

## Who is Your Defense Attorney? Hosea 4

Have you ever stood trial? Or been a part of a jury?

The courtroom can be a very intense and scary place, especially if you are the one standing trial, accused, w/ your fate in the hands of a judge & jury!

I hope that is something I/we never have to experience here on earth!

But one day we all will stand before a Holy Judge, & our eternal fate will be held in His hands! There will be a prosecution, but will there be a defense?

Hosea chapter 4 is a courtroom scene with God as the prosecuting attorney and Israel standing trial without a defense!

**"Hear the word of the Lord, O children of Israel, for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land" – vs. 1a**

- Hosea transitions here from an autobiographical approach to giving a direct pronouncement from God to the people of Israel.

The time of storytelling has passed, it's now time to bring a charge against the people! And no one is exempt, not even the prophets and the priests!

The Charge/Accusation from God: **"There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land" – vs. 1b**

- Faithfulness – They have not kept their covenant vows to God!
- Steadfast love – They have continually turned away from their 1<sup>st</sup> love!
- Knowledge of God – They've forsaken His ways, the Law that reveals Him!

The Evidence: **"There is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed" – vs. 2**

- God throws down half of the 10 Commandments as evidence that they have sinned & are all law breakers! This alone was sufficient evidence.

*How far would God have to go down His top 10 list before we are convinced of our own sin and that we are law breakers as well?*

God also points out the evidence around them – this land, that was God's gift (a land flowing with milk & honey), has been infected as well – vs. 3.

And there is no use in trying to call a defense witness/attorney because they all stood guilty! This prosecuting attorney is pretty convincing!

There must have been however a group of people who tried to defend themselves. **Vs. 4 – "Let no one contend, and let no one accuse, for with you is my contention, O priest!"**

The priests must have been trying to shift the blame, but God addresses them specially, and rightfully so, because the spiritual failure of the people was an extension of the failure of their leaders!

What was the role of the priests? To be the intermediaries between God and the people. They brought God to the people and the people to God!

God's charge against the priests: **"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me" – vs. 6**

It was the priests who had forgotten the law of God, thus forsaking their calling to represent God & His ways to the people!

And though the priests were still representing the people to God through offering up sacrifices to God on the people's behalf, God accuses them of doing so just to feed their own stomachs – vs. 8.

**"And it shall be like people, like priest; I will punish them for their ways and repay them for their deeds" – vs. 9.** God had had enough!

**"A people without understanding (of God) shall come to ruin" – vs. 14**  
This is why inward, upward & outward transformation is so important!

So what did Israel do with their guilt? Nothing! It was too late!  
But, there was still hope for Judah (vs. 15-17)! And for us today as well!

We have someone who can come to our defense, and stand before the prosecution & address our guilt! **Jesus Christ can be our defense attorney!**

- H.C. #12 – Someone has to pay the penalty of our sin!
- H.C. #13 – We can't pay the debt we owe ourselves! No release on bond!
- H.C. #14 – No creature can pay our debt for us, b/c they too are indebted
- H.C. #15 – What kind of mediator/deliverer should we look for then?

We need a high priest who is faithful, steadfast in love, and who is the embodiment of the knowledge of God to stand in our defense!

Jesus did more than just die for us, He lived the life we failed to live (a holy life) so that He could pay the debt we owe in the flesh on our behalf!

## Who is Your Defense Attorney? Hosea 4

Have you ever stood trial? Or been a part of a jury?

The \_\_\_\_\_ can be a very intense and scary place, especially if you are the one standing trial, accused, w/ your fate in the hands of a judge & jury!

I hope that is something I/we never have to experience here on earth!

But one day we all will stand before a Holy Judge, & our eternal fate will be held in His hands! There will be a prosecution, but will there be a defense?

Hosea chapter 4 is a courtroom scene with God as the prosecuting attorney and Israel standing trial without a \_\_\_\_\_!

***“Hear the word of the Lord, O children of Israel, for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land” – vs. 1a***

- Hosea transitions here from an autobiographical approach to giving a direct pronouncement from God to the people of Israel.

The time of storytelling has passed, it's now time to bring a charge against the people! And no one is \_\_\_\_\_, not even the prophets and the priests!

The Charge/Accusation from God: ***“There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land” – vs. 1b***

- Faithfulness – They have not kept their covenant vows to God!
- Steadfast love – They have continually turned away from their \_\_\_\_\_!
- Knowledge of God – They've forsaken His ways, the Law that reveals Him!

The Evidence: ***“There is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed” – vs. 2***

- God throws down half of the 10 Commandments as evidence that they have sinned & are all law breakers! This alone was \_\_\_\_\_ evidence.

*How far would God have to go down His top 10 list before we are convinced of our own sin and that we are law breakers as well?*

God also points out the evidence around them – this land, that was God's gift (a land flowing with milk & honey), has been infected as well – **vs. 3.**

And there is no use in trying to call a defense witness/attorney because they all stood guilty! This prosecuting attorney is pretty \_\_\_\_\_!

There must have been however a group of people who tried to defend themselves. **Vs. 4 – “Let no one contend, and let no one accuse, for with you is my contention, O priest!”**

The priests must have been trying to shift the blame, but God addresses them specially, and rightfully so, because the spiritual failure of the people was an extension of the failure of their \_\_\_\_\_!

What was the role of the priests? To be the intermediaries between God and the people. They brought God to the people and the people to God!

God's charge against the priests: ***“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me” – vs. 6***

It was the priests who had forgotten the law of God, thus forsaking their calling to represent God & His ways to the people!

And though the priests were still representing the people to God through offering up sacrifices to God on the people's behalf, God accuses them of doing so just to feed their own \_\_\_\_\_ – **vs. 8.**

***“And it shall be like people, like priest; I will punish them for their ways and repay them for their deeds” – vs. 9.*** God had had enough!

***“A people without understanding (of God) shall come to ruin” – vs. 14***  
This is why inward, upward & outward \_\_\_\_\_ is so important!

So what did Israel do with their guilt? Nothing! It was too late!  
But, there was still hope for Judah (vs. 15-17)! And for us today as well!

We have someone who can come to our defense, and stand before the prosecution & address our guilt! Jesus Christ can be our \_\_\_\_\_!

- H.C. #12 – Someone has to pay the penalty of our sin!
- H.C. #13 – We can't pay the debt we owe ourselves! No release on bond!
- H.C. # 14 – No creature can pay our debt for us, b/c they too are \_\_\_\_\_
- H.C. # 15 – What kind of mediator/deliverer should we look for then?

We need a high priest who is faithful, steadfast in love, and who is the embodiment of the knowledge of God to stand in our defense!

Jesus did more than just die for us, He lived the life we failed to live (a holy life) so that He could \_\_\_\_\_ we owe in the flesh on our behalf!