



**Pamagat:** The LORD’s Controversy Against the Priests and Prophets (Religious Leaders)

Hosea 4:5 “Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and **the prophet also shall fall** 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 will also forget thy children. 7 As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame. 8 They eat up the sin of my people, and they set their heart on their iniquity. 9 And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings. 10 For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the LORD. 11 Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.”

**Panimula:**

1. Last week we saw the controversy of the LORD against the people, today we will look at the LORD’s controversy against the religious leaders (priests and prophets).
2. This is the LORD’s commentary on Israel and here in vv.5-11 – God has a controversy (charge) with the priests and the prophets – the religious leaders of Israel.
  - 2.1. The People will fall.
  - 2.2. The Prophet will fall.
  - 2.3. The Priest will fall.

**I. The People are Destroyed for their Lack of Knowledge.**

- A. Of His words (the law of thy God), and of His ways (Holiness)
- B. When the priest doesn’t speak the truth, the people will be ignorant and sin.
- C. Spiritual ignorance is no excuse.

**II. The People are Destroyed for following their Religious Leaders.**

- A. I will forget thy children. (v.6b) – the entire kingdom and people of Israel.
- B. I will change their glory into shame. (v.7b) – degrade their people and priests.
- C. I will punish them for their ways and reward them their doings. (v.9b)

**Katapusan:**

1. Backsliding is here described: (v.10b) – “they have left off to take heed to the LORD.”  
Review: (1:2 – departing from the LORD; 2:13 – forgat me, saith the LORD) – this is the state of their backslidiness. They have apostatized or turned from the true God.
2. Whoredom (Immorality) and wine and new wine (Drunkenness) take away the heart.
3. The heart of the problem is a problem of the heart.