

Strengthening a Nation

Hosea 4:1-6

“Hear the word of the Lord, you children of Israel...” Verse 1

1. This is the primary thing that will save a nation.
 - a. This is not saying a whole nation has to come to the Lord for salvation to be successful.
 - b. Many nations have been successful by coming to unchanging foundational principles which have their roots in the word of God (conservative principles).
 - c. National success and stability increase with an increase in mature believers, disciples.
 - d. We are the salt of the land and need to renew our savor.
 - e. You can be saved and be a liberal. But you cannot be a disciple and be a liberal.

“...For the Lord brings a charge (a controversy – a bone to pick) against (with) the inhabitants of the land...”

God has an argument with the inhabitants, the believers because:

“There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land.”

1. Truth, mercy, or knowledge are progressive. Truth produces mercy and knowledge.
 - a. There was no truth-teaching of the word of God. People were left to their own thinking – what is right in each person’s sight.
 - b. No mercy – This is the ministry of evangelism. Telling of God’s grace – His mercy to the inhabitants.
 - c. No knowledge of God in the land – This is discipleship of mature believers. Spiritual believers form the salt, the preserving agent of the nation they live in.
 1. People need an unchanging standard of right and wrong.
 2. We cannot compare to other nations like Europe.
 3. We can only compare ourselves to the Word of God.
 4. With no standard, we make ourselves the standard.
 - a. “In the last days, men will be lovers of self...”
 - b. “Seven sins God hates... a proud look.”
2. Abundance of truth produces stability. A lack produces unrest, then anarchy, then destruction.

“By swearing and lying, killing, and stealing, and committing adultery. They break all restraint, with bloodshed upon bloodshed.” Verse 2

1. Swearing – is bad business bad practices, not keeping your word.
2. Lying – perjury comes from a lack of conscience.
3. Killing – murder and crime.
4. Stealing – robbery, breaking and entering.
5. Committing adultery – this is adultery, fornication, rape.
6. Break all restraint – continually push past the boundaries which are not enforced.
7. Bloodshed upon bloodshed – violence produces more violence.

“Therefore, the land will mourn; and everyone who dwells there will waste away (languish – suffer) with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air; even the fish of the sea will be taken away.” Verse 3

1. The inhabitants will groan in confusion.
2. Everyone will suffer along with creation. The animals, birds, and fish...
3. Man’s rebellion affects nature and all creation suffers (Romans 8:19-23).

“Now let no man contend, or rebuke another; for your people are like those who contend with the priest.” Verse 4

1. We argue and get little done.
2. We point to government and blame everyone else:
3. Democrats, Republicans, Liberals, Conservatives. These are symptoms of rebellion toward God’s word.
4. Then our nation argues with the one who has the answer – the minister of the word of God.
5. We are then left opposing and blaming God.

“Therefore you (the nation) shall stumble in the day; the prophet (false) also shall stumble with you in the night (darkness he produced); and I will destroy your mother.” Verse 5

1. The nation stumbles in the day because they are in darkness. They are blind.
2. The false prophets which are leading you will fall too – the liberal leaders, false religious leaders, government leaders, and press.
3. The “mother” is false religion, political ideology, and education. The left wing, liberal ideology which will be destroyed.

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.” Verse 6

1. The people will be destroyed for lack of knowledge because the ministers have left the teaching of the word for a more culturally relevant message.

2. God holds the minister accountable for teaching the word of God to the people.
3. God will reject the minister first who will not minister the word to His people. God will replace them.
4. Because they have neglected the word, God will neglect them and their family (Proverbs 3:33-35).