

Amos Chapter 6

V: 1-2 Woe to those who are relaxing when they should be vigilant and getting ready to defend themselves. Depending on their strategic location in the mountains of Samaria, their mountain stronghold. Their prosperity also ushered in complacency.

Same message, same people, different prophet:

Isaiah 32:9-10 “⁹Rise up, you women who are at ease, hear my voice; you careless daughters, give ear to my speech. ¹⁰In a year and some days you will be troubled, you careless women; for the vintage will fail, the gathering will not come.”

- Calneh was the capital of the plains of Shinar, from which the Babylonians will eventually come. Hamath was the capital of Syria at that time, from where the Assyrians would eventually come, and Gath was the capital of the Philistines.
- Go look and examine these various pagan peoples, you are no different than them.
- Israel had been called to be different, and sadly they were not. Now they're at ease, relaxing - they'll be caught off guard and pay a dear price.

Zephaniah 1:12 “And it shall come to pass at that time that I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and punish the men who are settle in complacency, who say in their heart, the LORD will not do good, nor will He do evil.”

V: 3-6 Being warned of impending destruction, their response - “oh, that will never happen...”

Ecclesiastes 8:11 “Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”

Matthew 24:48 “But if that evil servant says in his heart, “my Master delays His coming.””

2 Peter 3:3-4 “³Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴and saying, “where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”

- As a result they are complacent, lying about in bed and on expensive couches, no doubt eating peeled grapes and bon-bons. Drinking wine, singing songs - partying - all the while their enemies are sharpening their swords and preparing for conquest.

2 Timothy 3:1, 4 “¹But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come;” -
“⁴... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”

- They're not grieved for the affliction of Joseph - for what is about to happen to Ephraim and Manasseh - the Northern kingdom. Why? Because they've ignored the warning and despised the Word of God.

Proverbs 13:13 “He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.”

V: 7-8 Therefore - because of all of that... they'll be the first ones taken into captivity.

- The Lord swears, He makes an oath - it will happen!

“The Lord GOD has sworn by Himself,”

- When people want to swear or make an oath - they always swear by something greater than themselves. “I swear on my mothers honor,” - “I swear by the Temple...” - “I swear to God.” - when God wants to make an oath He's got a problem because there is nothing greater than Himself.

Hebrews 6:13 “For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself.”

“I abhor the pride of Jacob...” speaking of the nation but it could just as easily be “I abhor the pride of Mike...” (Or insert your name there.)

Proverbs 6:16-17 “¹⁶These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷A proud look...”

Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way, and the perverse mouth I hate.”

- He hates the palaces, the places where they gather to commit sin.

V: 9-10 They'll come to realize that the judgment of God is upon them, and the slaughter is so great that they can't give all the dead bodies a decent, typical ritual burial - they resort to just dragging the bodies out and cremating them. Don't make mention of the Lord because He is the One who has brought them to this, and in their eyes it is contrary to His law.

Amos 8:3 “And the songs of the temple shall be wailing in that day, says the Lord GOD - many dead bodies everywhere, they shall be thrown out in silence.”

Jeremiah 16:6 “Both the great and the small shall die in this land. They shall not be buried; neither shall men lament for them....”

V: 11-12 God is going to destroy the house of Israel, both the great houses and the little houses.

Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

- Destruction is here, what preceded these events? Their pride and arrogance!
- They’ve put themselves in an impossible situation: Do horses run on rocks - no, they can’t. Do you plow with oxen over rocks - no, you have to remove the rocks first. They are in a no win situation.

V: 13-14 You rejoice over nothing - Lo Debar means literally “nothing.”

- Karnaim means Ashtaroth, or the two horns, the crescent moons.
- God will raise up a nation against them, they will be killed, afflicted, and taken into captivity. From Hamath, Assyria to the valley of Arabah, the valley that divides Israel and Jordan south of the Dead Sea.
- In other words the destruction will encompass the length of the land.

Jeremiah 5:15-16 “¹⁵Behold, I will bring a nation against you from afar, O house of Israel, says the LORD. It is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language you do not know, nor can you understand what they say. ¹⁶Their quiver is like an open tomb; they are all mighty men.”

- True to the Word of God, the Assyrians will come and wipe the nation out, taking captive the survivors.

Amos Chapter 7

V: 1-3 “*Thus the Lord GOD showed me...*” probably in a vision or a dream.

- Part of the judgment that will befall them is the plague of locusts that will consume their crops.

Psalms 105:34-35 “³⁴He spoke, and locusts came, Young locusts without number, ³⁵and ate up all the vegetation on their land, and devoured the fruit of their ground.”

- As the locusts are devouring the land; Amos begins to intercede for the people, that the Lord would relent in His judgment - and the Lord hears, and does indeed relent.

James 5:16 "... the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Psalm 106:44-45 "44Nevertheless He regarded their affliction, when He heard their cry; 45and for their sake He remembered His covenant, and relented according to the multitude of His mercies."

V: 4-6 Then the Lord brought fire upon Israel which began to consume the land.

Isaiah 66:16 "For by fire and by His sword the LORD will judge all flesh; and the slain of the LORD shall be many."

Ezekiel 23:25 "I will set My jealousy against you, and they shall deal furiously with you; they shall remove your nose and your ears, and your remnant shall fall by the sword; they shall take your sons and your daughters, and your remnant shall be devoured by fire."

- That is eventually what will happen, but again as Amos prays and cries out to God for mercy - God withholds His righteous judgment.

Psalm 34:17 "The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles."

- The righteous in this case being Amos, not king Jeroboam, Amaziah the priest, or the people.
- In both of these situations God was looking for an intercessor, someone to stand in the gap on behalf of God's people, and Amos was that man.

Ezekiel 22:30 "So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but found no one."

Psalm 106:23 "Therefore He said that He would destroy them, had not Moses His chosen one stood before Him in the breach, to turn away His wrath, lest He destroy them."

- There is another reprieve, or temporary forestalling of their judgment.

V: 7-9 So Amos has another vision - the Lord standing on a wall holding a plumb line.

- The plumb line does two things, first it shows what is "plumb" or straight - it is the standard for vertical. Secondly it divides from one side to the other.
- Then the Lord makes the statement, "I am setting a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel;" meaning I'm setting the standard, which is righteous perfection.

- Secondly, "I will not pass them by anymore." They've been passed by for judgment previously, but now I will not pass them by, it will fall upon them.

Amos 3:14 "That in the day I punish Israel for their transgressions, I will also visit destruction on the altars of Bethel."

- The high places, the sanctuaries will be laid waste.
- Then God personally declares:

"I will rise with the sword against the house of Jeroboam."

- God will personally see to it.

V: 10-13 Amaziah the priest of Bethel reports to Jeroboam the king - Amos the prophet is speaking against you declaring that Jeroboam will die by the sword and the nation led away captive.

- The land, the people are unable to bear it - they don't want to hear it - so often those who are in sin, those who are living in rebellion to God's Word don't want to be reminded, don't want to hear the truth - can't bear it.

Isaiah 30:9-10 "That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the LORD; who say to the seers, "do not see," and to the prophets, "do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits."

- Amaziah is trying to get Amos to stop - which he doesn't, and all his words of prophecy are fulfilled.

1 Corinthians 9:16 "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel."

- The other part is the boldness of Amos / God - Amos goes directly to Bethel, the cent of their pagan activity, right to the heart of the idolatry and preaches his message there.
- As Amaziah puts it right in the king's sanctuary, at his royal residence.

V: 14-15 Amos responds: I wasn't a prophet, or looking to be a prophet, I wasn't the son of a prophet - I'm a sheep breeder, a sycamore rancher - I'm just an ordinary man - then God took me and He said to me go prophesy to My people Israel.

- And that is what I am doing. Amos is being obedient to his calling.

Matthew 10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Amos 3:8 “A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken!
Who can but prophesy?”

V: 16 Now therefore hear the Word of the Lord!

- The disciples were told to be quiet at well:

Acts 4:19-20 “¹⁹But Peter and John answered and said to them, whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. ²⁰For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

- Ezekiel faced opposition and the Lord reiterated his commission:

Ezekiel 21:1-2 “¹And the Word of the LORD came to me saying, ²Son of man, set your face toward Jerusalem, preach against the holy places, and prophesy against the land of Israel.”

V: 17 Because Amaziah sought to keep Amos from declaring the truth to the people he pronounces a curse upon Amaziah personally:

1. Your wife will be a harlot in the city.
2. Your children will be killed by the sword.
3. Your land will be divided up and given away.
4. You will die in a defiled land, after being led away captive to Assyria.

Jeremiah 29:21 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning Ahab the son of Kolaiah, and Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah, who prophesy a lie to you in My name; behold, I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he shall slay them before your eyes.”

- God deals with false prophets, then and now.