

The Book of Hosea

Chapter 4

Review

- Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel who prophesied of its fall to Assyria.
- The first three chapters focus on the use of Hosea's marriage to Gomer as an object lesson for God and Israel's relationship.
- Beginning in chapter four we move away from this object lesson, and into various prophecies given to Hosea.
- In this chapter we take a stark look at the condition of God's people

Chapter Four

- vs. 1 – There is no good in the land.
- vs. 2 – There is only evil in the land, we find 4 of the 10 Commandments broken here alone.
- vs. 2 – “blood toucheth blood” – Barnes: “The blood was poured so continuously and in such torrents, that it flowed on, until stream met stream and formed one wide inundation of blood.”
- vs. 3 - Note the tie between the health of the land and the spiritual health of the people (II Chronicles 7:14)
- vs. 4 – The hardheartedness of the people.
- vs. 5 – Complete and utter destruction.
- vs. 6 - This is one of my favorite verses in the Bible. We focus too much on “do, do, do” but neglect “know, know, know”
- vs. 7-8 – The priests neglected their duty to guide the people into righteousness because they enjoyed their own prosperity.
- vs. 9 - note that the distinction between priesthood and people, or leadership and followers, is taken away in respect to responsibility.
- vs. 10-11 – Sin will not lead to true prosperity.
- vs. 12 – Instead of following God, they were following idols and sorcery.
- vs. 13 - God is holding back His reproof hand to let them suffer the natural consequences of their actions (Hebrews 12:6)
- vs. 15 – God is letting them go on their disastrous course, but keeping a faithful remnant in Judah.
- vs. 15 - Bethaven - “house of iniquity”, also known as Bethel or “House of God”. The name change seems to correspond with the setting up of idols there (I Kings 12:28-33)

- vs. 16 – Israel will be like a stubborn cow that cannot be used and will therefore be left as a solitary lamb separated from shepherd and flock.
- vs. 17 – Ephraim – The tribe of Ephraim led in the formation of the Northern Kingdom (I Kings 11:26) and was its royal house. When Hosea uses this term he is speaking of the leadership/royalty of the nation.
- vs. 18 – their insatiable appetite for wickedness.
- vs. 19 – a picture of the unstoppable “tornado” of judgment that they cannot prevent.