

Hosea: The Husband and the Harlot Ignorance of God

Charge against the Nation: They have turned from a God focus to self-focus.

Hear the word of the Lord, you Israelites, because the Lord has a charge to bring against you who live in the land: (Hosea 4:1a)

There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land. (Hosea 4:1b)

There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. (Hosea 4:2)

Because of this the land mourns, and all who live in it waste away; the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the fish of the sea are dying. (Hosea 4:3)

Truth: Self-autonomy replacing God's authority results in national/personal bankruptcy.

Question: Who is your authority?

But let no man bring a charge, let no man accuse another, for your people are like those who bring charges against a priest. You stumble day and night, and the prophets stumble with you. So I will destroy your mother— my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. (Hosea 4:4-6a)

Charge against the citizens: Failed personal responsibility

Truth: God holds each person responsible for his or her actions.

Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. (1 Peter 1:17)

Remedy: Seek forgiveness and change

Charge against the spiritual leaders: Ignoring the law of God

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. The more the priests increased, the more they sinned against me; they exchanged their Glory for something disgraceful. They feed on the sins of my people and relish their wickedness. And it will be: Like people, like priests. I will punish both of them for their ways and repay them for their deeds. They will eat but not have enough... (Hosea 4:6b-10)

Truth: To whom much has been given, much will be required.

Remedy: Take charge of your spiritual life.