



SANCTITY

OF

*Life*

“A wind has wrapped them in its wings ...”

Hosea 4:19a

# Context of Hosea

# Overview

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1. A prophetic **parable** (ch. 1-3)

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2. A prophetic **lawsuit** (ch. 4-14)

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1. A prophetic parable (ch. 1-3)
2. A prophetic lawsuit (ch. 4-14)

indicting → **sentencing** → **restoring**







Samaria Ostraca

## Summary of Hosea 4

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### 1. The charges (1-3)

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“Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land.

“There is no faithfulness or steadfast love,  
and no knowledge of God in the land;

“there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.”

Hosea 4:1-2

“Therefore the land mourns,  
and all who dwell in it languish,  
and also the beasts of the field  
and the birds of the heavens,  
and even the fish of the sea are taken away.”

Hosea 4:3

## Summary of Hosea 4

1. The charges (1-3)

2. The sins of the leaders (4-11)



## Summary of Hosea 4

1. The charges (1-3)

2. The sins of the leaders (4-11)

“Yet let no one contend,  
and let none accuse,  
for with you is my contention, O priest.

“You shall stumble by day;  
the prophet also shall stumble with you by  
night; and I will destroy your mother.”

Hosea 4:4-5

“My people are destroyed for lack of  
knowledge;

because you have rejected knowledge,

I reject you from being a priest to me.

And since you have forgotten the law of your  
God, I also will forget your children.”

Hosea 4:6

“The more they increased,  
the more they sinned against me;  
I will change their glory into shame.”

Hosea 4:7

“They shall eat, but not be satisfied;  
they shall play the whore, but not multiply,  
because they have forsaken the LORD  
to cherish whoredom, wine, and new wine,  
which take away the understanding.”

Hosea 4:10-11

## Summary of Hosea 4

1. The charges (1-3)
2. The sins of the leaders (4-11)
3. The sins of the **people** (12-19)

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1. The charges (1-3)
2. The sins of the leaders (4-11)
3. The sins of the **people** (12-19)

rhabdomancy = divination with sticks  
or rocks

“My people inquire of a piece of wood,  
and their walking staff gives them oracles.  
For a spirit of whoredom has led them astray,  
and they have left their God to play the  
whore.”

Hosea 4:12



“They sacrifice on the tops of the mountains  
and burn offerings on the hills,  
under oak, poplar, and terebinth,  
because their shade is good.”

Hosea 4:13a

“Therefore your daughters play the whore,  
and your brides commit adultery.

I will not punish your daughters when they  
play the whore,

nor your brides when they commit adultery;

“for the men themselves go aside with  
prostitutes and sacrifice with cult prostitutes,  
and a people without understanding shall  
come to ruin.”

Hosea 4:13b-14

# The Immediate Context

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1. God **leaves them alone.**

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### 1. God **leaves them alone.**

“Ephraim is joined to idols:  
leave him alone.” (17)

“Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.”

Matthew 15:14

## The Immediate Context

1. God leaves them alone.
2. Their disordered affections **take over**.



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1. God leaves them alone.
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“When their drink is gone, they give themselves to whoring;  
their rulers dearly love shame.” (18)

## The Immediate Context

1. God leaves them alone.
2. Their disordered affections take over.
3. Their spirituality **adds to their shame**.

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1. God leaves them alone.
2. Their disordered affections take over.
3. Their spirituality **adds to their shame**.

“and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices” (19b)

\* They have turned from God; they are turned over to the consequences of their choices.

“Their deeds do not permit them  
to return to their God.

For the spirit of whoredom is within them,  
and they know not the LORD.”

Hosea 5:4

“For they sow the wind,  
and they shall reap the whirlwind.”

Hosea 8:7a

“They do not cry to me from the heart,  
but they wail upon their beds;”

Hosea 7:14a

How should we respond to this?



How should we respond to this?

- **culturally**



Senator Biden - 1973

How should we respond to this?

- **culturally**

“and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices” (19b)



Tara Isabella Burton



“For the vast majority of Remixed Spiritualists, this new religious landscape heralds an era of untrammelled self-expression,

“of spirituality conceived first and foremost as an instrument of self-betterment, a necessary and easily consumable product designed to optimize one’s life.

“It valorizes disembodied self-making, emotional freedom, the heady possibility of writing our own script for morality, sexuality, and society, according to the dictates of our own heart.

“It bolsters our personal brand. It makes us our best – and most curated – selves.”

Tara Isabella Burton



How should we respond to this?

- culturally
- **personally**

How should we respond to this?

- culturally
- personally
  - The **heart** of God

“How can I give you up, O Ephraim?

How can I hand you over, O Israel?

How can I make you like Admah?

How can I treat you like Zeboiim?

“My heart recoils within me;  
my compassion grows warm and tender.”

Hosea 11:8

“God has no pleasure in the destruction or calamity of persons or people .... He is a God that delights in mercy, and judgment is his strange work.”

Jonathan Edwards

How should we respond to this?

- culturally
- personally
  - The heart of God
  - The **wind** of God

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, **following** the course of this world, **following** the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience —

“among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, **carrying out** the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.



“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved ...”

Ephesians 2:1-5

“Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”

John 3:3

“Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.’

“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

John 3:5-8

“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

“And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”

Ezekiel 36:26-27