

A Nation in Trouble with God

Hosea 4

Introduction:

1. Verse 1 serves as an overview for the stinging rebuke that is about to come.
2. God said that there was no truth, mercy, or knowledge of God in the land.
 - What an indictment! Three vital components in any _____, and none of them could be found in the people of Israel.
3. Why was Israel a nation in trouble with God?

First, they had _____ God's moral law. vs. 1-5

1. God gave Israel His law in Exodus 20-23. Israel entered into a covenant agreement with God and agreed to _____ His law in Exodus 24:7-8.
2. Verse 2 reveals that Israel had totally disregarded their covenant with God.
3. What does sin always bring? _____! vs. 3
4. The people of Israel thought that they were getting away with their _____, but Hosea announced that God had seen everything and judgment was coming.

Second, they had _____ God's truth. vs. 6-11

1. Verse 6 reveals the problem in a nutshell: *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."*
2. The _____ were responsible to teach God's Word to the people and they failed to do so.
 - *"For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the Lord of hosts."*

Malachi 2:7-8

3. Why were the priests failing to teach God's Word to God's people? They were too consumed with feeding their _____ covetousness.
4. What a lesson for the church today.

- True _____ change only comes through the hearing and receiving of God's Word. 2 Timothy 2:24-26, 3:16-17; I Thessalonians 2:13
- Salvation and spiritual _____ both hinge on the proclamation of God's Word. Romans 10:14-17
→ *"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."* **1 Peter 2:2**

Third, they had _____ away from the Lord. vs. 12-19

1. When God and Israel entered into their covenant agreement, God made one thing clear above all else. God expected Israel to be _____ and faithful to Him.
2. What was Israel to do when they entered the land? They were to _____ anything that had to do with pagan worship. Deuteronomy 7:1-6, 25-26, 12:1-4; Numbers 33:51-52
3. Instead of obeying God's commands, Israel disregarded their relationship with the Lord and went whoring after these pagan idols. vs. 12-13

Conclusion:

1. Israel was a nation in trouble with God.
 - The _____ lived corrupt lives.
 - The spiritual _____ had no regard for God's Word.
 - The _____ unit was completely disintegrated.
 - The political _____ loved wealth, not God. vs. 18
2. Is it any surprise that we see these same characteristics in America today? As Christians, we have been called to be a light in the midst of a crooked and perverse world.
 - *"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world."* **Philippians 2:15**
3. We are to hold forth God's Word, not only in word, but in the way we _____ our daily lives.
 - *"Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."* **Philippians 2:16**