### Hosea

## Chapter 4

1[Hosea now says:]  
  
 ‘O sons of IsraEl, hear the Word of Jehovah!  
  
 ‘For He has a case against all of you…  
 Those who now live in this land,  
 Because you have no mercy or truth,  
 Or any knowledge of God:  
  
 2‘Cursing, lying, murder, and fraud,  
 As well as adultery, cover your land.  
 You’ve also mingled blood with your blood…  
 And for this, your land will now mourn.  
  
 3‘So those living here will be fewer…  
 And all the game in the fields,  
 All the birds in the skies,  
 And all the fish in the seas will now fail.  
  
 4‘Then there’ll be no priests or judges to scold you;  
 5For each day, I’ll be making them weaker.  
 And I’ll do the same to your prophets…  
 So your mother will then be [the darkness of] night.  
  
 6‘For, from my people, they’ve taken the knowledge…  
 And because they’ve pushed higher knowledge away,  
 I’ll push them away…  
 They won’t be My priests anymore!  
  
 ‘And because you’ve forgotten the laws of your God,  
 I’ll be forgetting your children.  
 7So because of your sins against Me,  
 Their glory, I’ll appoint to dishonor.  
 8Then My people will have to eat their own sins,  
 As their lives will be claimed by their unrighteous ways.  
  
 9‘And these things that will happen to the people  
 Will also happen to the priests…  
 Yes I’ll bring my vengeance upon them  
 For all of their evil ways,  
 And I’ll pay them back for their [unrighteous] thoughts.  
  
 10‘Then they’ll eat and never be filled;  
 For, they’ve become whores who can’t straighten their ways.  
 They no longer look [to their God] anymore;  
 Yes, they’ve abandoned Jehovah!  
 11For whoring, wine, and strong drink  
 Have captured the hearts of My people.  
  
 12‘They now look to omens for answers,  
 And [wave magic] wands for replies.  
 In a spirit of whoring, they’ve wandered,  
 And to their God, they’re unfaithful.  
  
 13‘They offer sacrifices upon the hill tops  
 And beneath the oaks and white poplars,  
 As well under the rest of the trees,  
 [To ask] for good and protection.  
  
 ‘For this, your daughters will all become whores  
 And your brides will be filled with adultery.  
 14Then, I’ll not visit your daughters  
 When they’re found guilty of whoring!  
 Nor [will I visit] your daughters-in-law  
 When they’re committing adultery!  
  
 ‘Among prostitutes, they’ll all be mixed  
 (Among those [that offer their bodies]).  
 And since the men won’t understand,  
 They’ll just treat them like whores.’  
  
 15‘So IsraEl... Stop being stupid!  
 And Judah... Stop going to GilGal  
 And to the temple at BethEl!  
  
 ‘Nor should you say, ‘As Jehovah is living,’  
 When you’re swearing your oaths!  
 16For since IsraEl is now like a heifer in heat,  
 She’ll be fattened like a lamb in a feedlot.  
  
 17‘And because Ephraim has partnered with idols,  
 He’s set his own snares.  
 18For with CanaAnite whores he’s had sex,  
 And he’s loved the dishonor of their neighing.  
 19So a mighty wind will now sweep him away,  
 And his altars will bring him disgrace.’