

# Hosea 5:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled.

## Analysis

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Known to God: 'I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled.' The emphatic אני (ani) אַנְּיָהָתִי אֶפְרַיִם (yada'ti Ephraim): 'I, I know Ephraim'—complete divine knowledge despite human attempts to hide sin. The verb יְדַעַּתִּי (yada', 'know') indicates intimate, comprehensive knowledge—not mere awareness but full understanding of motives, actions, consequences. Israel's harlotry (spiritual adultery) and defilement (אַנְּוֹת, tame'—ceremonial/moral impurity) cannot be hidden from omniscient God. This echoes Psalm 139:1-4: 'O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me.' The terrifying reality: all sin occurs in God's full view (Hebrews 4:13). Yet gospel hope: Christ bore our defilement, making us clean (2 Corinthians 5:21).

## Historical Context

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Ephraim's spiritual harlotry involved Baal worship conducted at hidden shrines, under trees, on mountain tops—attempts to conceal idolatry from public view while maintaining appearance of YHWH worship. The priests and leaders facilitated this deception. Yet God's omniscience penetrates all concealment. Archaeological discoveries of 8th century Israelite worship sites show syncretistic practices: YHWH worship mixed with Asherah poles, Baal imagery, fertility cult elements. What they thought hidden from YHWH (perhaps reasoning that Canaanite gods ruled Canaanite sites) was fully known. This demonstrates that secret sin is impossible—God sees all (Jeremiah 23:23-24).

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does awareness of God's omniscient knowledge of all our thoughts and actions affect both conviction of sin and assurance of grace in Christ?
2. What does it mean that despite knowing us fully, God loved us enough to send Christ (Romans 5:8)?

## Interlinear Text

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עָתָה	כִּי	מִתְּחִילָה	בַּיּוֹם	לֹא	יִשְׁרָאֵל:	אַפְּכֶם	יְהִי עַתָּה	אָנִי
H6258	H3588	H4480	H3582	H3808	is not hid			
<b>I know</b>	<b>Ephraim</b>	<b>and Israel</b>						
H3045	H669	H3478						
הַזְּבֵדָתְךָ	נִטְמַה	אַפְּכֶם	בַּיּוֹם	לֹא	יִשְׁרָאֵל:			
<b>thou committest whoredom</b>	<b>Ephraim</b>	<b>is defiled</b>	<b>and Israel</b>					
H2181	H669	H2930	H3478					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Amos 3:2** (Parallel theme): You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.