

**12 November 2023 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group**

**"Israel's Misuse of the LORD's Blessings " -- Hosea 10:1-10**

1. To what does the LORD compare Israel (v. 1a)?
2. What did Israel build and improve as their country prospered economically (v. 1b)?
3. How did the LORD God view Israel's true heart condition toward Him (v. 2a)?
4. What would happen to Israel's idolatrous altars (v. 2b)?
5. What would happen to Israel's king (vv. 3, 7)?
6. What was a big problem with the people and its leaders (v. 4)?
7. What would be carried out of the land and given as tribute to the great king of Assyria (vv. 5-6)?
8. What particular areas of sinful worship would be destroyed and would have weeds overtake them (v. 8a)?
9. When the terrible judgment of its sin would come upon them, how would the people respond (v. 8b)?
10. Who would the LORD gather against Israel to discipline her for her sins (v. 10)?

11. What is a common, yet erroneous, view of the nature of Old Covenant obedience and worship?
12. How do we know from the Old Testament that God required a heart of love for Him and His Word and not just outward conformity to please Him and remain in the land of promise (see Deuteronomy 6:5; 10:12, 16; 11:13; 30:6; Isaiah 29:13; Jeremiah 4:4; Joel 2:13).
13. How can you worship and serve the LORD from your heart if you are born in sin and your heart is deceitful and wicked from birth as a consequence of original sin?
14. Why were the calves wrong that Jeroboam erected at Bethel and Dan? Why were the high places of the land where the people brought their sacrifices and worshiped sinful (see Deuteronomy 12:8-14)?
15. Are traditions inherently sinful and wrong? How do we ensure that the traditions we observe do not become like “sacred cows”?
16. Does the LORD judge His Church today? If so, how might the LORD God be bringing judgment on her?
17. What is a positive aspect about the LORD’s judgment of people and their sin?
18. What is prosperity? How is it achieved?
19. How might prosperity be harmful?
20. Are material possessions bad? How can God’s people protect against elevating their material wealth from becoming a stumbling block to them spiritually?