

# Hosea 4:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots: therefore the people that doth not understand shall fall.

## Analysis

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God's shocking statement 'I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery' isn't approval but devastating irony: judgment on the men makes their women's punishment irrelevant. The indictment continues: 'for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots' (ki-hem im-ha-zonot yepharedu we-im-ha-qedeshov yezabbehu). The religious leaders engage in ritual prostitution with qedeshov (cult prostitutes, literally 'holy ones'—perverse sanctification of sexual sin in worship). When spiritual leaders model immorality, societal moral collapse follows. 'Therefore the people that doth not understand shall fall' (we-am lo-yavin yilabbet): without discernment grounded in God's Word, people stumble into destruction. This underscores leaders' accountability—their sin corrupts the entire community (James 3:1).

## Historical Context

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Canaanite Baal worship incorporated sacred prostitution, believing sexual activity with cult prostitutes (male and female) magically stimulated Baal's fertility blessings on crops and livestock. Israel's syncretism integrated these practices into YHWH worship, grossly violating the first and seventh commandments

simultaneously. Deuteronomy 23:17-18 explicitly forbade cult prostitution. That priests and leaders led in this abomination (v. 9) magnified the sin. Archaeological evidence from Canaanite sites confirms these practices. Hosea's contemporary ministry showed God's patience ending: the moral corruption was too deep, judgment inevitable. Paul later warned that sexual immorality is uniquely destructive (1 Corinthians 6:18).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do I respond when religious leaders embrace or tolerate blatant sin, even in 'worship'?
2. What responsibility do I bear for discernment and holiness when surrounded by moral confusion?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא	אֶפְקֹד וְ	עַל	בְּנוֹתֶיךָ	כִּי	הֵזִנּוּ
H3808	<b>I will not punish</b>	H5921	<b>your daughters</b>	H3588	<b>when they commit whoredom</b>
	H6485		H1323		H2181
וְעַל	כָּלֹתֶיךָ	כִּי	תִנָּא פְּנֵה	כִּי	הֵם
H5921	<b>nor your spouses</b>	H3588	<b>when they commit adultery</b>	H3588	H1992
	H3618		H5003		H5973
	הֵזִנּוּ		וְיָפְרוּ	וְעִם	הַקִּדָּשׁ
	<b>when they commit whoredom</b>		<b>for themselves are separated</b>	H5973	<b>with harlots</b>
	H2181		H6504		H6948
	וְיִזְבְּחוּ	וְעַם	לֹא	יָבִין	יִלָּבֹט:
	<b>and they sacrifice</b>		H3808	<b>that doth not understand</b>	<b>shall fall</b>
	H2076	H5971		H995	H3832

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hosea 4:1** (Parallel theme): Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.