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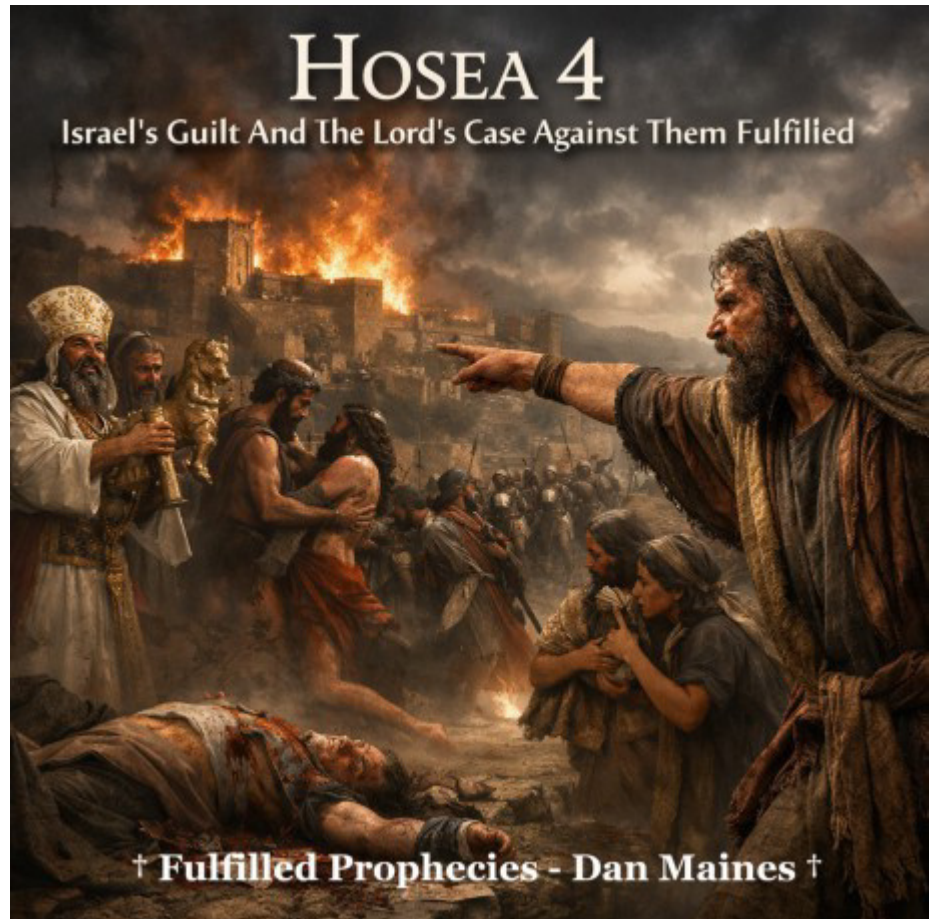
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Hosea 4 Israel's Guilt And The Lord's Case Against Them Fulfilled



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† Hosea 4 shows the Lord bringing a formal charge against Israel, exposing their lack of truth, loyalty, and knowledge of God, and this wasn't just ancient history, it pointed directly to the condition of Israel leading up to the judgment in AD 70.

† This chapter lays out exactly why judgment came, not because God failed, but because the people rejected Him, and this is confirmed by Jesus when He indicts that same generation.

† What we see here is covenant accountability, God dealing with His people who had the Law but refused to walk in it.

Hosea 4:1

Hear the word of the Lord, you sons of Israel,
Because the Lord has a case against the inhabitants of the land,
For there is no faithfulness, no kindness,
And no knowledge of God in the land.

† The Lord brings a covenant lawsuit against Israel, this is legal language, showing they violated the covenant they were under.

† There was no truth, meaning they abandoned God's standard, no goodness, meaning no covenant faithfulness, and no knowledge of God, meaning they rejected Him relationally.

† Jesus confirms this same condition in His day, saying they didn't know God even though they claimed to represent Him.

Hosea 4:2

There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing, and adultery.
They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed.

† This is total moral collapse, the breaking of multiple commandments, showing covenant failure.

† Blood touching blood shows violence spreading everywhere, a society unraveling under sin.

† Jesus described the same generation as filled with murder and hypocrisy, leading to judgment.

Hosea 4:3

Therefore the land mourns,
And everyone who lives in it languishes
Along with the animals of the field and the birds of the sky,
And also the fish of the sea disappear.

† Creation itself reflects covenant judgment, just like the curses in the Law where the land suffers because of sin.

† This mourning of the land points forward to the desolation of Israel in AD 70 when everything collapsed.

† Jesus warned of coming devastation on that land in His generation.

Hosea 4:4

Yet let no one find fault, and let no one rebuke;
For your people are like those who contend with the priest.

† The people rejected correction, even from priests, meaning they rejected God's authority entirely.

† This rebellion mirrors what we see in the first century, where they rejected both prophets and Christ.

† When correction is rejected, judgment becomes inevitable.

Hosea 4:5

So you will stumble by day,
And the prophet also will stumble with you by night;
And I will destroy your mother.

† Both leaders and people fall together, showing total corruption.

† The mother represents Israel as a whole, the covenant nation facing destruction.

† Jesus declared this same destruction would come on that generation.

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Since you have rejected knowledge,
I also will reject you from being My priest.
Since you have forgotten the Law of your God,
I also will forget your children.

† Destruction comes from rejecting God's knowledge, not ignorance alone, but willful rejection.

† Israel had the Law but abandoned it, leading to their rejection as God's priestly people.

† In AD 70, that priesthood system ended, exactly as Hosea warned.

Hosea 4:7

The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me;
I will change their glory into shame.

† Growth didn't lead to righteousness, it led to more sin.

† Their glory, meaning their covenant status, was turned into shame.

† The kingdom was taken from them and given to another people.

Hosea 4:8

They feed on the sin of My people,

And long for their wrongdoing.

† The leaders benefited from the people's sin, corrupting the system for gain.

† This matches the exposure of corrupt leadership devouring what belonged to others.

† Their system was built on sin, not righteousness.

Hosea 4:9

And it will be, like people, like priest;
So I will punish them for their ways,
And repay them for their deeds.

† The people and priests became alike in corruption.

† Judgment was equal, no one escapes accountability.

† This was fulfilled when both leaders and people suffered in the destruction of Jerusalem.

Hosea 4:10

They will eat, but not have enough;
They will play the prostitute, but not increase,
Because they gave up devoting themselves to the Lord.

† Sin promises satisfaction but never delivers.

† Their spiritual unfaithfulness led to emptiness.

† This reflects the famine of hearing the word, not just physical lack.

Hosea 4:11

Infidelity, wine, and new wine take away the understanding.

† Sin dulls the mind and separates people from truth.

† This shows spiritual blindness that was present in that generation.

† Their condition wasn't accidental, it was chosen.

Hosea 4:12

My people consult their wooden idol, and their diviner's wand informs them;

For a spirit of infidelity has led them astray,

And they have committed infidelity, departing from their God.

† They turned to idols for guidance instead of God.

† This is spiritual adultery, abandoning their covenant relationship.

† This is the exchange of truth for a lie.

Hosea 4:13

They offer sacrifices on the tops of the mountains

And burn incense on the hills,

Under oak, poplar, and terebinth, because their shade is pleasant.

Therefore your daughters commit infidelity

And your brides commit adultery.

† Idolatry led to moral corruption.

† What they worshiped shaped how they lived.

† The corruption spread through all levels of society.

Hosea 4:14

I will not punish your daughters when they commit infidelity,
Or your brides when they commit adultery;

For the men themselves go apart with prostitutes
And offer sacrifices with temple prostitutes;
So the people without understanding are ruined.

† The root problem was the leadership, not just the people.

† When leaders are corrupt, the whole system falls.

† Blind leaders lead to destruction.

Hosea 4:15

Though you, Israel, commit infidelity,
Yet do not let Judah become guilty;
Also do not go to Gilgal,
Or go up to Beth-aven
And take the oath: As the Lord lives!

† A warning is given, but it wasn't heeded.

† These places represent corrupted worship.

† Even with warning, they continued in sin.

Hosea 4:16

Since Israel is stubborn
Like a stubborn cow,
Can the Lord now pasture them
Like a lamb in a large field?

† Stubbornness is highlighted as the core issue.

† They refused correction repeatedly.

† This led to them being given over to judgment.

Hosea 4:17

Ephraim is joined to idols;

Leave him alone.

† God gives them over after continual rejection.

† This shows a final stage before judgment.

† Persistent rebellion leads to being left in that condition.

Hosea 4:18

Their liquor gone,
They play the prostitute continually;
Their rulers dearly love shame.

† Leadership again is emphasized as corrupt.

† They loved what was shameful instead of what was right.

† This reflects blind and corrupt leadership.

Hosea 4:19

The wind wraps them in its wings,
And they will be put to shame because of their sacrifices.

† The wind represents judgment sweeping them away.

† Their sacrifices couldn't save them because they were done in hypocrisy.

† This was fulfilled when the temple system ended in AD 70.

Historical References

† Josephus records the corruption of the priesthood and leadership before AD 70, showing how deeply immoral they had become.

† Tacitus describes the internal chaos and destruction of Jerusalem, confirming the judgment Hosea warned about.

† Eusebius notes that the Christians fled before the destruction, recognizing the judgment coming on that generation.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Knowing about God isn't enough, if we reject Him, judgment follows.

† God holds His people accountable to truth, not just profession.

† When truth is rejected, everything else collapses, morally, spiritually, and socially.

† God is patient, but He doesn't ignore sin forever.

† We must stay grounded in truth and not follow the same path of rejection.

Q & A Appendix

Q What does it mean there was no knowledge of God?

A It means they rejected a true relationship with Him, not that they lacked information.

Q Why were the priests judged the same as the people?

A Because they led the people into sin instead of truth.

Q What does destroyed for lack of knowledge mean?

A It means they rejected God's truth and suffered the consequences.

Q What does it mean Ephraim is joined to idols?

A It means they were fully committed to idolatry and wouldn't

turn back.

Q How was this fulfilled?

A It was fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the old covenant system in AD 70.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Hosea 4

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews; Tacitus, Histories; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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