

Amos 5

Amos 5.1-3

-Lamentation over the fall of the Northern Kingdom

V1 – Dirge = hymn to be used at a funeral

-Remember that Amos was preaching at a very prosperous time – there were no signs of a coming fall or defeat

V2 – **Would the fall of the Northern Kingdom be final?** Yes

-Virgin – the emphasis in the Old Testament was on being married and having children

V3 – **What kind of destruction would there be?** 1/10 would be left (from the cities)

-Amos was shocked at what was coming

Amos 5.4-7

V4 – The pagan shrines were located at these cities (Bethel, Beersheba, Gilgal)

-Where were the people supposed to go? To God

V5 – **What would happen to the cities where the pagan shrines were located?** They would be destroyed

V6 – **Advice from Amos?** Seek the Lord

-Alternative? He will consume like a fire

V7 – Wormwood = plant with a bitter taste

-What had the Northern Kingdom forsaken? Justice and righteousness

Amos 5.8-9

V8 – **Why would Amos mention the stars (constellations)?** He was a shepherd and spent much time in the fields

-Also, the Northern Kingdom could have been worshipping the stars

-How did Amos describe the power of God? He made the stars and changes darkness into day (and vice-versa) – He also controls the water

V9 – **Another attribute of God?** He can destroy the fortress

Amos 5.10-13

V10 – **What attitude did the Northern Kingdom have toward those people who preached the truth?** Hated them

V11 – **Other sins of the Northern Kingdom?** They put heavy rent on the poor and a heavy tax

on grain

-**Amos' prophecy?** You will not live in the nice houses you are building and will not drink wine from your vineyards

V 12 – Many sins

-**Other sins:** They took bribes and mistreated the poor people in the gate

-**What took place at the gate of the city?** Court

-Remember Ruth and Boaz – the men did business at the city gate (a long tunnel from the outside into the city – it was cool in there, and the elders of the city met there

V 13 – A very important verse

-**How bad was this period of time?** So bad that the wise person should keep quiet

-Other examples: Jesus before Herod (*Luke 23.9*); also *1 Peter 3.15* – Be ready to give an answer.... – We are not required always to give that answer.

-Some people are so determined to do evil that we must resign ourselves to the situation

Amos 5.14-15

V 14 – **Could the Northern Kingdom still repent?** Yes – it was not too late

V 15 – An excellent summary of what God requires of us: to hate evil and love good

Amos 5.16-17

V 16 – **Where was the wailing?** The plazas, streets, farms

V 17 – God would be passing through the land

-**When else did God "pass through the land"?** *Exod. 12.12* – 10th plague on Egypt

-**What was the result?** The death of the first born

Amos 5.18-20

V 18 – Maybe they had been wanting "the day of the Lord" to come

-**But what would that day be like?** Darkness

V 19 – **What other illustrations are there for the day of the Lord?**

-running from a lion into the arms of a bear

-going home and getting bitten by a snake

V 20 – So the day of the Lord is not what they were expecting

Amos 5.21-24

V 21 – **What was God's opinion of their "worship services"?** He hated them

-**Why?** Because the people were so hypocritical

V 22 – **What else did God hate?** Their grain and peace offerings

V 23 – **What else did he hate?** Songs and harp music

V 24 – One of the greatest verses in the Old Testament

-Amos was the prophet of God's moral law

-**What is God really interested in?** Justice and righteousness in great quantities

Amos 5.25-27

V 25 – Outwardly they had served God in the wilderness

V 26 – But they also carried their pagan gods with them

V 27 – **Where would the survivors of the coming destruction be taken?** Beyond Damascus

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