

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

**"Ancient Israel's Corruption on Full Display (Part 1)" -- Hosea 7:3-16**

1. What made the officials of Israel happy (v. 3)?
2. How does God describe the intensity with which the leaders of Israel engaged in their political scheming (vv. 4, 6-7)?
3. In what did the officials of Israel overindulge (v. 5)?
4. What did people who disagreed with their leaders do to them (v. 7)?
5. What was the condition of northern Israel, particularly among her leaders, after rejecting the LORD their God (vv. 3-7)?
6. With whom did northern Israel (Ephraim) get mixed up (v. 8)?
7. Who devoured Israel's strength (v. 9)?
8. What was an attitude that described Israel's people? What did this prevent them from doing (v. 10)?
9. To what did God compare the nation's intelligence and common sense? What was a major evidence of this (v. 11)?
10. What did Israel speak about the LORD their God (v. 13)?
11. When Israel did worship the LORD, what was it like (v. 14)?
12. How did the people of Israel treat the LORD their God (v. 15)?
13. What was God going to do because of Israel's corruption (v. 16)?
14. Why do you think the LORD gave all the detailed information and descriptions that He did about Israel's corruption? Is there too much information to understand? How do you keep yourself from getting lost in the details?
15. If you don't understand all the specific references and metaphors God used to describe Israel's situation, do you still think you can understand the major theme of the passage? What is it?
16. How do you keep yourself from losing focus on a passage that might seem obscure and laden with illustrations that are not readily perceptible to us in a modern setting?
17. God laid out a devastating and strong case against Israel's sinful condition. Does the LORD do that in reference to anyone else? If so, where do you find such a case laid out?
18. Israel degraded the worship of God. How is the worship of God corrupted among God's people today?
19. How might we use the gifts God gives us against Him?
20. What gifts and abilities has the LORD God given you to help advance the progress of the Church?