

Chapter 5

Amos 5: [1] Hear ye this word which I take up against you, even a lamentation, O house of Israel. [2] The virgin of Israel is fallen; she shall no more rise: she is forsaken upon her land; there is none to raise her up. [3] For thus saith the Lord GOD; The city that went out by a thousand shall leave an hundred, and that which went forth by an hundred shall leave ten, to the house of Israel.

1. The Inevitable Chastisement 1-3

The nation of Israel has sinfully rebelled against the Lord God.

Thus God sends Amos to declare "*Hear ye this word which I take against you.... O Israel.*"

In verse 2, God views Israel as a virgin fallen into sin.

Israel will have no one to help her rise from her fall.

Israel will be forsaken just as she has forsaken the Lord.

Again, Israel is a virgin fallen among violent men.

In verse 3, the Lord says that cities of Israel which once had a thousand soldiers will be left with a hundred.

There are cities of Israel which once had a hundred soldiers that will be left with ten.

In other words, Israel has become a vulnerable and weakened nation that has been met with a great slaughter.

Amos 5: [4] For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live: [5] But seek not Bethel, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not to Beer-sheba: for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall come to nought. [6] Seek the LORD, and ye shall live; lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Bethel. [7] Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth, [8] Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name: [9] That strengtheneth the spoiled against the strong, so that the spoiled shall come against the fortress.

2. The Inerrable Call 4-9

In the midst of their sins, Israel is given a wonderful opportunity to repent, "*seek ye me and ye shall live.*"

This invitation is given three times, verses 4,6 and 14.

God warns Israel not to mistake this invitation to be used in seeking out false gods.

Israel should not consult or depend on the golden calves of Bethel, false worship of Gilgal or Beersheba. Bethel is the place where Jacob made a covenant with the Lord in **Genesis 28**.

Gilgal is the place where Israel placed the memorial stones out of the Jordan after they crossed in **Josh 4:19-24**.

Beersheba is the place where men of faith made covenants such as Abraham and Isaac in **Genesis 26:23-24**.

All of these sacred places the devil has ruined with false worship and idolatry.

God is very clear in His compassionate and merciful invitation. God will still forgive Israel's sins.

But if Israel will not repent and continue seeking false gods, then Israel should be warned that ruin is coming.

In verse 7, God states that the justice system of Israel has turned into "*wormwood*", which is poison or bitterness. True righteousness has been forsaken and replaced by rights.

In verse 8, Israel is commanded to seek the God of creation, for He alone is God almighty!

"The Lord is His name."

He is the One who formed the constellations and He alone has power to save.

But do not ever forget, He also has power to judge and punish!

Amos 5: [10] They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly. [11] Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat: ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them. [12] For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right. [13] Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time. [14] Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. [15] Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

3. The Inexplainable Challenge 10-15

A. The Cause 10

Israel hates the man who would speak against the "*gates*" which is the judge, courts and government. The courts of Israel have committed great injustices, have a hatred for truth and disregard for righteousness. The leadership of Israel consider "*him that speaketh uprightly*" as an enemy because he speaks the truth.

B. The Curse 11-13

Many in Israel look prosperous because they have obtained success by dishonest gains. God will evict them from the houses and land they have falsely acquired.

In verse 13, God says the "*prudent*", which means wise, will keep silent.

I am not sure if this is a silence because they are made to be silent or are martyred.

But I believe God wants them to be left alone.

Isaiah 58:1 "cry aloud, spare not."

C. The Cure 14-15

Again God invites Israel to repent and says "*seek good and not evil.*"

Amos 5: [16] Therefore the LORD, the God of hosts, the Lord, saith thus; Wailing shall be in all streets; and they shall say in all the highways, Alas! alas! and they shall call the husbandman to mourning, and such as are skilful of lamentation to wailing. [17] And in all vineyards shall be wailing: for I will pass through thee, saith the LORD. [18] Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light. [19] As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. [20] Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?

4. The Inescapable Conditions

16-20

If Israel will not repent, the judgment from the Lord will be inescapable.

God says that wailing shall be in the streets of the city and heard round about the countryside.

Calamity after calamity will fall upon Israel.

It will fall on the just and unjust.

Many in Israel were hoping for the "*day of the Lord*."

Israel believed it would be a day in which the Lord would return to punish sin and set things in order.

Israel believed it would be a day in which the enemy would be judged and Israel would be blessed.

But God said the "*day of the Lord*" to Israel would be a day of darkness rather than a day of light.

In other words, Israel is the very ones living in sin and hating the truth of God's Word.

Thus the "*day of the Lord*" to Israel is a day of doom.

God said there would be some who escape the lion only to face bear.

God said there would be some who enter the security of their home only to be bitten by a serpent.

Amos 5: [21] I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.

[22] Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. [23] Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols. [24] But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. [25] Have ye offered unto me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel? [26] But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves. [27] Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name is The God of hosts.

5. The Inexcusable Circumstances 21-27

God says to Israel that He hates their feast days, sacrifices and religious ceremonies.

You see, Israel has no sense of their own sin and practices vain imitations in their worship.

Israel has become displeasing to God.

We should never feel good about grace until we have first felt bad about sin!

Psalm 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.

In other words, God will not accept the sacrifices and offerings of Israel.

Israel is in sin and rebelliously will not repent, though God continues to invite them to.

No wonder God said "***obedience is better than sacrifice.***"

In verse 23, God says their songs are just noise. God will not accept their praise nor their prayers.

In verse 24, God commands Israel to return to practicing judgment and righteousness.

In verses 25 thru 26, God knows about Israel's practice of worshipping false gods.

God has full knowledge of Israel in their worship of Molech and Chiun.

These were gods that Israel made, just like those golden calves.

Thank the Lord, our God is not made with hands. He is not propped up by men.

Israel forgot about **1 Samuel 5**, where the false god Dagon was found on his face before the Ark of the Covenant.

In fact Israel forgot about **Genesis 31:19-22**, as Rachel had stolen images of false gods from her daddy, Laban. Then Rachel hid those false image in **Genesis 31:32-35**.

Here in Genesis are images of gods that could be stolen and packed up like a pot or pan, then sat upon! Those gods could not even cry out, but the voice of the Lord God no doubt was ringing in Laban's soul. Oh that we had the sense to get rid of those false material things which we trust.

In verse 27, God says to Israel, because of your sin, you will go into captivity beyond Damascus. This literally means that the Assyrians will come and I will deliver you into their hands. There you will remember that the Lord God loved you, warned you and judged you.

Concl: In 1763 Augustus Toplady was walking along the English countryside when a sudden thunderstorm blew up. His church was too far away to offer protection so he took shelter in the cleft of a great rock. As the storm raged about him, Toplady was securely sheltered and protected in the cleft of the rock. While there he began to think about our lives sheltered from the storms of judgment in the Rock which is Christ. Soon the storm subsided, but the experience did not. Before the day was over, Toplady wrote, "Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee..."