

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

A Warning To The Proud

Amos 3:1–15

Sunday Evening Bible Study, September 24, 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!

Review of Amos 2:4–16

Amos begins with what sounds like good news to Israel. Their surrounding enemies will soon be judged and destroyed. Historically, that meant that God was going to use Israel as an instrument of judgment on evil nations, so they are expecting to experience victory, health and wealth, peace and prosperity. But when Amos indicts Judah, their brothers to the south, they begin to worry. Then God, saving the worst news for last, lists seven specific indictments against Israel herself. For these sins, God will destroy their nation.

Amos 3:1–15

1–2 The _____ God declares a warning to those who thought they were going to make Israel great again.

Principle: *God is not obligated to communicate with us, so even his warnings are mercy.*

3–6 Disaster comes not by bad luck or chance, but by the _____ of God.

Principle: *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).

7–8 Only God knows _____ and [sometimes] reveals the reason through his prophets.

Principle: *While we can know that God has brought disaster, we cannot know why he did it apart from special revelation.* (Luke 13:4f).

9–10 The coming disaster will be an _____ scandal and a warning to all nations.

Principle: *Nations that boast in their wealth and military strength are easily defeated when God decides against them* (Jer. 9:23,24; Isa. 10:15; Pr. 21:31).

11-12 God will raise up _____ to destroy Israel in war.

Principle: *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).

13–15 Israel's sins revolve around two main offenses:

1. They didn't _____, so they followed false doctrine (13-14).

Principle: *Doctrinal compromise always leads to moral compromise* (2 Tim. 4:1-4).

2. They didn't love _____, so they loved money more than people, exploiting the poor and powerless (15).

Principle: *Injustice thrives when bad theology flourishes* (Mt. 23:23; 1 Cor. 6:10).

Principle: *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).