

Don't forget to read the chapter a few times prior to starting this weeks study. As you begin to study, pray that God will speak to you through His word.

Chapter 4

A CASE AGAINST ISRAEL: THE CHARGE

There is something about a courtroom drama which fascinates most of us. Many of us watched the long trial of O.J. Simpson several years ago. Many Americans have become addicted, first to Judge Wapner and now to Judge Judy. There is even a network called "Court TV" whose programming involves live courtroom trials.

Hosea 4 is the beginning of a courtroom drama unlike any we might recognize. God is both the prosecutor and the judge. Israel is the defendant. The charge which God makes against her is that of adultery and unfaithfulness.

God had indicted His people with a coming destruction due to a lack of knowledge. He states very pointedly in verse 1, there is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land.

How sad that we live in a time when there is such a lack of knowledge about God through His Word. We don't know what the Bible says, and most disturbing of all, many seemingly don't seem to care.

During Hosea's day, this was the status of Israel. They had willfully rejected the truth and had adopted the lies of idolatry. They had turned their backs upon the knowledge of the Word of God because they had forsaken His Word. Sadly, this has become the standard for most of our world today.

Even as a believer we will listen to bible studies, Christian music and even play Christian games and that is great. But don't let it be a substitute for studying Gods word for yourself. Remember, it is this knowledge of the truth which sets men free (John 8:32 and John 17:17)

What does Hosea accuse the Israelites of doing, or not doing?

Who specifically does he accuse in this chapter?

Who is "mother", in verse 5, speaking of?

My people are destroyed for _____ of _____. Explain this verse in your own words.

Did they also reject the knowledge of God that He had given them? How does knowledge differ from wisdom?

What does verse nine mean?

Describe some of the false worship that occurred?

What was worse than physical adultery and why is it?

God chose to show mercy to the “daughters” and “daughters in law” in verse 14. Why?

Why did God not want Israel mingling with Judah? v15

How was Israel described in verse 16?

Explain the phrase “Ephraim is joined to idols” v17

What did you learn from this chapter?