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Amos 6

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Learn the Bible with Friends

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Amos 6.

Topics.

- Woe to Judah and Israel.
- The judgment of God is coming.
- Woe to Israel: (the ten tribes in the land of Samaria).
- People fear to mention the name of the LORD.
- The sins of Israel and Judah.

NOTE: for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

AMOS 6:1

Woe to Judah and Israel.

- **Amos 6:1:** "Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria, the notable men of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel comes!"

Zion is the ancient name for Jerusalem, primarily used in poetic and prophetic passages. It can refer to an ancient castle, a fortress or stronghold of Jerusalem or the Hill Jerusalem sits on or the whole city itself and sometimes refers to the temple of God. By extension the name can apply to the people of Judah and is used figuratively for heaven or the Jewish church, meaning the religious and political aspect of society that is seen as an entity oriented to politics and government.

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Samaria: refers to the Northern Kingdom (the ten tribes) in the land of Samaria. Amos focus now includes both Judah (the two tribes at Jerusalem) and Israel (the ten tribes in the land of Samaria). Notice Amos directs his message primarily to those who are considered the notable men of Judah and Israel.

AMOS 6:2

- **Amos 6:2:** Pass over to Calneh, and see, and from there go to Hamath the great; then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are you better than these kingdoms? Or is their territory greater than your territory.

Calneh: one of four cities, including Babel, (Iraq), It was in the land of Shinar.

Hamath: was close to the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Gath: was near the coast on the border of Judah, possibly the chief city of the Philistines it was allotted to Dan, but later occupied by Ephraim today it is located in modern Te Aviv.

Amos: is warning Judah and Israel not to think that they are any better than the great nations of Calneh, Hamath and Gath.

AMOS 6:3

The Judgment of God is Coming.

- **Amos 6:3:** O you (Judah and Israel) who put far away the day of disaster and bring near the seat of violence?

Judah and Israel have been warned by the prophets that the Day of the LORD is about to come upon them. The Day of the LORD in this context is a day of darkness and gloom, it a day of God's judgment. God is about to punish Judah and Israel, but they did not listen to the prophets and continued to live as though the Day of the LORD, the day the Day of God's of judgment would never come.

AMOS 6:4-8

Woe to Israel (the ten tribes in the land of Samaria).

- **Amos 6:4-8:** "Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, ⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, ⁶who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! ⁷Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away." ⁸The Lord GOD has sworn by himself, declares the LORD, the God of hosts: "I abhor the pride of Jacob and hate his strongholds, and I will deliver up the city and all that is in it."

Joseph and Jacob are symbols of the one nation called Israel: Amos says, woe to the rich and prideful who sing idle songs, because they are not grieved over the division of the house of Joseph into two nations, Judah (the two tribes at Jerusalem) and Israel (the ten tribes in the land of Samaria). The statement, "They shall be the first of those who go into exile" refers to Samaria (v7). The LORD uses secular nations, kings, and people to achieve His plans and purposes, sometimes to bless and other times to bring judgment. He used Assyria to bring judgment on Israel in the land of Samaria and Babylon to bring judgment on Judah at Jerusalem. Many times, God through the prophets warned Judah and Israel of their impending doom but they would not listen. Assyria eventually invaded the land of Samaria and took Israel captive, later Babylon's armies surrounded Jerusalem and after a bitter siege of a year and a half the city fell to Nebuchadnezzar and was destroyed. Zedekiah was blinded and carried to Babylon, and the great bulk of the population was taken there with him (587 B.C.). Archaeologists have found that all of the cities of Judah were completely destroyed at this time, thus ended the glorious kingdom of David and Solomon. Observers would have said that the Hebrew nation was annihilated, and indeed, the other nations conquered by the Assyrians and Babylonians did cease to exist, but the prophets proclaimed a better hope for the chosen people. "A remnant shall return" Isaiah had said, and in time this remnant, purged and returned, became the basis on which a new Israel would be built.

AMOS 6:9-11

People Fear to Mention the Name of the LORD.

- **Amos 6:9-11:** And if ten men remain in one house, they shall die. ¹⁰And when one's relative, the one who anoints him for burial, shall take him up to bring the bones out of the house, and shall say to him who is in the innermost parts of the house, "Is there still anyone with you?" he shall say, "No"; and he shall say, "Silence! We must not mention the name of the LORD." ¹¹For behold, the LORD commands, and the great house shall be struck down into fragments, and the little house into bits.

The destruction will be so great even if people run too hid in a house it will not protect them, and when people are buried and someone asks is anyone of their family remaining they will be afraid to mention the name of the LORD for fear He will destroy even them.

The Sins of Israel and Judah.

- **Amos 6:12-14:** Do horses run on rocks? Does one plow there with oxen? But you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood— ¹³you who rejoice in Lo-debar, who say, "Have we not by our own strength captured Karnaim for ourselves?" ¹⁴"For behold, I will raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel," declares the LORD, the God of hosts; "and they shall oppress you from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of the Arabah."

Farmers do not plow with oxen on rocks neither do horse run on them, Amos is simply saying, why do the people of Judah and Israel live so wickedly when it is not what they are called to do? Israel and Judah have perverted justice for their own selfish gain and forsaking what is right. They are boasting that they conquered nations by their own strength, but God says he will raise up a nation who will oppress them. God used Assyria and Babylon to fulfil these words of Amos. Assyria invaded the ten Northern tribes of Israel in the land of Samaria and took them captive. Later Babylon besieged the two tribes of Judah at Jerusalem and took them captive to Babylon for seventy years.

Lo-debar: was a town in Gilead east of the Jordan River.

Karnaim: as east of the Sea of Galilee.

Lebo-hamath; was a city on the top of the Northern Boundary of Israel.

The Brook of the Arabah: Arabah means, Desert Plain it is the remarkable rift running from Mt. Hermon to the Gulf of Aqabah that drains into the Dead Sea. Its narrow valley of varying breath represents one of the major natural divisions of Palestine.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
