

# Amos 5

Jesus

## I. Lament for Israel

1 Hear this word which I take up against you, a **lamentation**, O house of Israel: 2 The virgin of Israel **has fallen**; She will **rise no more**. She **lies forsaken on her land**; There is **no one to raise her up**.

The LORD laments. A Dirge...An Elegy for Israel  
Sadness of witnessing a virgin dying w/out husband/children

Yet Israel was not a virgin...She had many lovers  
Your lovers will leave you desolate/turn on you

3 For thus says the LORD God: "The city that goes out by a thousand Shall have a hundred left, And that which goes out by a hundred Shall have ten left to the house of Israel."

Only a remnant will be left in the land  
These will become the Samaritan people

## II. Seek Me and Live

4 For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel: "**Seek Me and live**;

Words of hope to a nation God knows will reject the invitation  
Words of hope to the few who will choose to personally seek Him and live

**Deuteronomy 4:27** And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. 28 And there you will serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. 29 But **from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him** if you seek Him **with all your heart and with all your soul**.

Seek Me...Not a religion...Seek Me

5 But **do not seek Bethel**, Nor enter Gilgal, Nor pass over to Beersheba; For Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, And **Bethel shall come to nothing**.

Jeroboam split the kingdom by inviting people north to worship idols

**1 Kings 12:28** ...the king asked advice [of Satan], **made two calves of gold**, and said to the people, "**It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods**, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!" 29 And he **set up one in Bethel**, and the other he put in Dan.

Bethel and all man-made religion will come to nothing  
Seek Me...Not a religion/Not experience...Seek Me

**6 Seek the LORD and live, Lest He break out like fire** in the house of Joseph, And devour it, With no one to quench it in Bethel— **7 You who turn justice to wormwood, And lay righteousness to rest in the earth!”**

2<sup>nd</sup> Invitation now tagged with a warning  
Choose repentance or receive judgment

- Ripe
  1. You call those who stand for justice poison
  2. You bury everything God calls good/right

**Romans 1:18** ...the **wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **suppress** [lit. hold down] the truth in unrighteousness...

You have been warned...Seek Me now  
I'm about to break forth like fire in your lives

**Isaiah 1:18** Come now, and **let us reason together,”** Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

Seek the LORD and live!  
Turn to your Sovereign Creator

**8 He made the Pleiades and Orion; He turns the shadow of death into morning And makes the day dark as night; He calls for the waters of the sea And pours them out on the face of the earth; The LORD is His name. 9 He rains ruin upon the strong, So that fury comes upon the fortress.**

Turn to the One who created/Sustains the Universe

- Solar systems
- Hydro-logic system
- Power over life/death
- Authority over all

The LORD is His Name/YHWH/ I AM/ Ever Becoming One  
Creator. Sustainer

**Hebrews 1:2** [God the Father] ...has in these last days spoken to us by His Son [God the Son] , whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also **He made the worlds;** 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and **upholding all things by the word of His power**

**Colossians 1:15** [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For **by Him all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and **in Him all things consist.**

The LORD is His Name

**10 They hate the one who rebukes in the gate, And they abhor the one who speaks uprightly.**

Israel hated those who spoke the truth of God  
IOWs They despised the correction God sent to save them

**1 Kings 22:8** [Ahab to Jehosaphat: I have one prophet left...] but **I hate him**, because he **does not prophesy good** concerning me, but evil.

**2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word!** Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will **heap up for themselves teachers**; 4 and they will **turn their ears away from the truth**, and be **turned aside to fables**.

True in Amos time preceding judgment...True today preceding soon judgment  
Despising the correction God sent to save them

Make-believe churches led by make-believe pastors filled with make-believe-ers  
God always has/always will call out sin that some might turn to Him and live

- His Word leaves them accountable...

**11 Therefore, because you tread down the poor And take grain taxes from him, Though you have built houses of hewn stone, Yet you shall not dwell in them; You have planted pleasant vineyards, But you shall not drink wine from them.**

You have more than you need...Yet steal from the poor?  
Judgment for Greed/Love of money: Discontentment

**Haggai 1:6** You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, **Earns wages to put into a bag with holes.**

**Ecclesiastes 5:10** He who loves silver will **not be satisfied with silver**; Nor **he who loves abundance, with increase**. This also is vanity.

- With God there is contentment...

**Ecclesiastes 2:24** Nothing *is* better for a man *than* that he should eat and drink, and *that* his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was **from the hand of God**.

**Philippians 4:11b ...I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content ...13** I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

- **Curse for greed:** Perpetual discontentment/Never enough

**12 For I know your manifold transgressions And your mighty sins: Afflicting the just and taking bribes; Diverting the poor from justice at the**

gate. 13 Therefore the **prudent keep silent** at that time, For **it is an evil time.**

You sin against Me by sinning against My most vulnerable  
No one calls out leaders for fear of their life. It is an evil time

**Ephesians 5:16 ...redeem the time, because the days are evil.**

14 **Seek good and not evil, That you may live;** So the LORD God of hosts will be with you, As you have spoken. 15 **Hate evil, love good; Establish justice** in the gate. It may be that the LORD God of hosts **Will be gracious** to the remnant of Joseph.

Seek good/Hate evil...That you may live. Why?  
So the LORD God of hosts might be with you

▪ **As you have said amen to now do...**

1. Hate evil
2. Love good

**Psalm 97:10** You who love the LORD, **hate evil!**

**Romans 12:9** Let love be without hypocrisy. **Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.**

Start now. Do what is right  
Perhaps the LORD will be gracious to you...It's worth a try?

**Joel 2:14** Who knows if He will turn and relent, And **leave a blessing behind Him**

### **III. The Day of the LORD**

16 Therefore the LORD God of hosts, the LORD, says this: "There shall be wailing in all streets, And they shall say in all the highways, '**Alas! Alas!**' They shall call the farmer to mourning, And skillful lamenters to wailing. 17 In all vineyards there shall be wailing, For **I will pass through you,**" Says the LORD.

Therefore...IOWs Because you won't seek Me  
Instead of passing over you in mercy...I will pass through in judgment

**Exodus 12:12 ...I will pass through the land of Egypt** on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. [Psalm 135:7-8, 136:6]

God Himself struck the firstborn of Egypt  
All they had to do was apply the blood

Snakes were biting/Complainers dying  
Remedy: Just look up at the brass snake/be healed

**John 3:14 ...as Moses lifted up the serpent** in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be **lifted up**, 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Instead of repenting Israel mocks God's warning: Bring it! We're ready!  
God responds...

18 Woe to you who desire the **day of the LORD!** For what good is the day of the LORD to you? **It will be darkness, and not light.**

**Isaiah 5:19 Let Him make speed** and hasten His work, **That we may see it...**

**Jeremiah 17:15 ... "Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come now!"**

False Religions look forward in glee to the Day of the LORD. Bring it!  
God says woe to you! JWs. SDA

19 It will be as though a man fled from a lion, And a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, Leaned his hand on the wall, And a serpent bit him! 20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?

You think at death you'll escape your earthly pain by your religious practice/self-righteousness ...

Your temporal pain where morph into eternal pain because you got it wrong  
He thought you could meet the Lord on your terms

**Jeremiah 30:6b ...So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins Like a woman in labor, And all faces turned pale? 7 Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.**

**Joel 2:11** The LORD gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. For the **day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?**

A. Only those who humbly apply the Blood of Christ will be passed over at judgment

Israel is not at all ready to meet God  
In spite of zealous religiosity they have zero relationship to God...

#### **IV. Worship in Spirit/Truth**

21 **"I hate, I despise your feast days, And I do not savor your sacred assemblies.**

- Assyrians will take the Northern Kingdom in 721 BC
- Some Jews will stay behind/Intermarry w/Assyrians
- Result: Race called Samaritans with...
  1. Their own temple on Mt Gerizim
  2. Their own copy of Torah; i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> Five Books of Moses

### 3. Their own **Religious system...**

Several hundred Samaritans survive to this day in Israel and continue to practice their sect of Judaism. The faith concentrates on five affirmations: There is one God, Yahweh; His chief mediator is Moses; the Torah is the vehicle of mediation; the central worship site is **Mount Gerizim**; and the Messiah will initiate a future Day of Vengeance and Recompense.

Israel will hate the Samaritans: Half breeds who don't know where to worship  
Jews worshiped in Jerusalem/Samaritans on Mt. Gerizim

- 750 yrs later Jesus speaks w/a Samaritan woman on Mt. Gerizim

**John 4:3** [Jesus] left Judea and departed again to Galilee. <sup>4</sup> But **He needed to go through Samaria**. [Jesus meets a Samaritan woman who talks religion] ... <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**"

v 24 God *is* Spirit. Those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth

- God is **Spirit**: *pneuma* The 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the triune God, the Holy Spirit, coequal, coeternal w/the Father/the Son
- God is to be **worshiped**: *pros-koo-neh'-o* To kiss the hand in token of reverence. To fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence. NT Kneeling or prostration to do homage in order to express respect or to make supplication. rt. Likens worship to a dog's relation to its master
- God is to be worshiped **in Spirit**: *pneuma* [same word as God is Spirit] Def. II the Vital principal by which the body is animated. The God-given ability by which the human being feels, thinks, decides
- God is to be worshiped in Spirit and **Truth**: *al-ay'-thi-a* universally, what is true in any matter under consideration as opposed to what is feigned, fictitious, false

God who is the Spirit must be revered by His creation with profound reverence displayed by/through our vital living souls and demonstrated by our obedience with regard to our feelings, thoughts, and **our decisions**. [NJC]

IOWs The highest form of worship is absolute obedience

I hate, I despise your feast days  
I do not savor your sacred assemblies.

**22 Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.**

Your "worship" is unacceptable

No true connection to Me through humble obedience...So I will not reply to you

Your attitude during worship is vile  
You bring the Living God scraps of what's left of your idolatry

**Isaiah 66:3** He who kills a bull is as if he slays a man; He who sacrifices a lamb, as if he breaks a dog's neck; He who offers a grain offering, as if he offers swine's blood; He who burns incense, as if he blesses an idol.

The way they brought sacrifice for their sin...was sin in itself!  
Fact: Everyone worships something/someone at all times

To what/who are you giving all your God-given vitality/time/thoughts to?  
For me it was heavy metal. All day every day. All night every night

- Club/Church/Bible/Music/Store/Confession/Card/Church/Salvation



**23 Take away from Me the noise of your songs, For I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments.**

**Q.** Can a Leopard change its spots?

**A.** Yes, when God does it. From Ratt to I Love You LORD

From serving Satan religiously in the stench of sin/rebellion  
To serving God w/gladness/refreshment of heart...

**24 But let justice run down like water, And righteousness like a mighty stream.**

Less talk...More walk

**Hosea 6:6** For I desire **mercy** and not sacrifice, And the **knowledge of God** more than burnt offerings.

**Micah 6:8** He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to **do justly**, To **love mercy**, And to **walk humbly** with your God?

I guided/patiently taught you since Egypt  
You've never learned to obey Me even for your own peace

25 "Did you offer Me **sacrifices and offerings In the wilderness** forty years, O house of Israel? 26 You also carried Sikkuth your king And Chiun, your idols, The **star of your gods**, Which you made for yourselves.

They worshiped idols from Egypt to the Jordan

**Deuteronomy 32:15** [I wanted to bless you but when I did] ...Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; You grew fat, you grew thick, You are obese! Then he forsook God *who* made him, And scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation. <sup>16</sup>They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign *gods*; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. <sup>17</sup> **They sacrificed to demons**, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear.

They worshiped idols on the east side of the Jordan

**1 Kings 11:33** ...they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David.[Scripture never mentions David worshiping idols]]

**Acts 7:42** Then God **turned and gave them up to worship the host of heaven**, as it is written in the book of the Prophets [Amos]: 'Did you offer Me slaughtered animals and sacrifices during forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? 43 You also took up the **tabernacle of Moloch**, And the **star** [symbol] **of your god Remphan**, [lit. the shrunken/lifeless] **Images which you made to worship...**

They worshiped idols on the west side of the Jordan

**Joshua 24:14** [God delivered you] "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and **put away the gods** which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. **Serve the LORD!**

You've never not worshiped idols  
I said no. You said yes. I warned you/here you're are...

27 **Therefore** I will send you into captivity beyond Damascus," Says the LORD, whose name is the **God of hosts**.

Thus says YHWH the LORD of Angel Armies  
I am taking from your comfortable homes to the horror of Assyria

**2 Kings 17:6** In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria and **carried Israel away to Assyria...**

There is no religious practice that can save anyone  
It is a He that saves us...That He is Jesus the Messiah

**John 4:25** The [Samaritan] woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" who is called Christ. "When He comes, He will tell us all things." <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, **"I who speak to you am He."**