

# God's Charge Against Israel

Hosea 4

# Verse 1

Verse 1 is God's complaint against Israel. The rest of the chapter details the complaint

# The Broken Marriage

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Hosea has used the illustration of his marriage to indict Israel.

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The heart of the issue is that they have forsaken God

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The rejected the fountain of living water and ran after idols.

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Now, the fruit is gone – like chaff that the wind blows away.

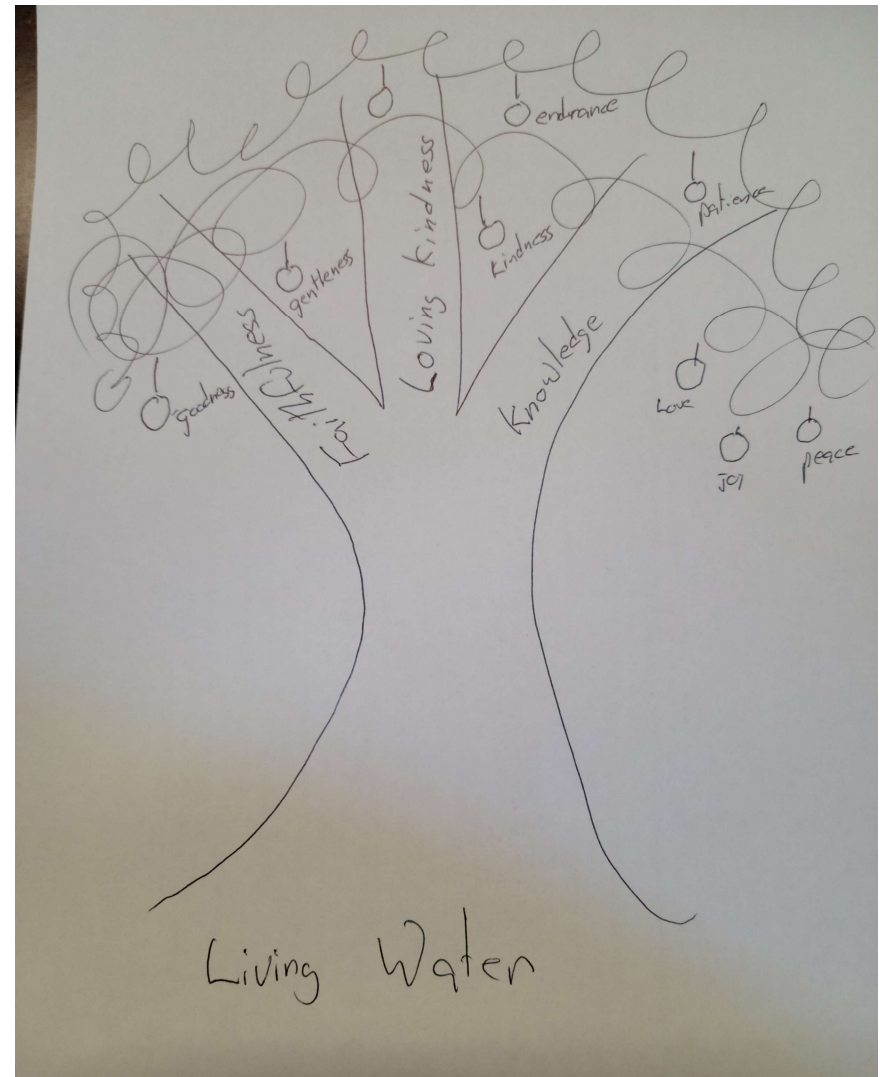


## “Who, Us?”

- This is our natural response. Since we wish to be as gods, we wish to define for ourselves what is good and evil.
- We believe that we can find good things and be good people apart from the only source of good.
- So we reject any accusation that we have corrupted ourselves, for this strikes at the heart of our self-worship

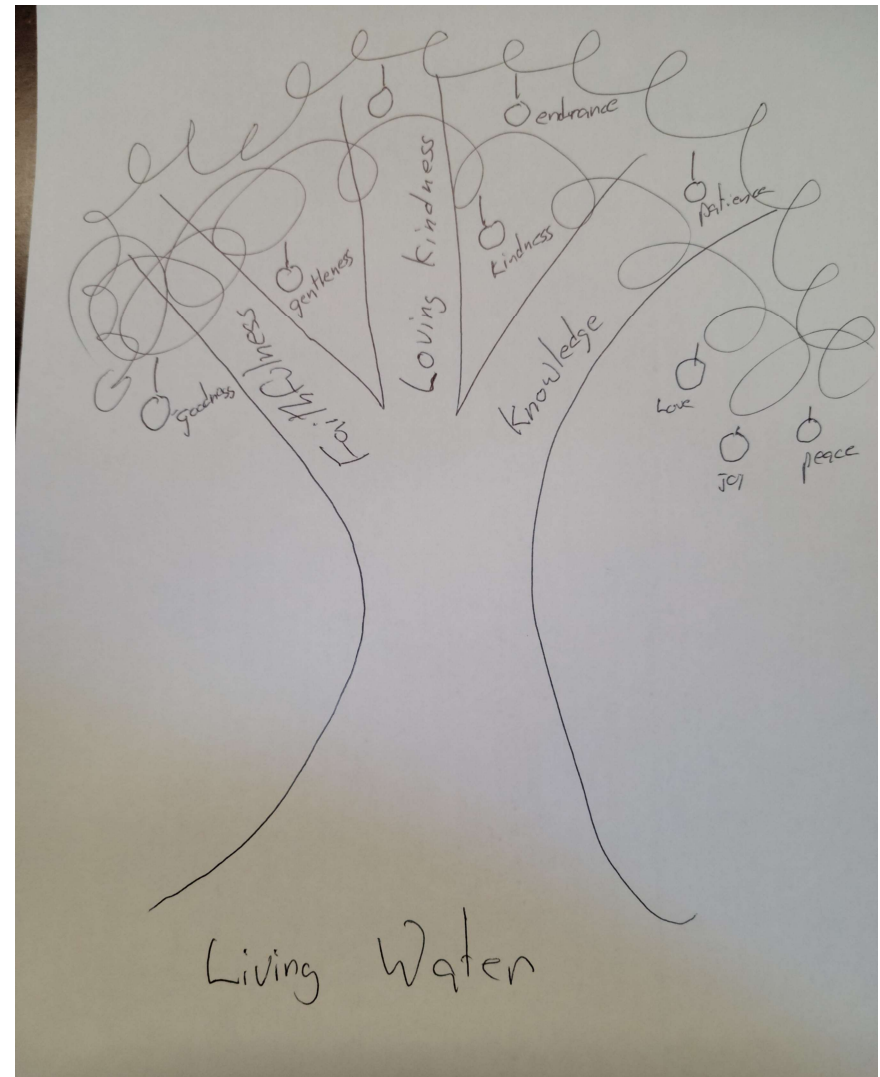
## The branches of the tree

- <sup>3</sup> And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. (Ps. 1:3)



## The branches of the tree

- When the tree is planted in living water (fellowship with the Triune God), everything that is good flows from there.
- The three healthy branches are
  - Faithfulness
  - Lovingkindness
  - Knowledge
- From those branches flow all the fruits of the spirit, which go far deeper than simply the works of the law



# Results of divorce

- Augustine, in seeking to address the problem of evil, defined evil as “an absence of good”. It has no existence on its own, nor is it a substance.
- There are not universal principles of good and evil fighting for dominance. There is only one God.
- You are either in fellowship with him or you walk in darkness – the absence of light.
- Since Israel has rejected God, they have no source of faithfulness, lovingkindness or knowledge. Therefore these are no longer there.

There is no....

- This is a particle of “non-existence” in Hebrew. It is repeated three times with three different substances.
- There is no....





There is no...

Faithfulness

A photograph of two hands, one from the left and one from the right, reaching towards each other to form a heart shape. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame against a solid blue background. The left hand has a pink string bracelet on the wrist. The text 'There is no....' is overlaid in white on the heart shape.

There is no....

Lovingkindness (chesed)



There is no....

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Knowledge of God

# Knowledge of God

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- They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (Isa. 11:9)



# Knowledge

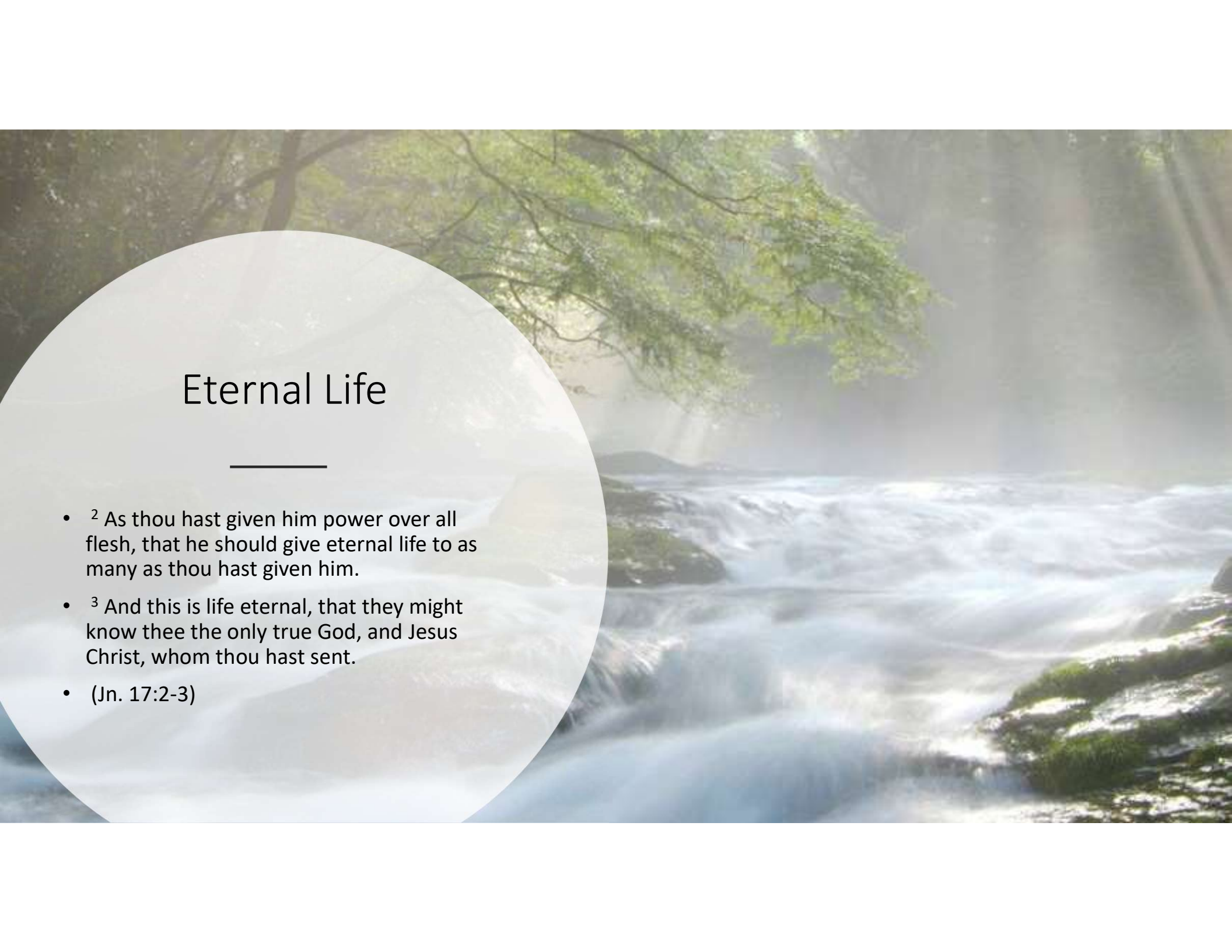
Where there is knowledge of God, the curse is taken away.

The knowledge of God is compared to light. When the light is in the darkness, the darkness is no longer there.

Adam and Eve rejected this knowledge, and darkness was unavoidable. Not just active punishment, but also a natural result.

Rejecting life brings death.





# Eternal Life

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- <sup>2</sup> As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.
- <sup>3</sup> And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.
- (Jn. 17:2-3)

# Redemption

- What we need is redemption, not moral improvement.
- We have been cut off from the source of life and must be grafted back in
- This is what Christ has come to do.

# Vain traditions

<sup>18</sup> Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as silver and gold*, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup> But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (1 Pet. 1:18-19)

- The vain traditions are the attempt to walk in the light without fellowship with God.
- The only result can be chaff, which the wind blows away
- The fact that God restrains evil and still gives corn and wine even to those who reject him, does not change his nature



# Vain traditions

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We fool ourselves into thinking that we have our own source of goodness, just as Israel did of old.

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So, like Israel, God gives us the law that we might have no more confidence in the flesh.

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“You think you are a source of goodness and light? Let’s look at the facts...”

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This is the rest of chapter 4