

Righteousness and Justice

Amos 5 & 6

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1

A Lament From Amos – vs 1-17

- The 3rd judgement speech
- “Hear this word” – See 3:1, 4:1, 5:1
- Differs from the other two in that this is a lament

2

A Lament From Amos – vs 1-17

- Lament is used for mourning at funerals
 - A passionate expression of grief and sorrow
- Also used by the prophets to picture tragic reversals of nations or leaders
 - From strong to weak, rich to poor, etc...

3

A Lament From Amos – vs 1-17

- The literary use of lament would seem highly out of place at the time in Israel
- Israel is not yet dead
- Israel is a strong and wealthy and powerful nation
- It is a time of celebration, not lament or dirge

4

A Lament From Amos – vs 1-17

- The literary use of lament would seem highly out of place at the time in Israel
- Amos delivers this message to those who are worshipping at Bethel
- They are celebrating, not grieving

5

A Lament From Amos – vs 1-17

- NOTE!
- The previous stanza of Amos was a hymn to the power and glory of God – see 4:13
- Now Amos transitions to the lament of the loss of Israel

6

A Lament From Amos – vs 1-17

v.2 – Fallen? Israel is not fallen – what are you talking about Amos?

- virgin Israel – a picture of youth and hope and dreams to yet be fulfilled

- land – the promise of God's presence to bring them to and keep them in the land

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A Lament From Amos – vs 1-17

v.3 – a reference to Deut 28:25

v.4 – seek me and live

- a call to repentance

Question:

What does Israel need to repent of?

8

A Lament From Amos – vs 1-17

Answer: v. 5-7

• Their religiosity. Empty words, false words, false actions

• Claim to serve God yet they serve other gods at Bethel, Gilgal, Beersheba

• Not in a right relationship with God

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A Lament From Amos – vs 1-17

Answer: v. 5-7

- The do not practice justice and righteousness

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A Lament From Amos – vs 1-17

v. 8-9 – a hymn to the sovereignty of God

- See 4:13

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A Lament From Amos – vs 1-17

v. 10 - 13 – a further comment on injustice and unrighteousness

- More specifics of their actions

v. 14-15 – Another call to repentance

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A Lament From Amos – vs 1-17

v. 16-17 – wailing, anguish, mourning

•Back to the lament

13

A Lament From Amos – vs 1-17

1. v. 5-6 - chiasm
Seek me and live
Bethel
Gilgal
Beersheba
Gilgal
Bethel
Seek the Lord and live

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A Lament From Amos – vs 1-17

2. vs. 1-17
lamentation as announcement (1-3)
admonition (4-6)
accusation (7)
hymn (8a)
The Lord (8b)
hymn (9)
accusation (10-13)
admonition (14-15)
lamentation as announcement (16-17)

15

The First Woe – 5:18-27

- There are two woes – the second is found in chapter 6
- Woe to those who long for the Day of the Lord

Question:

Why is that a woe? Isn't the Day of the Lord a good day?

16

The First Woe – 5:18-27

Answer:

The Day of the Lord is not a good day for those who do not serve God.

- Israel has not practiced justice and righteousness
- Israel has pretended with God
- Israel's character does not reflect God!

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The First Woe – 5:18-27

- I hate your religious festivals
- I will not accept your offerings
- Your songs of worship are noise to me, and not a joyful noise
- God no longer has any regard for them
- They have disregarded God by their actions and character

18

The Second Woe – 6:1-14

- Against the wealthy in particular
- They disregard the poor; no justice
- They enjoy a life of unrighteousness
- Their wealth is gained from injustice and unrighteousness

19

The Second Woe – 6:1-14

- God is against the people
- They are marked for destruction
- The name of the Lord will be feared
- God will bring a nation against them to destroy them

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Conclusion/Summary

- God, the sovereign expects His words to be listened to
- God, the sovereign expects His people to reflect who He is in their actions and character
- God, the sovereign will not be taken for granted
- God will not be mocked – Gal 6:7-10

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