



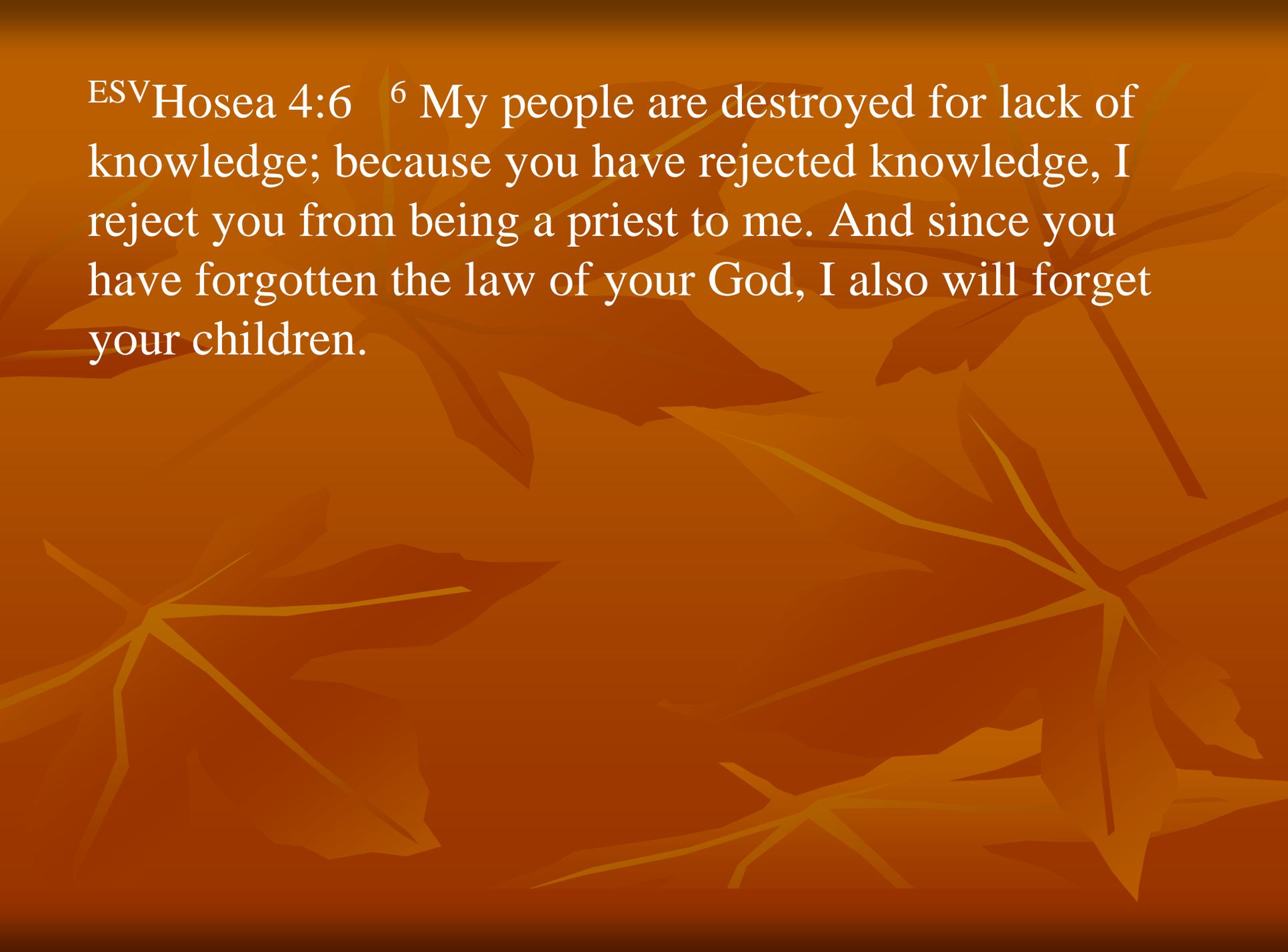
Synagogue Structure

Providing Justice for the People

ESV 1 Corinthians 6:1 When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? ² Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? ³ Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! ⁴ So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? ⁵ I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, ⁶ but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers?

Deuteronomy 16:18-20 ¹⁸ "You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. ¹⁹ You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. ²⁰ Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Restore our judges as in former times and our counselors as at the beginning; and remove from us sorrow and sighing. Reign over us, you alone, O Lord, with loving kindness and compassion, and clear us in judgment. Blessed are you, O Lord, the King who loves righteousness and justice.



ESV Hosea 4:6 ⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

ESV Hosea 4:6 ⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Malachi 2:7-8 “ . . . the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. ⁸ But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction . . . ”

Knesset כנסת

The Synagogue

(the Assembly)

"Like Israel of old, the Church is called 'the people of God' (1 Peter 2:10) and is expected to function with communal self-awareness. Whenever the Church has forsaken this aspect of its Jewish roots -- the so-called democracy of the synagogue -- and become authoritarian and hierarchically centered, rather than lay- or people-centered, its social consciousness has been greatly blunted"

Marvin Wilson , "Our Father Abraham", pg. 190

“Five-Fold Ministry”

Ephesians 4:11-12 ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ . . .

Rabbi

- literally “Great One”
- an important teacher
- knowledgeable in Torah
- traveled between synagogues
- offered exhortation, understanding

Acts 13:14-15 ¹⁴ but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵ After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it."

Apostle

- literally “sent out” - Hebrew = “shaliach”
- set up new synagogues
- “first” because it was the first step in establishing a new synagogue (1 Corinthians 12:28)

^{ESV} Acts 13:1 Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas . . . and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Prophet

- literally “speaks forth” - Hebrew = “navi”
- insight into what was happening in light of the scriptures

^{KJV} Exodus 7:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

Evangelists

- literally “telling” - Hebrew = “maggid”
- encouraged people in the community to return to the synagogue
- good speaker – could encourage by relating Biblical stories
- itinerant – traveled between synagogues

Pastors

- Hebrew = “zakin”
- older, wiser, usually retired rabbi or priest
- provided counseling and visited the sick

Teachers

- literally “men of leisure” - Hebrew = “batlanim”
- men with free time to study Torah and Prophets
- ten batlanim required for a “minion”

"ten persons who abstain from all other work in order to be present in synagogue for morning and evening prayers".

Rashi - (*San. 17b; Meg. 3b*)

Administrative Roles

- Beit Din = “house of judgement”
 - at least 3 batlanim
 - made judgements concerning the synagogue and community
- Nasi – president of the synagogue
 - James – the Nasi of the Jerusalem synagogue

Matthew 18:15-18 ¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Matthew 23:2-3 ² "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, ³ so practice and observe whatever they tell you- but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice.

Deuteronomy 1:17 ¹⁷ You shall not be partial in judgment. You shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not be intimidated by anyone, for the judgment is God's. And the case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it.'