

**1 October 2023 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group**

**"Israel Goes to War and Faces Disaster" -- Hosea 5:8-7:2**

1. To what was Israel summoned (5:8)? What specific historical conflict was the backdrop of this message?
2. What will happen to Israel after being summoned to this event (5:9)?
3. Even though God had brought calamity upon Israel (Ephraim), what was the nation determined to do (5:11)?
4. What did God say He would be like toward Israel and Judah during this time (5:12)?
5. When trouble hit Israel, where did she seek help (5:13)?
6. What appeal came to the nation in the midst of this calamity (6:1-3)?
7. What was Israel's love for her covenant God like during this period (6:4)?
8. What does the LORD desire more than the rituals of sacrifice (6:6)?
9. What did Adam and all mankind break (6:7)? How did this apply to Israel?
10. What did the nation of Israel ignore about God's view of them (7:2)?
11. How do many skeptics view God's threats of harm for not loving Him?
12. Is it self-centered of God to demand that people love and serve Him? What response must be given for this view?
13. How are you exposed to spiritual harm and danger when you live disobediently toward the LORD and His covenant?
14. How would you assess your covenant love and loyalty? To which aspects of God's covenant do you pay most attention? Which aspects of God's covenant might you be ignoring?
15. Are rituals and ceremonies bad? Why or why not?
16. How did the Pharisees fail to understand Hosea 6:6? What did they miss? In what ways might we miss the meaning of Hosea 6:6 in our adherence to ceremony and ritual?
17. Should Christians dispense with ceremonies and rituals? When are they good? When are they harmful?
18. How significant do you think the "third day" is in Old Testament Scripture such as Genesis 42:18; Exodus 19:11, 15-16; Leviticus 7:17-18; Numbers 19:12, 19; 2 Kings 20:5, 8?
19. When does "resurrection" begin?
20. How should you individually "press on" to know the LORD? How should the particular congregation to which you belong "press on" to know the LORD?