

<sup>ESV</sup> **Numbers 33:50** And the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying, <sup>51</sup> "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you pass over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, <sup>52</sup> then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their figured stones and destroy all their metal images and demolish all their high places. <sup>53</sup> And you shall take possession of the land and settle in it, for I have given the land to you to possess it. <sup>54</sup> You shall inherit the land by lot according to your clans. To a large tribe you shall give a large inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a small inheritance. Wherever the lot falls for anyone, that shall be his. According to the tribes of your fathers you shall inherit. <sup>55</sup> But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell. <sup>56</sup> And I will do to you as I thought to do to them." (See also, Num 15:39; 23:7-10, 18-24; 24:3-9, 15-19; 25:1-17)

<sup>ESV</sup> **Deuteronomy 4:32** "For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of. <sup>33</sup> Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and still live? <sup>34</sup> Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great deeds of terror, all of which the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? <sup>35</sup> To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD is God; there is no other besides him. <sup>36</sup> Out of heaven he let you hear his voice, that he might discipline you. And on earth he let you see his great fire, and you heard his words out of the midst of the fire. <sup>37</sup> And because he loved your fathers and chose their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt with his own presence, by his great power, <sup>38</sup> driving out before you nations greater and mightier than yourselves, to bring you in, to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is this day, <sup>39</sup> know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. <sup>40</sup> Therefore you shall keep his statutes and his commandments, which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for all time." (See also, Deut 4:1-8, 9-14, 15-31; 5:1-21, 22-33; 6:1-25; 7:1-26; 9:25-29; 10:12-22; 11:1-12, 13-25, 26-32; 12:1-7, 29-32; 27:9-28:69, etc.)

- **Joshua and Judges** (approx. 1400 BC-1050 BC)
- **The United Kingdom** (approx. 1050 BC-931 BC)
- **The Divided Kingdom** (approx. 931 BC-722 BC / 586 BC)

#### God tells Israel to listen up because he has a contention against them.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Hosea 4:1** Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel,

for the LORD has a **controversy** with the inhabitants of the land.

There **is no** faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land;

<sup>2</sup> there **is** swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.

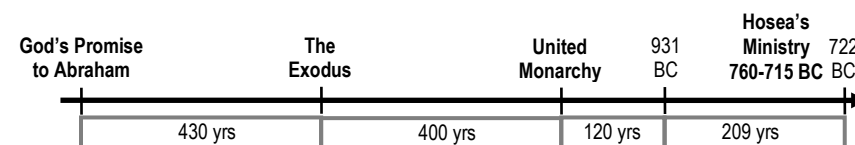
<sup>3</sup> Therefore the land mourns, and all who dwell in it languish, and also the beasts of the field and the birds of the heavens, and even the fish of the sea are taken away.

Sunday, January 11, 2026  
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

**Hosea—Faithless People Faithful God**  
No. 6 | God's Contention with Israel—  
The Priests and the People, pt. 1  
**Hosea 4:1-3**

#### Review

The Book of Hosea: (1) It is the first book of the minor prophets in the Old Testament (starting on page 751 in the ESV Pew Bible); (2) It recounts the "word of the LORD" to Hosea, a man who served as a prophet in deed and in word; (3) His prophetic ministry was most immediately to the northern kingdom of Israel (Samaria), then to the southern kingdom of Judah (Jerusalem); (4) He began his prophetic ministry likely shortly before Jeroboam II died (753 BC) and concluded shortly after Hezekiah began to reign (729 BC).



The Book of Hosea is about the *faithlessness* of God's people and his *faithfulness* to them, illustrated most poignantly through marital (in)fidelity.

#### God's Contention with Israel—Priests and People, pt. 1

4:1-3

<sup>ESV</sup> **Hosea 4:1** Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land.

Where are we at in the book of Hosea?

"Chapters 1-3 have been solemn. Yet compared with what follows in the bulk of the scroll, they have been positive and encouraging... It is against the background of that encouragement that readers are now bidden to study the chapters that follow, which are going to be really solemn." (Goldingay, pp. 72-73)

How should we understand the backdrop to God's contention with Israel?

What sort of warrant does he have for bringing such a "controversy" to them?  
What sort of behavior were they known for in the time of their relationship?

#### History

##### - (1876 BC) God's promise to Abraham

<sup>ESV</sup> **Genesis 12:1** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (See also, Gen 13:14-17; 15:5, 13-16, 18-21)

<sup>ESV</sup> **Genesis 17:4** "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you

exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup> And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>8</sup> And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

**Abram (Abraham) > Isaac > Jacob (Israel) > Judah | Joseph (Ephraim)**

## - (1446 BC) Israel's exodus from Egypt

<sup>ESV</sup> **Exodus 6:2** God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD. <sup>3</sup> I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. <sup>4</sup> I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. <sup>5</sup> Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. <sup>6</sup> Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. <sup>7</sup> **I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.** <sup>8</sup> I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.'" (See also, Ex 1:7; 2:23-25; 3:7-11; 15:13-18)

<sup>ESV</sup> **Exodus 19:2** They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, <sup>3</sup> while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup> You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, **you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples**, for all the earth is mine; <sup>6</sup> and **you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.** These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." (See also, Ex 20:3-6; 32:4, 7-10; 33:12-16)

<sup>ESV</sup> **Exodus 34:11** "Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I will drive out before you the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>12</sup> Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you go, lest it become a snare in your midst. <sup>13</sup> You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim <sup>14</sup> (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), <sup>15</sup> lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and when they **whore after their gods** and sacrifice to their gods and you are invited, you eat of his sacrifice, <sup>16</sup> and you take of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters **whore after their gods** and make your sons **whore after their gods.**

<sup>ESV</sup> **Leviticus 20:22** "You shall therefore keep all my statutes and all my rules and do them, that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. <sup>23</sup> And you shall not walk in the customs of the nation that I am driving out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I detested them. <sup>24</sup> But I have said to you, 'You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey.' I am the LORD your God, who have separated you from the peoples. <sup>25</sup> You shall therefore separate the clean beast from the unclean, and the unclean bird from the clean. You shall not make yourselves detestable by beast or by bird or by anything with which the ground crawls, which I have set apart for you to hold unclean. <sup>26</sup> **You shall be holy to me**, for I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that **you should be mine.** (See also, Lev 17:1; 20:1-7; 22:31-33; 26:1-12 [blessing], 13-39 [punishment], 40-45 [repentance])

