**Hosea 4**

**Indictment of Israel**

**Lesson 19**

Ephraim (verse 17) was the name of one of Joseph’s sons and Jacob’s grandson. Ephraim is the largest and most central of the Northern Tribes; it became a name for the whole Northern Kingdom. At the end of Hosea’s life, it was all that was left of Israel after the Assyrians defeated Israel in ~722 B.C.

1. **When did you feel closest to God this week?**

**Or, was there a verse or lesson in Hosea this week that you found inspiring or insightful?**

1. **What accusations or charges are made against Israel in verses 1-2?**

**Hosea 4:1-2** Hear the word of the Lord, Israelites, for the Lord has a dispute  
     with the inhabitants of the land: There is no fidelity, no loyalty, no knowledge of God in the land.  
 **2**Swearing, lying, murder, stealing and adultery break out; bloodshed follows bloodshed.

1. **Which of the Ten Commandments are being broken in those same verses? See Deut 5:6-11.**

 **6**I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **7**You shall not have other gods beside me. **8**You shall not make for yourself an idol or a likeness of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; **9**[[b](#fen-NABRE-5064b)]you shall not bow down before them or serve them. For I, the Lord, your God, am a jealous[[c](#fen-NABRE-5064c)]God, bringing punishment for their parents’ wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation, **10**but showing love down to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

**11**You shall not invoke the name of the Lord, your God, in vain. For the Lord will not leave unpunished anyone who invokes his name in vain.

**12**Observe the sabbath day—keep it holy, as the Lord, your God, commanded you. **13**Six days you may labor and do all your work, **14**but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God. You shall not do any work, either you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your ox or donkey or any work animal, or the resident alien within your gates, so that your male and female slave may rest as you do. **15**Remember that you too were once slaves in the land of Egypt, and the Lord, your God, brought you out from there with a strong hand and outstretched arm. That is why the Lord, your God, has commanded you to observe the sabbath day.

**16**Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord, your God, has commanded you, that you may have a long life and that you may prosper in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

**17**You shall not kill.

**18**You shall not commit adultery.

**19**You shall not steal.

**20**You shall not bear dishonest witness against your neighbor.

**21**You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.

You shall not desire your neighbor’s house or field, his male or female slave, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

1. **Which of the sins and offenses above can be directly attributed a negligent priesthood? See verses 1-2 above and verses 4-6.**

**Hosea 4:4-6** But let no one accuse, let no one rebuke; with you is my dispute, priest!   
 **5**You will stumble in the day, and the prophet will stumble with you at night;  
     **I will make an end of your mother**. **6**My people are ruined for lack of knowledge!  
     Since you have rejected knowledge, I will reject you from serving as my priest;  
 Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.

1. **The priesthood was hereditary at this time in Israel. With this in mind, what do you suppose is meant in verse 5 (above) by “I will destroy your mother”? See also verse 10 for a clue.**

**4:10** They will eat but not be satisfied, they will promote prostitution but not increase,

1. **Which of the “seven deadly sins” is implied by “they will eat but not be satisfied”?**
2. **What offense is suggested in verse 12? See footnotes in your Bible for help.**

**4:12** My people consult their piece of wood,   
    and their wand makes pronouncements for them,  
For the spirit of prostitution has led them astray;  
    they prostitute themselves, forsaking their God.

1. **If “adultery” is again meant to indicate worship of idols or false gods, how wide spread does it appear to be? Who is it that has taken to idol worship? See verses 12-14.**

**4:13-14** On the mountaintops they offer sacrifice, and on the hills they burn incense,  
 beneath oak and poplar and terebinth, because of their pleasant shade.   
 Therefore, your daughters prostitute themselves, and your daughters-in-law commit adultery.  
 **14**I will not punish your daughters for their prostitution, nor your daughters-in-law for their adultery,  
 Because the men themselves consort with prostitutes, and with temple women they offer sacrifice!  
 Thus a people without understanding comes to ruin.

1. **Who is partly at blame for the actions of the young women? See verses 12-14.**
2. **Why did God not want Israel mingling with Judah? (Hosea is addressed mostly to Israel) See verse 15.**
3. **Reflect on what is being said in this chapter. Which sins and vices have become common place in our culture? What does this chapter say about how our actions and examples affect others?**