



Daily Verse and Comment

Hosea 4:11-12

(11) Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart. (12) My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God.

King James Version

A crucial key to understanding the application to us, in both Hosea and Amos, is that they prophesied in Israel (the [ten northern tribes](#)) during a time similar to today—that is, in the last generation before a *major* national calamity fell on them, a "time of the end."

Hosea and Amos were among the last prophets [God](#) sent to Israel so that the nation could never say (including after their resurrection) that God did not care enough to give them a chance. No, He gave them an overwhelming number of chances to [repent](#). In their case, the time was just before Israel fell to the invading Assyrian armies, who removed from their homeland and scattered them to the four winds, never to return to the land of Israel.

Historical records and archeological findings show that Israel was quite prosperous during the time of Amos and Hosea. It was a major power in [the world](#). But at the same time, the nation was rotten to the core morally, and social injustice was the order of the day throughout the land.

These people had a problem with getting literally drunk, since Amos reports of them drinking wine by the bowls—not cups, but bowls. Hosea directly calls Ephraim, "the drunkards of Ephraim." Besides this, they practiced their ritual harlotry within the pagan religion they had adopted. But the lesson for us is spiritual. God is saying that at the end-time, it is as though a demoniacal power seizes the nation and destroys loyalty to God.

Drugs destroy a person's capacity to think clearly and break down resistance to evil. They cloud the mind so that one becomes morally stupid and incapable of thinking straight. In like manner, so does the spiritual drunkenness that results from over-imbibing in Babylon.

Please understand the parallel. In [Revelation 17:2](#), the world's people are reported as being "*drunk* on the wine of her fornication"—a spiritual drunkenness, not a physical one. Hosea is talking about *both*. This drunkenness is an escape into the fantasies of this world's attitudes and conduct. It deprives people of their understanding. It undermines the heart and removes inhibitions. Why? Because people want to join the excitement that everybody else is having.

This drunkenness fills a person with false confidence. Such people say, "Oh, things are going to be all right." "Everything is going to work out." "You don't have to worry about AIDS or any of those other sexual diseases." This is false confidence, even bravado—"I am the man!"

It plays havoc with modesty and restraint. Women's hems rise and necklines fall. They are imbibing in Babylon. Worse, it destroys loyalty within relationships, both with humans and with God.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Laodiceanism and Being There Next Year](#)



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