

**Hosea 4 - 10**  
**The Case Against Israel**  
**Lesson 5**

The Lord began a second attempt through Hosea to get Israel's attention. Hosea's life would continue to be a living parable for the nation, but also Hosea now would be sent to present verbally the Lord's case against Israel. Chapter 4 begins "*Hear the word of the Lord.*" In other words, listen intently because what follows is very important!

1. Who is the Lord's audience in Hosea 4:1a?
  
2. What is His stated purpose? (Hosea 4:1b)
  
3. Following His stated purpose, the Lord gave a list of charges of what they did and did not do. Using Hosea 4:1 & 2, complete the sentences below.
  - There is no
  
  
  - There is only
  
4. In summary, the Lord's case against them was that His people were unfaithful and had broken the covenant. Besides the two covenant parties (the Lord and Israel) what else does He say was affected by the broken covenant? (vs. 3)
  
5. Read Hosea 4:4-14 to understand the context, then answer:
  - Whom did the Lord hold accountable for these charges? (vs. 7)
  
  
  - Why does He single them out? (vs. 8)
  
  
  - And whom did He say suffers because of their disobedience? (vs. 9)
  
  
  - What reason does the Lord point out? (vs. 14)

The words of the Lord have not changed and carry the same weight today as they did in Hosea's day. In the New Testament (or the New Covenant) the apostle Peter wrote that all who believe and accept Jesus Christ as their savior (Messiah) are now also included as God's "chosen people." In 1 Peter 2:9 we too are called "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God..." and our role is now the same as Israel's, "that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness and into His wonderful light."

6. Application: What application do you see in the Hosea verse for your life as a royal priest of the Lord?

### **The Lord's Judgment Declared - Chapter 5**

7. Who does He say will be included in the Lord's judgment of the kingdom of Israel? (vs. 1)
8. Once again their sins are presented before them as in a court of Law. In verse 5, the southern kingdom of Judah is also included in these indictments. Why? (2 Kings 16:1-4)
9. But God never left His people without His words. So He sent prophets to them, including Hosea, to clearly warn them of the dangers that lay ahead if they continued on the path that led away from the Lord. What significant warning is given in Hosea 5:13?
10. Once again the Lord tells them why He will do these things. From Hosea 5:15, what is God's stated purpose?

### **Israel Hears the Lord - Chapters 6-7**

11. After Hosea has pronounced the Lord's judgment upon Israel yet again, they (the leadership) discussed among themselves what to do. Using Hosea 6:1-3:
  - What do they propose as the solution?
  - How do they expect the Lord to respond to them if they follow their plan?

12. What does the Lord say to those making this proposal? (vs. 4)
  
13. In His effort to draw them back to Him, what does He say He has done? (vs. 5)
  
14. What is He looking for in His people? (vs. 6)
  
15. But, *“like Adam (the first of God’s chosen ones), they have broken the covenant – they were unfaithful to me there.”* Read through the next list the Lord gave in Hosea 6:7 – 7:16. What one item stands out to you and why?

### **Israel’s Self Help Attempts – Chapter 8**

16. Chapter 8 begins with the picture of a trumpeter sending out a distress call: *“An eagle is over the house of the Lord.”* (In Israel, the vulture is called an eagle.) This signifies impending death. What is the reason given? (vs. 1)
  
17. After pointing out their attempts to self-govern, what instructions does He give? (vs. 5-6)
  
18. Israel has become just like the idols she worships – worthless! Finding no help from those gods, she turns to Assyria for help. How does the Lord describe what that relationship will be like? (vs. 9-10)

### **Exile is Coming! – Chapter 9**

19. Another warning is given: *“Do not rejoice O Israel.”* Why not? (vs. 1 & 7)

20. Israel was in a time of expansion and great wealth when Hosea delivered this message. What did he point out to them? (vs. 9)
  
21. The Lord first made the covenant with the nation of Israel in the wilderness at Mount Sinai. How did the Lord describe Israel at that time? (vs. 10 a & b)
  
22. What do you think He was saying?
  
23. But what happened in that wilderness? (vs. 10 c & d; Numbers 25:1-5)
  
24. He went on to describe the various consequences of this action, but it isn't until we get to the last verse that the real cost is mentioned. What was the Lord's "bottom line"? (vs. 17)
  
25. In plain English, what two things are they about to lose?

**Israel Reaps What It Has Sown - Chapter 10**

26. While Israel was prospering economically, what was "he" doing with his prosperity? (vs. 1)
  
27. The real problem is exposed in Hosea 10:2a. Where does the Lord say the problem originates?

28. The Lord presented His case against them and reminds them that He has given them many opportunities to turn back to Him, but they would not. Now, within a few years, they would experience judgment – exile in Assyria. After instructing them to remove the primary source of their sin, He prophesies what they will do. What will happen when they are taken into exile? (vs. 5-6)
  
29. Review how this form of worship came into Israel and why. (1 Kings 12:26-30)
  
30. The sovereign Lord is still in control. His plan of redemption (buying back of His people) will still go forward – in spite of an unfaithful people. The Lord reminds them that life apart from God is fragile. In Hosea 10:10 He says, *“When I please, I will punish them....”* What does He encourage them to do even at this point in time? (vs. 12)
  
31. But what did they continue to do, in spite of the Lord’s words of instruction and warning? (vs. 13)
  
32. What will be the result of their failure to heed the warning? (vs. 14-15)