

For the Living of These Days

Session 6: Amos – Looks Within (Part 1)

The logic of God's judgment against Israel - Chapter 3

"Hear this word the Lord has spoken against you, O people of Israel – against the whole family I brought up out of Egypt: 'You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your sins.'" Amos 3:1-2

Central act of redemption in the Old Testament is the deliverance of Israel from Egypt.
Remember all that God has known for you!

Chosen by God

No is no privilege without responsibility

Genesis 12:1-3, Deuteronomy 7:6 and Deuteronomy 9:4-6

Punishment for sin

Cause and Effect – in order words punishment will follow sin. Amos 3:3-6
Jeremiah 14:10

God is merciful for God always sends a warning.

"Surely, the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets." Amos 3:7

The people of Sodom were warned. Genesis 18:16-33

Jesus spoke of not withholding knowledge from his disciples John 15:15

Amos is saying, "God is speaking (roaring), I MUST share his message!"
Amos 3:8 Jeremiah said the same thing. Jeremiah 20:9

The Egyptians and Philistines (both known for the brutality and injustice) were asked to witness Israel's sin and God's judgment. Amos 3:9 Ouch!

Israel no longer knew how to do right! Amos 3:10

The more they sinned, the easier it was to sin!

Isn't this true for all of us?

Israel will be conquered and exiled. Amos 3:11-13

Enemy who would conquer Israel was Assyria.

God's judgment against Israel's altars because their religious system was so corrupt.

Yet Israel had not returned to the Lord – Chapter 4

The sinful women of Israel

“Hear this women, you cows of Bashan’ on Mount Samaria, you women who oppress the poor and crush the needy and say to our husbands, ‘Bring us some drinks.’” Amos 4:1

Wealthy, pampered, sleek and well-fed as ‘fat cows.’

Selfish and pushed (ordered) their husbands to oppress the needy to support their life-style

Oppressors of the poor and crushers of the needy from Brashan a land of fertile field and strong cattle. Married to the Bulls of Bashan Psalm 22:12 Bashan located on the Sea of Galilee know as the breadbasket of Palestine

Do these women remind of anyone today?

Message to them for the Holy God Amos 4:2-3

You will be taken away

You will be cast toward Harmon (place of exile. Harmon is a word used mostly as of a corpse. Jeremiah 22:19 – ‘dragged away and thrown’)

Sarcastic invitation to go see their false gods and see how they works for them!
Amos 4:4-5

Warning: What will it take for them to return to the Lord? Amos 4:6-11

Famine?

Drought?

Plight?

Plagues?

Captivity?

Anything?

Be prepared to meet your God, the all powerful, all knowing creator. Amos 4:12-13

Lament for Israel and a call for Israel to repent -- Chapter 5

"Hear, the word, O House of Israel, this lament I take up concerning you." Amos 5:1

Amos laments their impending destruction if they do not repent Amos 5:2

Amos has great concern for the people of Israel who believe their security comes in their wealth and the religious ritual.

Fallen never to rise again

Deserted in her own land with no one to lift her up

The Lord says they will no longer experience strength in number Amos 5:3

Therefore repent!

"This is what the Lord says to the house of Israel: Seek me and live;" Amos 5:4

This is the remedy for a world that is sick and dying, "Seek God and live!"

Do not seek false gods. Amos 5:5

Need for justice and righteousness. Amos 5:7-13

- Stop trampling on the poor
- Stop oppressing the righteous and taking bribes
- Stop depriving the poor of justice
- The prudent keeps quiet against evil

"History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people." Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act." Dietrich Bonhoeffer

How do these sins and this response from the prudent compare to the sins of these days?

Consequence of seeking and loving good!

"See good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph." Amos 5:14-15

Mercy = Life

"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good." Romans 12:9

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21

Evil = Mourning and Death Amos 5:16-17

(Explanation of mourning see Jeremiah 9:17-20)

