

Prior to beginning this study, remember to take time, to ask God to minister to you through His word. Read the current chapter several times to know the content, then start answering the questions. Always answer the questions in your own words.

## **Chapter 10**

### **THE CASE AGAINST ISRAEL: JUDGMENT IS COMING**

As we observed in our last study together, God's verdict against Israel was "rejection." They had turned their back upon Him and had scorned His call for reconciliation and forgiveness. Therefore, now they must pay the penalty, and it was to be a very severe one at that.

Verse 2 shares a powerful statement of truth. That verse reads, *Their heart is deceitful, and now they must bear their guilt. The Lord will demolish their altars and destroy their sacred stones.* Our hearts are indeed deceitful. Jeremiah proclaimed, *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9)*

At times, we are deceived as to think that God will never punish our sins. God may delay the judgment for awhile, as He did with Israel, but the time will come when we must bear our guilt. God was very patient with those people living during the days when Noah was building the ark. In fact, for one hundred and twenty years, God was patient with them. Every day was a day of warning for them to come to repentance, because, as Peter proclaimed, *God is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).*

One of the great truths of this tenth chapter of Hosea is that we should not let sins pile up in our lives thinking that God will somehow overlook them. Just because God delays His discipline does not mean that it will not occur. How much wiser it is for us to pay attention to the advice of John as he wrote, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).* Confessing our sins now before God will spare us from bearing their guilt later on.

Hosea also addresses two issues in this chapter that can cause a person to abandon his confidence and trust in God. The first is the abundance of wealth. Verse 1 proclaims, Israel was a spreading vine; he brought forth fruit for himself. As his fruit increased, he built more altars; as his land prospered, he adorned his sacred stones. Somehow, like Israel, we think everything is all right if we have money. Life is good when you have wealth, and often God is put "on the back burner." It is easy for a rich man to consider that he himself is responsible for what he has instead of reflecting upon the Lord's gifts. There is nothing wrong with wealth, but we need to remember from whom it has come.

The second issue is that of strength of arms. We read in verse 13, "Because you have depended on your own strength and on your many warriors, the roar of battle will rise against your people. We count our soldiers and our weapons." If we count more than our enemy, then we feel secure. Remember national strength comes from a dependence upon God. Our encouragement must come from the Lord. Let us always remember those words from the of David, *Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God (Psalm 20:7)*

What is Israel compared to in verse 1?

How do you think the abandonment of God has affected our own culture?

What is the fear of the LORD, in verse 3, speaking of?

What was "hemlock"?

Samaria was the capitol of \_\_\_\_\_.

Who would mourn at the loss of the calf?

What happened to the calf?

The calf had been proclaimed as \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel.

Explain verse 11 in your own words.

What did GOD challenge Israel to do? V12

What is the “fallow ground”? Is there fallow ground in your life?

Find information on Shalman.

What does the mother being dashed to pieces on her children show us?

What did you learn from this chapter?