

The Voices of God to Israel: The Minor Prophets

4 –THE CHARGES AGAINST ISRAEL - PART 1 (HOSEA 4:1-6:3)

I. Israel's Unfaithfulness (Hosea 4:1-19)

A. Israel's Condition (Hosea 4:1-3)

- The prophet proclaims that the Lord is bringing a charge against Israel.
- The Lord states that there is no truth, mercy or knowledge of God in the land.
- Israel is unrestrained in its sin as it lies, steals, murders and commits adultery.
- The land will mourn as it experiences judgment that affects everyone and everything.

B. The Priests' Guilt (Hosea 4:4-10)

- The Lord tells them not to contend or sue each other since they reject God's Law.
- The priests will stumble or fall into sin because they have neglected their duties.
- The people perish because they lacked knowledge since the priests rejected knowledge.
- The Lord will reject them as priests since they have forgotten the Law of God.
- The Lord points out that as the people increased in numbers, so did their sin.
- The Lord will punish the priests and the people because they stopped obeying the Lord.

C. Israel's Idolatry (Hosea 4:11-19)

- The Lord states that the people's hearts are enslaved to harlotry/idolatry and wine.
- The people seek counsel from their wooden idols and it causes them to stray.
- The people have committed harlotry by presenting offerings and sacrifices to idols.
- Because the people lack understanding as they commit idolatry, they will come to ruin.
- The Lord warns Judah to avoid the sins of Israel.
- The Lord declares that Israel is stubborn as a young cow and is left to herself.
- Israel is left to itself and will face the impending doom or judgment with shame.

II. God's Judgment (Hosea 5:1-14)

- The Lord singles out the people, the priests and the king because the people engaged in idolatry.

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- The nation has become corrupted and cannot hide its sin from the Lord.
- Judah will follow Israel's example and will come to ruin as well.
- The people will try and seek the Lord through sacrifices, but he will not hear them.
- The sounds of an invading force are about to be heard in the land.
- Even Judah will not be spared since they have forsaken the covenant as well.
- The Lord himself will be the punisher as he uses others to attack Israel.

III. Israel's Repentance (Hosea 5:15-6:3)

- The purpose of the Lord's judgment is the restoration of Israel.
- As they face the judgment, they will genuinely seek the Lord.
- The prophet records the words of the people as they return to the Lord in repentance.