

Hosea 4:1-19 **Wickedness of the Children of Israel**

God's Charge Against Israel

1 Hear the word of Yahweh (the Lord), You children of Israel, For Yahweh (the Lord) brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land:

"There is no truth or mercy Or knowledge of Elohiym (God) in the land.

2 By swearing and lying, Killing and stealing and committing adultery, They break all restraint, With bloodshed upon bloodshed.

3 Therefore the land will mourn; And everyone who dwells there will waste away With the beasts of the field And the birds of the air; Even the fish of the sea will be taken away.

4 "Now let no man contend, or rebuke another; For your people are like those who contend with the priest.

5 Therefore you shall stumble in the day; The prophet also shall stumble with you in the night; And I will destroy your mother.

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of Eloheyka (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 eat up the sin of My people; They set their heart on their iniquity.

9 And it shall be: like people, like priest. So I will punish them for their ways, And reward them for their deeds.

10 For they shall eat, but not have enough; They shall commit harlotry, but not increase; Because they have ceased obeying Yahweh (the Lord).

The Idolatry of Israel

11 'Harlotry, wine, and new wine enslave the heart.

12 My people ask counsel from their wooden idols, And their staff informs them. For the spirit of harlotry has caused them to stray, And they have played the harlot against Eloheyhem (their God).

13 They offer sacrifices on the mountaintops, And burn incense on the hills, Under oaks, poplars, and terebinths, Because their shade is good. Therefore your daughters commit harlotry, And your brides commit adultery.

14 'I will not punish your daughters when they commit harlotry, Nor your brides when they commit adultery; For the men themselves go apart with harlots, And offer sacrifices with a ritual harlot. Therefore people who do not understand will be trampled.

15 "Though you, Israel, play the harlot, Let not Judah offend. Do not come up to Gilgal, Nor go up to Beth Aven, Nor swear an oath, saying, 'As Yahweh (the Lord) lives' —

16 "For Israel is stubborn Like a stubborn calf; Now Yahweh (the Lord) will let them forage Like a lamb in open country.

17 "Ephraim is joined to idols, Let him alone.

18 Their drink is rebellion, They commit harlotry continually. Her rulers dearly love dishonor.
19 The wind has wrapped her up in its wings, And they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

God's Charge Against Israel [\[Hosea 4:1-19\]](#)

- ✧ Hear the word of Yahweh (the Lord), You children of Israel, For Yahweh (the Lord) brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land:
"There is no truth or mercy Or knowledge of Elohiym (God) in the land.
By swearing and lying, Killing and stealing and committing adultery, They break all restraint, With bloodshed upon bloodshed. [\[Hosea 4:1-2\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh's case against His people begins as the people deliberately reject His righteous Law and cast off all restraint.
- ✧ Truth and mercy are lost when the people refuse the knowledge of God.
- ✧ Without knowledge of God, wickedness fills the land being expressed in human self interest including deceit, killing, theft, adultery, with bloodshed upon bloodshed as violence increases without restraint.
- ✧ The result of unrestrained wickedness causes the land and all in it to mourn and waste away to destruction. Remember the cause of the Flood of Noah's time. [\[Genesis 6:11-14\]](#)
- ✧ The depth of their extreme liberalism extends to the priests and prophets who cause the people to stumble by their false teachings.
- ✧ **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.** Because **you have rejected knowledge**, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of Eloheyka (your God), I also will forget your children. [\[Hosea 4:6\]](#)
- ✧ The result of judgment against the religious leaders causes Yahweh to reject the false teachers and those who were swayed by their grievous error.
- ✧ This same applies today. [\[Mark 9:42-48, 2 Peter 3:17, 2 Timothy 4:3-4\]](#)
- ✧ "The more they increased, The more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame. [\[Hosea 4:7-10\]](#)
- ✧ The leaders are swayed by the sins of the people, so they will be judged and punished with them, like people, like priest.
- ✧ Instead of leading the people in righteousness, they have adopted their wicked ways and ceased from obeying Yahweh.

Idolatry of Israel described [\[Hosea 4:11-19\]](#)

- ✧ 'Harlotry, wine, and new wine enslave the heart.
- ✧ The spirit of harlotry causes them to stray.
- ✧ They seek counsel from their dead idols.
- ✧ They offer sacrifices to their idols on the mountaintops, the Hills, under the oaks, poplars, and terebinth trees because their shade is good.
- ✧ The daughters commit harlotry, and the brides commit adultery.
- ✧ Because the men go apart with harlots in their idolatry, Yahweh will not punish their daughters and brides for their harlotry and adultery..
- ✧ The judgment against Israel should stand as a warning to Judah.
- ✧ The time comes when the people are so set on their idolatry that Yahweh says let them alone. [\[Hosea 4:17, Matthew 15:13-14, Hebrews 6:4-6\]](#)
- ✧ When the day of judgment comes it is too late to call for repentance. [\[Revelation 22:10-11,\]](#)