

God's Passion

The Book of Amos

Every passage that God directs a teacher to share has a "big idea." The big idea is that single point of emphasis that drives home God's message. The big idea behind the book of Amos is found in Amos 5:24. The verse states, "*But let justice flow like water, and righteousness, like an unfailing stream.*" In this verse, God makes it clear what He desires. God's passionate plea is that His people live righteously and uphold justice widely. Unfortunately, the people in Amos' day failed to grasp what the Lord required. Consider this as we look at today's passage, **how susceptible are you to the same desires that plagued the people during Amos' time?**

Read Amos 5:18-27.

Amos 5:18 states, "*Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord.*" **Are you familiar with the term "The day of the Lord?"**

The term "The Day of the Lord" occurs 25 times in 23 verses, including the books of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Zephaniah, Zechariah, Malachi, Acts, I & II Thessalonians, and II Peter. The Day of the Lord is a period in which God will deal with wickedness directly and dramatically in fearful judgment.

- It's a time of great deliverance (Joel 2:28-32)
- A day of darkness (Amos 5:18, 20)
- A day of doom (Amos 5:19)

The people of Amos' day saw the "day of the Lord" as a time when the Lord would bring victory, blessing, and brightness. Instead, the prophet pronounced disaster for them. They considered themselves to be God's people and worthy of God's rescue, but God was displeased with them.

According to the book of Amos, what displeases God?

- **Hypocritical worship** (vss. 21-23, 25) – Amos speaks directly about their insincere devotion to feasts and the commemoration of holy days. Their casual attention to offerings. God says that He does not hear their music because they are an affront to Him.
- **Lack of concern for others** (vs. 24) – They enslaved the poor and practiced injustice in the courts toward the disadvantaged.
- **Idolatry** – (vs. 26) – The people failed to put God first.

Thought to live by:

A constant danger for God's people is a false presumption of how God's revelation relates to them. Often they see themselves as God's friends when in reality, they are God's enemies. Enthusiastic proclaimers of the Lord's return must be careful to identify their relationship to God correctly.