

Chapter 6

Amos 6: [1] Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came! [2] Pass ye unto Calneh, and see; and from thence go ye to Hamath the great: then go down to Gath of the Philistines: be they better than these kingdoms? or their border greater than your border? [3] Ye that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near; [4] That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall; [5] That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David; [6] That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.

1. The Complacency of the People

1-6

The Lord begins chapter 6 with "*woe to them that are at ease in Zion.*"
Zion is Jerusalem, which is God's chosen people and God's chosen people.

The word "*ease*" speaks of a laziness, slackness or an indifference.
It is apathy toward the things of God.
It is not resting in the Lord, but resting in a false security.

* Dec 7, 1941 the military forces of the U.S. at Pearl Harbor were not on high alert when Japan attacked.
That ease or overconfidence proved to be fatal.

Nationwide, our churches have become very apathetic toward the things of God.
There is a great lack of concern or lack of interest in serving the Lord faithfully.

* There were 2 preachers talking about their churches.
One said "when the rapture takes place, my people will be the first to meet the Lord in the air."
The other said "How do you know that?"
He replied, "Because the Bible says the dead in Christ shall rise first."

Zion, which is Judah and Jerusalem have become a complacent people.
They have grown cold toward the work of God.
They have grown cold toward the ways of God.
They have grown cold toward the warnings of God.

Amos, the prophet of God, has warned and warned about the sin of the nation and the imminent judgment of God.
Yet Zion was at ease.
They thought since they were God's chosen people and were living in God's chosen city that they were safe.
They thought there would be no way that God would allow anything to happen to them.

How presumptuous!
They wanted God to tend to them while they served false gods and bowed before false images.
When warned, Zion did not have a repentant heart, rather they had an unbelieving heart.

Next God warns Israel, which is the N. Kingdom of trusting in the mountain of Samaria.
Samaria was the capital city of the N. Kingdom.
It was built upon a high hill with very steep sides.

The walls of the city were thick and were considered a mighty fortress.
The walls couldn't be approached by a battering ram because of the elevation.
The people of Samaria felt secure because of their defenses just as Zion felt secure in being God's chosen.

Both were trusting the wrong things.
How foolish to trust things while ignoring God.
Many people trust things such as good works while all the time ignoring God's word.

In verse 2, God tells Zion and Israel to "*pass ye unto Calneh*" which means go to the city of Calneh and look at it.
According to **Genesis 10:10**, Calneh was built by Nimrod.
After 1300 years of prosperity, now it lies in ruins and has been conquered by Assyria.

God tells Zion and Israel to go to "*Hamath*" which was the chief city of Syria.
The great city and culture of Hamath was also conquered and destroyed.

God tells Zion and Israel to go to "*Gath*" which was the chief city of the Philistines.
The immense and remarkable city of Gath was also conquered and destroyed, **2Kings 12:17**.

God asks Zion and Israel, "are you better than those kingdoms?"
God study the position of those kingdoms, their power, prosperity and peoples.
Is Zion and Israel stronger or more fortified than those kingdoms? NO!
Those kingdoms had more reason to be confident of their own safety than Zion or Israel.
Yet, we see what became of them.

In verse 3, Israel continues to procrastinate.
They continue to hear the warnings of God and they kept ignoring the warnings of God.
They just tried to put it out of their minds.
This person is saying "I suppose the day of judgment is coming, but it is far off and I can't do anything about it."
Acts 24:25 Felix said "*go thy way for this time, when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.*"

* I am reminded of Rev. Percy Ray and the soldier boy heading out to war as they talked on the train.
The boy had put off a spiritual decision for so long, but now he was ready to face death.
The young man fell to his knees under Hoy Ghost conviction as Brother Percy shared the gospel.
This young man quit putting off, what needed to be done today. He got saved right there on the train!

In verse 4, Israel continues to demonstrate their concern for material things rather than the Master's things.
Matt 16:26 *what is a man profited if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?*
Israel was concerned for luxuries rather than the Lord.

* The USA is by far the richest nation in the world.
However in terms of percentage giving to foreign aid of our GNI, we are fifth from the bottom.
It seems the more we have the less generous we are.
We are more concerned about luxuries than the Lord.

In verse 5, rather than repent, Israel just continued on going through the motions.
They were more interested in singing songs than sowing seeds.

In verse 6, God says Israel's affection is on self-indulgence.
God says Israel is indifferent to the affliction of Joseph.
God is chastising the nation but they do not care about the declining state of those around them.
They have become oblivious to the necessary things of life.

Amos 6: [7] Therefore now shall they go captive with the first that go captive, and the banquet of them that stretched themselves shall be removed. [8] The Lord GOD hath sworn by himself, saith the LORD the God of hosts, I abhor the excellency of Jacob, and hate his palaces: therefore will I deliver up the city with all that is therein.

2. The Caution To The People

7-8

God says those who are self-centered will be the first ones to be taken captive by the enemy that God will allow.

In verse 8, the Lord swears to Israel by Himself, for the Lord can swear by no greater than Himself. As God is swearing by Himself, Israel must take notice that these things will surely come to pass.

God says "*I abhor the excellency of Jacob.*" That is the pride and arrogance of all 12 of the tribes of Israel. God surely hates pride.

Proverbs 6:16 These six things doth the Lord hate: yea seven are an abomination to Him.

Look at the next verse, **Proverbs 6:17** the first one is "*a proud look.*"

1 Peter 5:5 God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble. See also James 4:6 and Proverbs 3:34.

God says that He will "deliver up the city with all that is therein."

God will deliver Israel like a you deliver up a meal on a plate.

Amos 6: [9] And it shall come to pass, if there remain ten men in one house, that they shall die.

[10] And a man's uncle shall take him up, and he that burneth him, to bring out the bones out of the house, and shall say unto him that is by the sides of the house, Is there yet any with thee? and he shall say, No. Then shall he say, Hold thy tongue: for we may not make mention of the name of the LORD.

[11] For, behold, the LORD commandeth, and he will smite the great house with breaches, and the little house with clefts.

3. The Calamities of the People

9-11

Some may escape judgment for a while, but none will ultimately escape.

There is no escape from God.

Only Joshua and Caleb, who were faithful, came through the 40 years in the wilderness.

Everyone single one 20 years old and upward perished in the wilderness.

True, they did not all die at one time, but ultimately they all perished.

Yet, Israel was an innumerable people when they came to cross the Jordan river into the Promised Land.

Rev 20:11-12

[11] And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

[12] And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

In verse 10, the calamity will be so great that when a relative of one of the dead comes to burn the corpse, should he find one person still alive, that person will not permit his mentioning the name of the Lord for fear that the wrath of the Lord will fall on him.

In verse 11, as God commands the calamities will continue.

Amos 6: [12] Shall horses run upon the rock? will one plow there with oxen? for ye have turned judgment into gall, and the fruit of righteousness into hemlock: [13] Ye which rejoice in a thing of nought, which say, Have we not taken to us horns by our own strength? [14] But, behold, I will raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel, saith the LORD the God of hosts; and they shall afflict you from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of the wilderness.

4. The Collapse of the People

12-14

In verse 12, God asks "do horses run upon the rocks?" The answer is NO.

God asks "does a person plow rocks with oxen?" The answer is NO.

Yet, Israel has turned true judgment into gall or bitterness.

Israel has turned righteousness into hemlock which is poison. Nothing will grow under a hemlock.

Evidently for Israel, right had become wrong and wrong had become right.

In verse 13, Israel is rejoicing in vanity.

Israel believed they would never meet God's judgment.

They believed their own strength and skill had attained them great assurance.

In verse 14, God says that He will raise up a nation against Israel.

This enemy will afflict Israel from north to south, from one side to another and thoroughly.

History will teach us that within 30 years of Amos' warnings, Assyria invaded and conquered Israel.

The whole nation of Israel would share in calamity upon calamity.

Israel would be conquered and devastated.

The proudest and mightiest have all been brought down by God.

There is no sinner that has the power to escape the Most High God.

The wages of sin is death.

We must learn the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

* I remember a friend of mine went to the hospital to see a sinful man who was dying with cancer.

The pastor got there and said to the sinner "***the wages of sin is death.***" The pastor prayed and left.

The pastor returned each day and did the same thing.

After 3 days, the sinner stopped the pastor before he prayed and said "your words bore on my soul but I found out last night that yes the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." The old sinner had gotten saved in the night!