

THE DANGER OF EVIL ASSOCIATIONS

BIBLE TEXT : Deuteronomy 7:1-26; II Corinthians 6:14-18

LESSON 122 **Senior Course**

MEMORY VERSE: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with un-righteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (II Corinthians 6:14).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Deuteronomy 7:1-26

¹ When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;

² And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, *and* utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:

³ Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

⁴ For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

⁵ But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.

⁶ For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth.

⁷ The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people:

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Israel to Dispossess Seven Nations

1. The Israelites were not to make a covenant of any kind with the nations whom God would deliver into their hands, Deuteronomy 7:1, 2;

Deuteronomy 9:4

⁴ Speak not thou in thine heart, after that the LORD thy God hath cast them out from before thee, saying, For my righteousness the LORD hath brought me in to possess this land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD doth drive them out from before thee.

Exodus 23:32-33

³² Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods.

³³ They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.

2. No matrimonial alliances were to be formed with the heathen people, that idolatry might be kept away from God's people, Deuteronomy 7:3, 4; II Corinthians 6:14, 15

Joshua 23:11-13

¹¹ Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God.

¹² Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, *even* these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you:

¹³ Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out *any* of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.

Judges 2:11-23

¹¹ And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:

¹² And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that *were* round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger.

¹³ And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.

¹⁴ And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

¹⁵ Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed.

¹⁶ Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.

¹⁷ And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; *but* they did not so.

¹⁸ And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the

⁸ But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

⁹ Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he *is* God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

¹⁰ And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.

¹¹ Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them.

¹² Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers:

¹³ And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

¹⁴ Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.

¹⁵ And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all *them* that hate thee.

¹⁶ And thou shalt consume all the people which the LORD thy God

LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.

¹⁹ And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, *that* they returned, and corrupted *themselves* more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.

²⁰ And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice;

²¹ I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died:

²² That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep *it*, or not.

²³ Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua.

Judges 3:5-6

⁵ And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites:

⁶ And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods.

3. The heathen altars were to be destroyed and the images broken down and burned with fire, Deuteronomy 7:5;

Judges 6:25-26

²⁵ And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that *is* by it:

²⁶ And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.

2 Kings 23:12-15

¹² And the altars that *were* on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, did the king beat down, and brake *them* down from thence, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron.

¹³ And the high places that *were* before Jerusalem, which *were* on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile.

¹⁴ And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men.

¹⁵ Moreover the altar that *was* at Bethel, *and* the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, *and* stamped *it* small to powder, and burned the grove.

II Israel a Special People

1. The Lord had chosen Israel to be a special and holy people unto Himself, Deuteronomy 7:6;

Psalms 50:5

⁵ Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

Amos 3:1-2

¹ Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying,

shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them: neither shalt thou serve their gods; for that *will be* a snare unto thee.

¹⁷ If thou shalt say in thine heart, These nations *are* more than I; how can I dispossess them?

¹⁸ Thou shalt not be afraid of them: *but* shalt well remember what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt;

¹⁹ The great temptations which thine eyes saw, and the signs, and the wonders, and the mighty hand, and the stretched out arm, whereby the LORD thy God brought thee out: so shall the LORD thy God do unto all the people of whom thou art afraid.

²⁰ Moreover the LORD thy God will send the hornet among them, until they that are left, and hide themselves from thee, be destroyed.

²¹ Thou shalt not be affrighted at them: for the LORD thy God *is* among you, a mighty God and terrible.

²² And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee.

²³ But the LORD thy God shall deliver them unto thee, and shall destroy them with a mighty destruction, until they be destroyed.

²⁴ And he shall deliver their kings into thine hand, and thou shalt destroy their name from under heaven: there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them.

²⁵ The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold *that is* on them, nor take *it* unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it *is* an abomination to the LORD thy

² You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

2 Corinthians 6:16-17

¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

Titus 2:14

¹⁴ Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

2. Israel was chosen as God's representative because He loved them, and He would keep the oath made unto their fathers, Deuteronomy 7:7-12;

1 Samuel 12:22

²² For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

Psalms 44:3

³ For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them.

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

1 Corinthians 8:3

³ But if any man love God, the same is known of him.

3. By keeping God's commandments, Israel would be blessed above all people on the earth, Deuteronomy 7:13-16; II Corinthians 6:18

Psalms 1:1-2

¹ Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 144:9-15

⁹ I will sing a new song unto thee, O God: upon a psaltery *and* an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto thee.

¹⁰ *It is he* that giveth salvation unto kings: who delivereth David his servant from the hurtful sword.

¹¹ Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand *is* a right hand of falsehood:

¹² That our sons *may be* as plants grown up in their youth; *that* our daughters *may be* as corner stones, polished *after* the similitude of a palace:

¹³ *That* our garners *may be* full, affording all manner of store: *that* our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets:

¹⁴ *That* our oxen *may be* strong to labour; *that there be* no breaking in, nor going out; *that there be* no complaining in our streets.

¹⁵ Happy *is that* people, that is in such a case: *yea*, happy *is that* people, whose God *is* the LORD.

John 13:17

¹⁷ If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

John 14:21

²¹ He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

God.

²⁶ Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: *but* thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

III Israel Invincible

1. The Lord encouraged the people by bringing former victories to their remembrance, Deuteronomy 7:17-19;

Judges 6:13

¹³ And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where *be* all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

Psalm 77:10-12

¹⁰ And I said, This *is* my infirmity: *but I will remember* the years of the right hand of the most High.

¹¹ I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old.

¹² I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.

2. Hornets were promised, to make the heathen willing to go, Deuteronomy 7:20, 21;

Exodus 23:28

²⁸ And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.

Joshua 24:12

¹² And I sent the hornet before you, which drave them out from before you, *even* the two kings of the Amorites; *but* not with thy sword, nor with thy bow.

3. The seven nations were to be dispossessed just as fast as Israel could occupy the land, Deuteronomy 7:22-24;

Exodus 23:29-30

²⁹ I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee.

³⁰ By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land.

Joshua 10:24-25

²⁴ And it came to pass, when they brought out those kings unto Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said unto the captains of the men of war which went with him, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them.

²⁵ And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight.

Joshua 10:42

⁴² And all these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.

Isaiah 54:17

¹⁷ No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

Romans 8:35-37

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

1 Corinthians 15:57

⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. The silver and gold of the graven images were an abomination unto God; they were to be utterly detested and destroyed, Deuteronomy 7:25, 26;

Joshua 7:1

¹ But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.

Joshua 7:21

²¹ When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they *are* hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

1 Timothy 6:9-10

⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

NOTES:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (I John 2:15-17).

Disposition of the Canaanites

God brought Israel out of Egypt, that He might bring them into the Promised Land. The present inhabitants were very wicked and idolatrous and had defiled the land. We read: "And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them" (Leviticus 20:23). God hates sin and idolatry, and is sure to bring judgment upon it.

"For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off" (Psalm 37:22). The Lord repeated His command utterly to destroy all the inhabitants of the land; to make no covenant with them, nor show them mercy. Here we see a very strict caution against all friendship or fellowship with idols and idolaters. Those who are taken into communion with God must have no communication with the unfruitful works of darkness.

It may seem that a very cruel and unmerciful work was here appointed, yet it was God's work and in its time and place it was needful and acceptable. The seven nations of Canaan had ample time to repent, had they so desired. A period of more than 400 years expired between the time God made the covenant with Abraham to give him this land, and the entrance of Israel into Canaan. Any overture toward repentance would surely have been noted by the ever-merciful God; but we cannot find any instance of repentance on the part of these nations, or of their turning from their wickedness.

A Helping Hand

The Children of Israel were not called upon to do this work of destruction alone. God's assurance was that He would fight with Israel and for Israel. The Lord had decreed that His enemies should be cut off from the earth. This severity was appointed in order to prevent the mischief they would do to Israel if they were left alive. The people of these abominations must not be allowed

to mingle with God's holy nation lest that nation be corrupted. Better that all these lives should be lost from the earth than that the true religion and worship of God should be lost in Israel.

Thus would God deal with the lusts that war against our souls. He has given us the power over them in the promise, "Sin shall not have dominion over you" (Romans 6:12-14). Let us not, then, make covenants with them nor show any mercy, but mortify, crucify, and utterly destroy them. If we do not, they will be a snare to us and as surely overcome us as these idolaters overcame Israel in later history.

Communications Prohibited

Willful sinners are haters of God. "The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7). Idolaters are haters of God in a special manner, for they are in league with His enemies. There was such a covenant and communion established between God and Israel as was not between Him and any other people in the world. Should they put themselves upon the level with other people when God had thus dignified and advanced them above all people? As God had taken them to be a special people unto Himself, will they not then take God to be a special God unto themselves, and no other besides Him? He would accept no less than this as their reasonable service. He will accept no less than this from us today (**Romans 12:1** ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service*).

To insure further the purity of Israel in their relationship with and worship of God, He instructed them to make no marriages with those who escaped the sword. To intermarry with the heathen was unlawful, because it was dangerous. This very thing proved of fatal consequence to the old world (**Genesis 6:2** ² *That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose*). God said, "For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods" (Deuteronomy 7:4). The Bible records the downfall of several men of high calling who persisted in this thing. Solomon paid dearly for his folly herein (**1 Kings 11:4** ⁴ *For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. **Nehemiah 13:26** ²⁶ Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin*); and Ahab was another who made this fatal mistake (**1 Kings 16:31** ³¹ *And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. **1 Kings 21:25** ²⁵ But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up*).

Let us be wise in this respect and avoid the misery that befalls those who act in disregard to God's command: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." The Dispensation of Grace clearly indicates that we must remain "in the Lord" when contracting marriage vows (**1 Corinthians 7:39** ³⁹ *The wife is*

bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord). There is evidence on every hand of the sin of those who have erred in this respect. Avoid the pitfall; for one who marries a sin-ner, in effect marries his sins. God will not countenance it in His people. (The Word gives special instruction to those who were married before conversion, **1 Corinthians 7:13-16** ¹³ And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. ¹⁵ But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. ¹⁶ For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save *thy* husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save *thy* wife?.)

A High Calling

"Evil communications corrupt good manners" (I Corinthians 15:33) — and so they do. Israel could not mingle with idolaters and retain God's favor and blessing; just as truly must we, as Christians, have no "fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11). A person cannot mingle with the throng and have common interest with the world, the flesh, and the devil, without being corrupted. God wants His children absolutely uncorrupted in any wise by the spirit of this world. He always has and always will honor the people who stand for the truth in all its fullness and holiness.

Some religions are so mixed up with the world that you cannot tell the one from the other. The religion and worldliness that they practice are so nearly the same it is impossible to distinguish the difference between them. It is an abomination in the sight of God. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." Every spiritual revival or awakening has always been marked by a separation. When souls are born into the family of God, they no longer love the sinful world; they forsake the devil. God detests and utterly abhors sin; such a holy indignation against sin as this must we realize if we expect to be His children.

God's Temples

"What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" It naturally follows that we must have some dealings with the men of the world; otherwise it would be impossible to transact our temporal business. A thousand occasions will occur, wherein we must converse with the world in order to carry out those affairs which cannot be done without the worldly people.

What is it, then, that the Apostle warns us against? He points out the danger of having more concourse with unholy men than is absolutely necessary. There can be no profitable fellowship between the righteous and the unrighteous; as there can be no communion between light and darkness. As Christ can have no concord with Belial, so a believer in Jesus can have no concord with an unbeliever. Imagine, if you can, how any true union could be between two persons while one of them remains in darkness and the other walks in the light. They are subjects not only of two separate kingdoms but two opposite kingdoms. They act on very different principles.

Danger

What are the consequences of not obeying this direction of coming out from among unholy men? No immediate effects may be apparent. Possibly it will not lead to immediate out broken sin. Just as surely as one persists in it, though, it will sap the foundations of his spiritual strength. It will imperceptibly cool that fervency of spirit which attended his first love.

Almost invariably the man of the world will, by some manner or means, endeavour to bring over his acquaintance to his own opinion or party. As all good men desire and endeavour to make others good like themselves, so all bad men desire and endeavour to make their companions as bad as themselves. Even if they do not, still it is dangerous to be allied with them. Sin is a contagious plague that will be communicated to the man who persists in being too near it.

If conversing too frequently and too freely with worldly-minded acquaintances has no other ill effect upon a man, it will surely make him less heavenly-minded. It will put a bias on his mind that will continually draw him down to the earth. Instead of being wholly transformed in the renewing of his mind, he will be again conformed to this world with its vain conversation.

Thus it is that all those who fear and love God should come out from among all those who do not fear Him. In a plain Scriptural sense you must be separate from them; that is, from all unnecessary associations with them. The promise is expressly to all who renounce the company of ungodly men. God here promises all the blessings He has prepared for His children, both in time and eternity: "And I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

QUESTIONS

- 1 Why were the Children of Israel forbidden to make covenants with the seven nations they dispossessed?
- 2 How were these nations to be treated?
- 3 What must be our attitude toward sin and sinners today?
- 4 Did Israel have to fight their battles alone?
- 5 On what condition did God promise to help Israel?
- 6 In what unique way did God promise to drive out the inhabitants of the land?
- 7 How does God help the Christian in his battles of life?
- 8 Whom would you consider to be an evil associate of a Christian?