without understanding shall come to ruin.*
- ¹⁵ *Though you play the whore, O Israel, let not Judah become guilty. Enter not into Gilgal, nor go up to Beth-aven, and swear not, "As the Lord lives."*
- ¹⁶ *Like a stubborn heifer, Israel is stubborn; can the Lord now feed them like a lamb in a broad pasture?*
- ¹⁷ *Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone.*
- ¹⁸ *When their drink is gone, they give themselves to whoring; their rulers dearly love shame.*
- ¹⁹ *A wind has wrapped them in its wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.*