

CHAPTER 4

Things to ponder while studying chapter 4.
(#1-3 from *Shepherd's Notes*)

1. Israel's priests had allowed the "business" of sacrifice to overshadow the spiritual nature of the offerings, so God rejected them as priests. What "business" aspects of your church life might hinder your spiritual worship if they are allowed to predominate?
2. Sex is such a strong force in the human psyche that it can be instrumental in leading a person away from sincere worship of God. What has the modern church substituted for the "cult prostitution" of ancient worshippers?
3. The male priests could not blame the female harlots and cult prostitutes for what went on in the shrines. Why is it easier to blame someone else than to admit our personal responsibility & repent?
4. Do you believe that Man's sin also affects the earth & its animals?

DEFINITIONS & EXPLANATIONS

Describe & locate "Beth-Aven"

Define "blood toucheth blood"

What are the "flagons of wine" really?



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Hosea Bible Study CHAPTERS 1 & 2

Review Questions

1. What does the name Hosea mean in Hebrew?
2. What was Hosea's wife's name?
3. There was a great massacre in Jezreel. Whose family was wiped out by king Jehu?
4. What were the names of Hosea's three children?
5. Which of these names means "God will scatter"?
6. Which of these names means "Not my people"?
7. Which means "Never knew a father's pity"?
8. Who was Hosea's father?
9. To whom was Hosea written?
10. What was the name of the false god mentioned in Hosea?

September 18, 2008

7:00pm every 3rd Thursday

Answers to the questions we pondered as we prepared for this lesson:

I. Define these Old Testament words:

- ◆ Corn → Grain
- ◆ Mirth → Gaiety
- ◆ Decked → Advanced

II. Compare Chapter 2 to the story of the prodigal son. → Complete denial & waste with an “awakening” & return to God.

III. Look for parallels between how we treat God and how Gomer acted. → (*See Right*)

IV. What is the great cost of turning our backs on God? → Children? (an example)

V. How does that make you feel? → (Well...?)

VI. Is sin impulsive? → Sometimes yes, sometimes no. Impulsive sin vs. premeditated comes down to guilt & repentance.

VII. How is Hosea 2 playing out in our lives today? → Our society is running away from God.

VIII. Compare man’s forgiveness to God’s forgiveness. → (Discussion)

IX. Give three examples of God’s forgiveness. → (Biblical examples)

X. What is the main theme of true forgiveness? → Love



Parallels

Both spiritual & physical adultery are against God’s Law.

Both spiritual & physical adultery begin with disappointment & dissatisfaction—either real or imagined—with an already existing relationship.

Both spiritual & physical adultery begin with diverting affection from one object of devotion to another.

Both spiritual & physical adultery involve a process of deterioration; it is not usually an impulsive decision.

Both spiritual & physical adultery involve the creation of a fantasy about what a new object of love can do for you.

The danger

When we break God’s Law in full awareness of what we’re doing, our hearts become hardened to the sin, & our relationship with God is broken.

The feeling that God disappoints can lead you away from him. Feelings of disappointment & dissatisfaction are normal &, when endured, will pass.

The diverting of our affection is the first step in the blinding process that leads into sin.

The process is dangerous because you don’t always realize it is happening until it is too late.

Such fantasy creates unrealistic expectations of what a new relationship can do & only leads to disappointment in all existing & future relationships.

