

***\*Israel and the Church have different origins, different roles, and destinies, but we can draw parallels in God’s judgment and His love for His people.***

*\*Hosea 4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, you Israelites, because the LORD has a charge to bring against you who live in the land: "There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land. (KJV) 1 Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.*

*2 There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.*

*3 Because of this the land dries up, and all who live in it waste away; the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea are swept away.*

*4 "But let no one bring a charge, let no one accuse another, for your people are like those who bring charges against a priest.*

*5 You stumble day and night, and the prophets stumble with you. So I will destroy your mother—*

*6 my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.* ***(NIV)***

*\*Hosea 4:7 The more priests there were, the more they sinned against me; they exchanged their glorious God for something disgraceful.*

*\*Lack of the knowledge of God can destroy us.*

1. V:1 **Three key issues with a Nation of people** that were created to exalt God.
2. **No truth** in a nation will cause deception to be the norm.

1. **No mercy** in a nation will divide it according to who is in control. ***(Heb. Chesed – covenant loyalty)***
2. **When there’s no knowledge of God** in a nation they will allow any standard of conduct to erode at an extreme pace and often in the name of freedom.
3. V:2 **Blood touches blood (KJV)** this outrageous behavior becomes a way of life that you will see this behavior between relatives.

***Violence that characterizes the landscape is so great, it culminates in wanted bloodshed.***

1. V:3- 7 **The falling away and it’s a shame** for both the priest and the people.
2. V:4-5 They can’t even rebuke each other because they are all sinning.

**Stumble** – “to totter, to trip and fall,” or “to stumble”

1. The people will come under wrath and the Nation (Their mother) will be destroyed.
2. V:6-7 Insight from God and His Word are available they reject it. Instead of the glory of God they have the shame of their rebellion.

8 They feed on the sins of my people and relish their wickedness.

***The priests are compounding the sins of the people by being negligent and derelict in their duties as MEN OF GOD!!!!***

9 And it will be: Like people, like priests. I will punish both of them for their ways and repay them for their deeds.

***They had an increasingly dislike and disregard for the truth of God’s revelation. Pastors are like the people instead of being like God.***

10 "They will eat but not have enough; they will engage in prostitution but not flourish, because they have deserted the LORD to give themselves

In other words, they were given over to unbridled sin..

11 to prostitution; old wine and new wine take away their understanding.

12 My people consult a wooden idol, and a diviner's rod speaks to them. A spirit of prostitution leads them astray; they are unfaithful to their God.

13 They sacrifice on the mountaintops and burn offerings on the hills, under oak, poplar and terebinth, where the shade is pleasant. Therefore, your daughters turn to prostitution and your daughters-in-law to adultery.

***\*Sin contaminants everything it touches.***

*This is why the Bible frequently uses the illustration of leaven as the “****PERMEATING QUALITY****” of sin!!!! LEAVEN is* ***NOT*** *sin!!!! If this was true, then Matthew in chapter 13 would* ***NOT*** *have used the illustration of leaven to equate it to the Kingdom of God!!! However, sin has the permeating quality or a “’****pervading influence”*** *of leaven!! (with leaven, Leviticus 23:17; Amos 4:5; etc.)*

1. V:8-9 **The priest and people** alike move to falsehoods of the past. (I Corinthians 5 and \* Romans 1)

***18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,***

***19because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.***

***20For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,***

***21because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.***

***22Professing to be wise, they became fools,***

***23and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.***

***24Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,***

***25who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.***

***26For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their [[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans+1&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-27957i" \o "See footnote i)]women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.***

***27Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.***

***28And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;***

***29being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,***

***30backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,***

***31undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;***

***32who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. (Romans 1:18-32; NKJV)***

1. **V:10-13 Nothing satisfies** and unfaithfulness is the mark of their homeland and homes. (Romans 10) **VANITY** – as the “***Preacher”*** attributes it in the book of Ecclesiastes.

\*Hosea 4:14 "I will not punish your daughters when they turn to prostitution, nor your daughters-in-law when they commit adultery, because the men themselves consort with harlots and sacrifice with shrine prostitutes—a people without understanding will come to ruin!

15 "Though you, Israel, commit adultery, do not let Judah become guilty. "Do not go to Gilgal; do not go up to Beth Aven. And do not swear, 'As surely as the LORD lives!'

16 The Israelites are stubborn, like a stubborn heifer. How then can the LORD pasture them like lambs in a meadow?

The problem is not necessarily knowledge but **OBEDIENCE.**

17 Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone!

Ephraim is another name given to the Northern 10 tribes of Israel from the largest tribe.

18 Even when their drinks are gone, they continue their prostitution; their rulers dearly love shameful ways.

19 A whirlwind will sweep them away, and their sacrifices will bring them shame.

***\*The season of enjoying sin is short.***

1. V:14-15 **Sin itself is punishment enough.**
2. V:16-17 **Sin makes us stubborn.**
3. V:17-19 **Heifers are in the open range.** Lambs are in need of shepherd; so there is no protection for Israel in this season.