

# Hosea 4

JPS [\[Online\]](#)

## God's Case against His People

**1**Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel! For the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, Because there is no truth, nor mercy, Nor knowledge of God in the land.

**2**Swearing and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery! They break all bounds, and blood toucheth blood.

**3**Therefore doth the land mourn, And every one that dwelleth therein doth languish, With the beasts of the field, and the fowls of heaven; Yea, the fishes of the sea also are taken away.

**4**Yet let no man strive, neither let any man reprove; For thy people are as they that strive with the priest.

**5**Therefore shalt thou stumble in the day, And the prophet also shall stumble with thee in the night; And I will destroy thy mother.

**6**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; Because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to Me; Seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I also will forget thy children.

**7**The more they were increased, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame.

**8**They feed on the sin of My people, And set their heart on their iniquity.

**9**And it is like people, like priest; And I will punish him for his ways, And will recompense him his doings.

**10**And they shall eat, and not have enough, They shall commit harlotry, and shall not increase; Because they have left off to take heed to the LORD.

**11**Harlotry, wine, and new wine take away the heart.

**12**My people ask counsel at their stock, And their staff declareth unto them; For the spirit of harlotry hath caused them to err, And they have gone astray from under their God.

**13**They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, And offer upon the hills, Under oaks and poplars and terebinths, Because the shadow thereof is good; Therefore your daughters commit harlotry, And your daughters-in-law commit adultery.

**14**I will not punish your daughters when they commit harlotry, Nor your daughters-in-law when they commit adultery; For they themselves consort with lewd women, And they sacrifice with harlots; And the people that is without understanding is distraught.

**15**Though thou, Israel, play the harlot, Yet let not Judah become guilty; And come not ye unto Gilgal, Neither go ye up to Beth-aven, Nor swear: 'As the LORD liveth.'

**16**For Israel is stubborn like a stubborn heifer; Now shall the LORD feed them as a lamb in a large place?

**17**Ephraim is joined to idols; Let him alone.

**18**When their carouse is over, They take to harlotry; Her rulers deeply love dishonour.

**19**The wind hath bound her up in her skirts; And they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.