

What On Earth Is Happening? Hopeful Insights From Amos and Obadiah

Why Attendance Will Go Down The More We Study Amos (#2)

Amos 2:4–16

Sunday Evening Bible Study – September 17, 2017

Review of Amos 1:1–2:3

About 760 years before Christ was born, God's people were divided into the Southern Kingdom (Judah) and the Northern Kingdom (Israel). Both kingdoms were disobedient and rebellious, but Israel's corruption was greater. God raised up Amos, a businessman living in Judah, to take a message to the nation of Israel. The message starts with good news: God is going to judge their enemies for their violation of the moral law of God which is written on their hearts (Ro. 2:15; the second table of the Ten Commandments: murder, theft, false witness, coveting). These six pagan nations surround and threaten them. To Israel, this sounds like good news of imminent victory, health, and wealth. Peace and prosperity is just around the corner!

A Walk Through Amos 2:4–16

2:4–5 Indictment: *God v. Judah* (Southern Kingdom): They followed their lying leaders and compromised the precepts of God's Word to adopt the principles of the world.

1. Lying _____ tell people what they want to hear (Dt. 13:1–5; 18:20–22; Jer. 28)
2. Lying _____ prosper from gifts of worshippers while true worship is neglected (2 Kings 12:1–16).
3. Lying _____ use their power to serve themselves instead of others (1 Kings 11:1–14; 12)
4. Church beware of lying _____ (2 Peter 2:1; Mt. 7:15; 24:11; 1 Tim. 3,6; 2 Tim. 4)

2:6–12 Indictment: *God v. Israel* (Northern Kingdom): Their leaders abuse their power to deny others and serve themselves, instead of denying themselves to serve the weak.

1. _____ leaders make unnecessary foreclosures on small loans of poor debtors (6).
2. _____ leaders show partiality to the rich and deprive the poor of justice (7a).
3. _____ abuse and sexually exploit women (7b).
4. _____ leaders dress well for public worship at the expense of the poor (8a).
5. _____ leaders used collected fines to offer in hypocritical worship (8b).
6. _____ show ingratitude by forgetting how God graciously used his power to serve them while they were weak and oppressed (9–11).
7. _____ leaders seek to pressure and silence godly leaders who preach God's Word and live holy lives (12).
8. Sentence: Israel's military will be weakened by an earthquake (1:1) and annihilated by an invading army (13–16).

Summary of Judah’s indictment

There is no qualitative difference between professing believers (God’s covenant people) and unbelievers (the nations surrounding them).

Timeless Principles

1. **The greater the knowledge of God, the stricter the judgment will be.** (James 3:1; Mt. 10:15; 11:22,24; 12:41,42)
2. **Consider Amos’ use of the “Nathan Method.”** Lure them in by criticizing a third party → Let them concede the heinousness of another’s deed → Set the hook with a clear rebuke. See 2 Sam. 12.
3. **In debates with unbelievers about political issues, appeal to reason and natural law, not Scripture.** (Ex. 20; Dan. 1:12–16; Ro. 1:26,27; 2:12–16).

Table 1	Love God
1. No other gods. 2. No graven images. 3. Revere the Lord’s name 4. Remember the Lord’s Day	Laws that <i>promote</i> sound doctrine, holy living, the proper worship of the true God, reverence for God, teaching on the nature of God. These laws are enforced by the church with the power of excommunication (1 Cor. 5:9–13).
Table 2	Love Neighbor
5. Honor father and mother 6. Don’t murder 7. Don’t commit adultery 8. Don’t steal 9. Don’t lie 10. Don’t covet	Laws that <i>promote</i> protecting the family, care for elderly, defending all human lives, regulating war, honoring marriage, respecting private property, speaking the truth, enforcing contracts, guarding the integrity of the courts, protecting free speech and press to expose lies, and religious liberty. These laws are enforced by the state with power of the sword (Ro. 13).

4. **God reigns over all the nations of the earth; they rise and fall at his good pleasure.** God daily permits what does not please him for his own secret purposes (Acts 4:24-30; Ro. 8:28).
5. **No act of God’s judgment on any nation is unjustified.** All nations are guilty and deserving of his wrath. No one is innocent in God’s sight (Mt. 7:24-27; Lk. 13:1-5). Pain is a gift (2 Peter 3:1–10).
6. **Corruption in leaders both reflects and encourages corruption in society.** Character matters (1 Tim. 3:2).
7. **People are more attracted to happy messages they want to hear than hard truth they need to hear** (2 Tim 4:3–4). The good news is never good to us until the bad news is painfully clear to us.
8. **Judgment comes for sins of commission and omission (Jas. 4:17; Lk 10:29-42; 11:42)**
 - Commission: Active disobedience: “Everyone is doing it so I will too” (ex. Liberal Mainlines).
 - Omission: Passive disobedience: “I’m not doing it, so I’m not guilty”(ex. Conservative Evangelicals).