

“Seek God” - Amos 5:4-15

Ask - “How would you define justice? Do our institutions model justice today?”

Background - The northern kingdom of Israel was enjoying a season of material prosperity and wealth among those at the top of the social ladder, while the divide between the rich and the poor seemed to be increasing. However, God showed Amos that judgment was coming...

“The LORD’s Plea” - Amos 5:4-7

(v4-5) What did God urge the people of Israel to do? What was Bethel, Gilgal, and Beersheba? (*answer: idols, shrines, pagan altars/sacrifices*)

(v6-7) What urging is repeated a second time? What did God warn that He would do and upon whom would He do it? What is wormwood? (*answer: bitterness*)

GOD URGES HIS PEOPLE TO ABANDON THEIR IDOLS AND FALSE GODS AND TO SEEK HIM INSTEAD.

“The LORD’s Power” - Amos 5:8-9

(v8) What natural and celestial works is God credited for in these verses?

(v9) Who brings about destruction upon the strong and proud? Give some examples if you can.

GOD IS THE CREATOR AND LORD OVER NATURE AND THE HEAVENS. HE BRINGS DOWN THE STRONG AND ARROGANT.

“Israel’s Sin” - Amos 5:10-13

(v10) How do the leaders of Israel feel toward those who call out their immorality and idolatry by proclaiming the truth?

(v11-12) How were these elites mistreating and exploiting the poor and righteous? What would be the consequence of their behavior?

(v13) Why might a person keep quiet during evil times? Have you ever kept your mouth shut for fear of what might happen if you spoke up?

ISRAEL’S UPPER CLASS AND RULERS WERE MISTREATING THE POOR AND THE RIGHTEOUS. THEY WERE MALIGNING THOSE WHO SPOKE OUT AGAINST THEIR SINFULNESS.

“Amos’ Plea” - Amos 5:14-15

(v14) Now what does Amos urge the people of Israel to seek? Why?

(v15) Rather than turning aside the poor (v12) and/or hating those who reprove them (v10), what does Israel need to do at the gate? Why?

NOW AMOS URGES ISRAEL TO SEEK GOOD AND TO HATE EVIL.
PERHAPS GOD WILL BE GRACIOUS TO THEM STILL.

Application - To seek God involves seeking justice and fairness. How we treat others matters. The privileged class was mistreating and abusing the poor and working class. Amos, himself an “average Joe”, saw this and experienced it first hand. When a group of people sees themselves as superior to another, bad things happen. God, who created us all equal, despises such thinking. How do you see and treat others?