

# THE SIN OF FAITHLESSNESS

(Ezekiel 14)

This word has a strong connotation with consequences for all who live in that state of mind. Its meaning according to Webster's dictionary is **failure** to adhere to an oath, **failure** in devotion to someone or something that has a moral claim to one's support. It is not keeping faith, dishonest, disloyal, unreliable, etc., etc.

Israel showed to be a faithless nation under many gods from the start of being a nation, because Israel lived in Egypt for many years and Egypt had many gods. Without a doubt, these gods were engraved in the minds and hearts of the sons of Jacob, resulting in their faithlessness to God. However, in spite of that, God's covenant with Abraham and his descendants, stood. His covenant had a divine purpose beyond Israel's understanding and time. It had its beginning at the Garden of Eden when God promised a Redeemer. He said, And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her Offspring; He will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel (Gen. 3:15). That was fulfilled almost two thousand years ago when YAHSHUA treaded Satan's head underfoot by His death on the cross. Therefore, Satan stands condemned, judged and sentenced. To Abraham's obedience God rendered his blessing upon his descendants. In his faithfulness, when he did not spare his son, but would have offered him as a sacrifice to God as he was told, God confirmed Abraham the covenant with blessings: In blessing I will bless you and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants like the stars of the heavens and like the sand on the seashore. And your **Seed** (YAHSHUA) will possess the gate of His enemies. And in your **Seed** [YAHSHUA] shall all the nations of the earth be blessed and bless themselves, because you have heard and obeyed My voice (Gen. 22: 17-18). So on that region of Moriah, where Abraham was tested, many years later YAHSHUA laid His life as a sacrifice to save the world through death on the cross.

Although Israel as a nation experienced God's physical presence at Mount Sinai, a most frightening experience a human being has ever had, so terrible it was to them that the writer to Hebrews many years later so described: for you have not come [as did the Israelites in the wilderness] to a mountain that can be touched, that is ablaze with fire, and to gloom and darkness and a raging storm, and to the blast of a trumpet and a voice whose words make the listeners beg that nothing more be said to them, for they could not bear the command that was given; if even a wild animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death. In fact, so awful and terrifying was the sight that Moses said, I am terrified (Heb. 12: 18-21) Israel forgot all because she was faithless to God. The covenant God had made with her at Mount Sinai, when He betrothed her, Israel broke it when she committed idolatry against Him like a faithless wife who forsakes her husband. That happened not long after her experience with God at the Mount

Sinai. In chapter thirty-two of Exodus we read that together with the priest Aaron- Moses brother, they made a graven image in the form of a calf and proclaimed saying, "These are your gods, O Israel which brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" They did that when Moses delayed (according to them) to come down from the mountain, where he had gone to receive the written commandments by the hand of God, which God had spoken to them at Mount Sinai.

When the Lord saw what Israel was doing, He told Moses, I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. Now therefore let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and that I may destroy them; but I will make of you a great nation (Ex. 32:9-10). These examples are for us warning for us not to desire or crave or covet or lust after evil and carnal things as they did. Do not be worshipers of false gods as some of them (Israelites) were as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink [the sacrifices offered to the golden calf at Horeb] and rose to sport (to dance and give way to jesting and hilarity) (Ex. 32: 4,6,); we must not gratify evil desire and indulge in immorality as some of them did- and twenty-three thousand fell dead in a single day! [Num. 25:1-18]; we should not tempt the Lord, as some of them did- and were killed by poisonous serpents; [Num. 21:5,6], nor discontentedly complain as some of them did- and were put out of the way entirely by the destroyer [Num. 16: 41,49.](I Cor. 10: 6-10).

The sin of faithlessness is followed by consequence that will mark one's eternal life. Faithlessness is to the Lord a grave sin, as we saw in the verses above. God has established that no prayer on behalf of the faithless will be heard. Listen to what the Lord told Jeremiah: though Moses and Samuel stood [interceding for them] before Me, yet my mind could not be turned with favor toward this people. Send them out of My sight (Jer. 15:1). In Ezekiel 14: 13-21 the Lord speaks to Ezekiel and confirms the fact: even if these three men, Noah, Daniel and Job were in the land that committed trespass against Me they would deliver neither sons nor daughter, but they themselves alone would be delivered. They would be delivered by their righteousness only. Faithlessness is a sin that destroys relationships. Relationship with God, family, friends and many other areas of relationships. When men are faithless to God, he loses communication with Him; He will not answer his prayers. When men or women are faithless to their spouses they destroy their families. The children are most affected by it; Faithlessness causes friends to betray friends.

When Israel forsook the writings of God in their faithlessness they did not enter God's rest. They were left in the desert. Their bodies decayed in the wilderness. Unfortunately, the world is filled with faithless people of all race, and religion, and faith, including those so called Christians.

The faithless church or the Laodicea church has left God for mammon- the god-money. Although there is no altar, no incense, no images, in the protestant churches, there are the things and more things – the latest of all things plaguing their spiritual life with blindness, and obsession. Some who preach the Gospel of prosperity twists the interpretation of the Word of God and use Bible verses to justify their cravings for money. YAHSHUA when on earth, He did

not even have a place where to rest His head. He never taught how to get rich and prosperous, instead, He warned against riches, when it becomes a god: "You cannot have two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will stand by and be devoted to the one and despise and be against the other. You cannot serve God and mammon; and do not gather and heap up and store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust and worm consume, and destroy, and where thieves break through and steal, but gather and heap up and store for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust nor worm consume and destroy, and where thieves do not break through and steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6 19-20, 24). Paul warned against people who imagine godliness or righteousness to be a source of profit [a money making business, a means of livelihood]. He warned us to withdraw from such people; godliness, he said, accompanied with contentment is great and abundant gain, For we brought nothing into the world and obviously we cannot take anything out of the world. If we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content... for the love of money is a root of all evil (1 Tim. 6:5b-8,10).

There will be no reward for the faithless, but judgment at the end of all things. Matt. 25: 12: "I solemnly declare to you, I do not know you." Throw the good-for-nothing servant into the outer darkness; there will be weeping and grinding of teeth (Matt. 25: 30). The today's church has broken covenant with the Lord when she walked away from His Word. When she did that, she made a choice to follow the world and her carnal desires. Therefore, it will be no different for her than it was for Israel in those days. The faithless believer will be left out of heaven, as Israel was left out of the Promised Land.

To the Smyrna church the Lord YAHSHUA told to be loyally faithful unto death, and He will give her the crown of life...He who overcomes shall in no way be injured by the second death (Rev. 2: 10b, 11b). Faithfulness to the Lord should be the goal of every believer in Him. Faithfulness in all we do; faithfulness in obedience; faithfulness to the word of God by believing and applying it to our heart, being doers of the Word in action and through words that come from the mouth. Paul's prayer for all the believers in YAHSHUA is that we may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him and desiring to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing and increasing in and by the knowledge of God (Col. 1:10). May we all be found faithful to the Lord when He comes, faithful to the end to receive the crown of life!