

As you begin to study, pray that GOD will speak to you through His word. Read the chapter a few times, know the contents. After reading the introduction, answer the questions.

## **Chapter 7**

### **THE CASE AGAINST ISRAEL: MORE CHARGES**

God's case against Israel for her spiritual unfaithfulness continues. In our last study we noticed how God had given a challenge to Israel for them to repent and to return unto Him. Instead, Israel determined to be religious and to rely upon outward rituals and ceremonies instead of turning back toward God.

To help us understand how sins progress one upon another until its out of control, let's quickly examine the sin of David with Bathsheba. Read 2 Samuel 11

First, it says in verse 1 that it was the time of year when the kings normally went to war. David had done this on many other occasions, but this year, for reasons not explained in the text, he remained at home.

Secondly, David lusted after a beautiful woman he saw bathing in her outdoor pool. Immediately he should have turned and walked away. That is what Joseph had done many years previously.

Thirdly, David inquired as to who the woman was. He was told that she was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. Right there, David should have stopped dead in his tracks. Uriah was one of the inner circle of men who had been with him and supported him for years. He was a close personal friend. But did David stop? No, he kept right on with his plan, now adding coveting to his list of sins, for Bathsheba rightfully belonged to another, and yet David wanted her as his own.

Fourthly, David committed adultery with Bathsheba. And I am sure that he enjoyed the pleasures which that evening brought to him. But those pleasures only lasted momentarily. Fifthly, instead of repenting, David attempts to cover-up his sin. But Uriah's convictions and righteous attitude creates within David a deep anger. Yes, anger is now the sixth sin added to David's charge. And the result of the anger is the murder of Uriah.

It is only when David is confronted by God, through the prophet Nathan, that those sins are removed. Our sinful desires can be brought under control and even quenched by the presence of God. That is why it is so important for us to submit ourselves daily to God and to be filled with His Spirit.

Through out these passages of scripture, notice the things to which God compares Israel  
(7:4-8, 11-12, 16)

What are Ephraim's crimes against God?

How did Israel (also called Samaria and Ephraim) imagine they were fooling God v1-2?

What unusual thing is said, in verse 3, about the king and why?

The fact that it's leavened, means what? v4

Explain verse 6 in your own words.

In verse 8 Ephraim had done what?

A. What is wrong with the cake and what is meant by a cake unturned?

B. Describes the type of person this cake is like?

C. How does this apply to you?

What is meant by the gray hairs being here and there upon him?

The problem mentioned in verse 10, is sometimes referred to as the 1<sup>st</sup> sin. What is it and where is it mentioned in the bible?

Why did the people “call to Egypt” and “go to Assyria“? v11-13

What sometimes makes a lie more attractive than the truth?

In spite of everything, what did the Lord continue to desire to do for Israel (7:1,13,15)?

What does God's persistence tell us about His love?

Sometimes the conditions of this life can beat us down to such an extent that we cannot see anything but our own problems. Sometimes the darkness and despair grows so deep that we almost lose sight of our hope in Christ. We focus upon our fears and anxieties and lose touch with the One who suffered and died for us. Thinking we are alone, we might feel as though we have been deserted. We look, and can find no reminder of God's love and presence in our lives. We become lost in what the spiritual writers sometimes call "the dark night of the soul." All Christians seem to slip into some form of this condition at sometime in their lives. All Christians, no matter how spiritual or how faithful, can become mired in the bog of spiritual depression. There is nothing unusual about such feelings; they are a part of what it means to struggle with the powers and forces of darkness in this present evil age.