



- There is a vast gulf between God worshippers living in kindness versus living in obedience
- Hosea 4:6 ***“My people are destroyed for want of knowledge.... you forgot my Torah...”***
- The virtues of niceness and tolerance are valued by modern societies, and in the Church
- Romans 3:29 - 31

SWIMMING AGAINST A CURRENT

- Israel is being exiled because what they believed to be truth wasn't truth
- We can't be religious Switzerland
- Jeroboam's priests fashioned a new religion with parts of the Hebrew faith, elements of pagan worship, and subtracted that which upset the peace



GOD IS NOT RELIGIOUSLY NEUTRAL



- Neutrality is not to be part of our character
- Only 1 source of truth: The Bible
- According to the Scriptures, specifically The Torah
- Revelation 3:14 – 19
- Ephraim/Israel created doctrines in order to be neutral
- Israel thought they were prosperous but God said they were derelict



The Glory

- The more priests that joined the priesthood, the greater they sinned
- The bigger the group, the more the validity of beliefs to the group members
- Just as Wisdom and The Word are living manifestations of God, so is The Glory
- Jeremiah 2:10 – 12
- An Indulgence is a price paid to purchase a remission of a sin

PRIESTS AND PROSTITUTES

- Priests will not escape punishment
- Israel's priests were certain they were exempt because they were priests
- The priests are greedy and unethical
- The reason for the priests' sin: they paid no attention to God



Our Spiritual lives

Our physical lives



- Hosea 4:11 shifts from the priests to the people
- **Yayin** Old and new wine both contained alcohol
- The people have become so eager to drink and get drunk it has driven them to the point of madness
- “The piece of wood” is a diving rod stood up in the middle of a circle and released
- The spirit of whoring (idolatry) connected to actual whoring with prostitutes

THE MEN ARE TO BLAME

- Pagan holy sites always had trees
- Trees represented fertility and Ashtoreth
- Israelites used these pagan altars, but sacrificed to YHWH
- Improper understanding of God leads to family dysfunction
- The men were blamed for their wives/daughters prostituting themselves

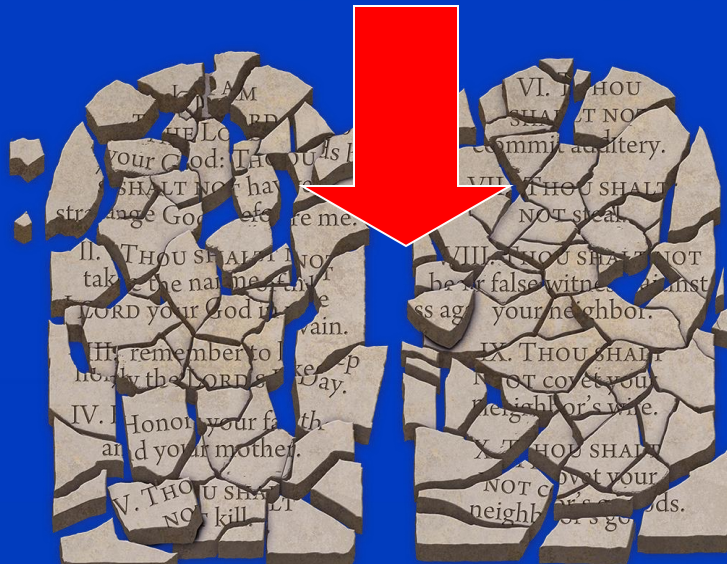


JUDAH! AVOID ISRAEL'S FATE !



- Cult prostitution likely not as usual as once thought
- Judah can avert guilt if they don't commit idolatry
- Gilgal was where the Tabernacle was first set up after crossing the Jordan River
- Biet-Aven = House of Trouble
- Biet-El = House of God
- A metonymy

THIS IS THE PROBLEM!



- Amos 5:21 – 23 “*I hate... your festivals; I take no pleasure in your solemn assemblies.....*”
- Any old worship at any old place isn't accepted
- God can't treat a lamb like a lamb if it acts like a stubborn cow
- The talk of domestic animals and marriage and prostitution were used as good illustrations because they were familiar



ISRAEL'S FATE IS FIXED

HOSEA 4:6

*“My people are
destroyed for
lack of
knowledge, in
that they have
rejected
knowledge...”*



4Q78-4Q XII^c
Plate 162, Frag 8
IAAB - 358844

This fragment contains text
from Hosea 4:1-11

DSST
Dead Sea Scrolls Translated

- Ephraim so joined to idols, it's a waste of time to try to reform them
- Matthew 7:22 – 23
- Israel, after drinking so much that the liquor is gone, turns to harlotry
- Vs. 18 is difficult to read because the Hosea scroll is in bad condition
- ***Ruach*** = wind or spirit

HOSEA

Chapter 5

A summons to
judgment

- 3 groups: Priests, the people, the royal family
- Several Mizpah's, probably not the one in Benjamin
- No logical reason for Mizpah or Tabor to be singled out
- ***“...a net stretched out over Tabor,
a pit dug deep at Shittim...”***
- Numbers 25:1