

# An Indictment Against Israel Hosea 4

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## Hosea 4:1-3 - Introduction

- Chapter 4 begins the second section of Hosea
- A collection of prophecy given by Hosea over a long period of time
- Hosea was a prophet for about 50 years

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## Hosea 4:1-3 – Introduction

- An introduction to chapter 4 and likely to the rest of the book – chapters 4-14
- God presents His case against Israel – a formal complaint based upon the Sinai covenant
- See Lev 26; Deut 28, 30, 32

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## The Case Against Israel

- The formal charges against Israel
- Sins of Omission
  1. No faithfulness
  2. No steadfast love (loving kindness)
  3. No knowledge of God (acknowledgement)

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## The Case Against Israel

- They do not reflect the character of God because they do not know God!
- They do not have a relationship with their covenant God anymore – they do not know Him

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## The Case Against Israel

- Note!
- In reference to the marriage covenant, Israel has failed in their fidelity to God. They no longer 'know' God but they 'know' other gods
  - In reference to the priests, they have failed to know God in relationship and lead others to do the same

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## The Case Against Israel

Excursus: To Know God

See Hosea 2:8, 11:3, 4:6, 2:20

N.T. Romans 1:21-32

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## The Case Against Israel

Sins of Commission – sins of action

1. Cursing or swearing
2. Lying
3. Murder
4. Stealing
5. Adultery

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## The Case Against Israel

Sins of Commission – sins of action

•Moral depravity that results from not knowing God and His truth

NOTE! “They break all bounds”

See Ex 19:22-24; 2 Sam 5:20

•Vigorous and aggressive acts

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## The Result of breaking Covenant

The land is negatively affected and suffers

See Isa 24:4-6; Gen 6:11-17; Rom 8:19-22

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## The Case Against the Priests 4-14

- V.4 - They have failed in their task to represent God to the people and the people to God
- V.4 - The people have become like the priests - not knowing God
- V. 5 - The people stumble by day
  - See Lev 26:37

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## The Case Against the Priests 4-14

- V.6 – the people are destroyed by lack of knowledge
- V.7 – the addition of priests added to their sin
- V.8 – the priests were personally profiting from the sin of the people

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## The Case Against the Priests 4-14

- V.9 – Like people like priest
  - See 1 Tim 4:11-12
- V.10 – consequences from breaking covenant
- Vs 11- 14 show the depth of immorality and depravity of the nation

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## The Case Against the Nation 15-19

- V.15 – The people are not innocent – they made their choice to follow the priests into sin

NOTE!

Beth –Aven – ‘house of wickedness’

Hosea’s nickname for Bethel – “house of God”

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## The Case Against the Nation 15-19

Note!

- Gilgal – place where the Israelites crossed over the Jordan into the promised land and where they were circumcised
- Gilgal and Beth-Aven were places set up by Jeroboam I as places of worship for the Northern Kingdom

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## Conclusion

- God is against the nation because they have chosen to ignore Him and did not deem His words as something to be knowledgeable about
- The priests have ignored God and encouraged the nation to sin
- The people chose to sin and enjoyed their “freedom” to do so

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