

Notes for Aug. 30. 2,020

These are the notes for this weeks lesson

I believe that a good way to try to interpret ‘**Current Events**’ is to look back in scripture and see → **How God reacted to similar situations in the past.**

Therefore, I would like to open by reading you a chapter out of the Book of Amos → In this specific chapter God is speaking to the nation of Israel (all 12 tribes). I believe that these words would also apply to the nation of America as their relationship to God is very similar and the conditions and events are also very similar. I will explain as I read →

Amos, Chapter 3

However, before we begin, I would like to remind you that it appears that God chose Israel in the Old Testament Period to be His people to spread His word and set the example of a Godly people to the world. And it also appears, based on history, that God chose America to be His country to spread His word and set the example of a Godly people to the world → for the church periods of Sardis and Philadelphia and Laodicea or ~ 500 years and counting.

Verse 1:

“Hear the words the Lord → has spoken against you, O Israel— → against the whole family → I brought up out of Egypt. To me God makes four points in this verse:

To Israel:

- 1) This is the **Lord Speaking**,
- 2) In these words, God is bringing His ‘**Charges Against Israel**’,
- 3) **All 12 tribes of Israel**,

- 4) God reminds Israel that He/God → Freed them from **'Slavery in Egypt'**.

To America:

- 1) This is the **Lord Speaking**,
- 2) In these words, God is bringing His **'Charges Against America'**
- 3) The charges will be against **'All of America'**
- 4) God is reminding the **American People that He/God → Freed them from their European Governmental & Religious Bondage and allowed them to flourish in America'**.

Verse 2:

You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; → therefore, I will punish you for your sins. In this verse God is making it very clear that He/God chose these people (Israel & America) to be His/Gods people, (verse 2a), **"You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth..."** Gods covenant and word was given to Israel through Abraham → and to America through the church of Jesus Christ.

In the last part of this verse, (verse 2b) **"...therefore, I will punish you for your sins."** I think God is explaining to both Israel and America → That because God chose them to fill this **'Special Position'** and had blessed them greatly, → Therefore, because they had failed Him/God so badly → that their **'Judgement'** would be very **'Sever and Harsh'**. **'They broke all of Gods laws, Commands and Decrees'**.

Verses 3-6:

I think in these next verses God presents examples, by way of questions— to **Israel and America**, as to → **Exactly How the Relationship Was Supposed to Work**, as well as **How It was Not Working**. I also think this is Amos showing the reader his background— Shepard.

Verse 3—First Example:

Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so? God is actually saying that → If you are walking together you must be in agreement, which is true, **‘if you are together you must be in agreement’** → However, in this case → God is God and sets the rules and we as His created being must come over and **‘agree to them’**, therefore we, (man & God) are **‘together’**. Remember, God does not adjust His **‘Plan for Creation— for Man → To suit man’s Desires’**.

Verse 4—Second & Third Examples:

Does a lion roar in the thicket when he has no prey? → Does he growl in his den when he has caught nothing? In this verse God is providing us with a second and third example about the relationship that exist between Him/God and Israel (humanity in general) is one based on → **Cause and Effect or Results** → Just like in this example. (verse 4a) The **‘lion’** will only **“roar or growl”** if he has **‘caught something’**. God is God and has established the rules of conduct for humanity → The **Results or Effects** will be based on the humans behavior (freewill) and can be either in one of two direction → **Obey and be Blessed or Disobey and be Judged**. In verse (4b) God repeats this same concept except using different words. Does he growl in his den when he has caught nothing? Again, cause and effect.

Verse 5—Forth & Fifth Example:

Verses 5a, Does a bird fall into a trap on the ground where no snare has been set? → (verse 5b) Does a trap spring from the earth when there is nothing to catch? In this verse God presents the forth & fifth example → **Cause and Effect or Results Example** and the interpretation is the same: (God is God and has established the rules of conduct for humanity → The Results based on the humans behavior (freewill) can

be either in one of two direction → Obey and be Blessed or Disobey and be Judged.) Again, cause and effect.

Verse 6a—Sixth Example:

When a trumpet sounds in a city, do not the people tremble? →

Again, this is the sixth example → **Cause and Effect or Results Example** and again the interpretation is the same: (God is God and has established the rules of conduct for humanity → The Results based on the humans behavior (freewill) can be either in one of two direction → Obey and be Blessed or Disobey and be Judged.) Again, cause and effect.

Verse 6b—Seventh Example:

When disaster comes to a city, has not the Lord caused it? This is the seventh example → **Cause and Effect or Results Example** and again the interpretation is the same → the relationship that exist between Him/God and Israel (humanity in general) is one based on → **Cause and Effect or Results** → God is God and has established the rules of conduct for humanity → The **Effect or Results** on humanity will be based on the humans behavior (freewill) and can be either in one of two direction → **Obey and be Blessed or Disobey and be Judged**. However, in this specific verse God is focusing in the **‘Judgement Side of the Equation’**.

Remember, God had sent many prophets to both Israel and Judah to speak to them about His/Gods dissatisfaction with their conduct. And during this process God had given them (Israel & America) many—many chances to **‘repent and return to Him’**, before He/God brought judgement.

- 1) Israel → 967—722 BC = 245 years
- 2) Judah → 967—586 BC = 381 years

America → The church began in **America in 1,620 – 2,020 = 400 years** and counting. You can decide when you think this ‘falling away process’ began → However, it is my opinion that it began somewhere around 1,750 to 1,800 (the industrial revolution) → **Wealth → Greed → The Elite Group was Created → Ever Expanding Government**. This process went into high gear in ~ 1,890 to 1,900 and again accelerated in ~ 1,950 to 1,960.

NOTE: Also, I think it is worth noting that all of these examples by Amos are ones that would reflect his background, which would be that of a shepherd. Again, God uses men who are willing to serve Him regardless of their backgrounds and education.

Verse 7:

Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets. God is making sure that everyone knows that He/God will always make sure → that He/God tells His created being:

First—What He/God expects from them and →

Second—That they will be blessed if they comply

Third—That they will be judged if they rebel.

Note: During the time of Israel, they actually had the prophets plus the first five books of the Bible → During the time of America, they had the entire written word of God and the church of Jesus Christ/Holy Spirit.

Examples of this would be:

- 1) Noah preached to the unsaved for 120 years before the flood
- 2) Abraham was given a heads up on God's plan to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah

- 3) Also, all of the Old Testaments Prophets, speaking about the issue of Israel's rebellious nature
- 4) I like this one from the New Testament, John 15:15, "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know the master's business. Instead, I have called you friend, for everything that I learn from My Father I have made known to you."

Verse 8:

The lion has roared—who will not fear? → The Sovereign Lord has spoken—who can but prophesy? In this verse I think God is again making it plain to His people and all people in general, that He/God has "roared—spoken" and given His word through His prophets—many—many times. I think God used the "loin" in this verse because it is known as the '**king of beast**'.

Summary: God has stated the He has sent His prophets to warn Israel that they are openly sinning and → if they do not repent → He/God will bring Judgement on them. And based on the words in verse 12, it appears that He/God is telling Israel that the decision has already been made → '**Because of God's foreknowledge**'. He knows that Israel will not repent. I would have thought that these words would have scared the people of Israel to death → However, it did not appear to have any impact on them at all.

America: I am afraid that the people in America are following this same path and that the results will be the same → **Destruction and it will be Very Soon.**

Verse 9:

Proclaim to the fortress of Ashdod and → to the fortresses of Egypt;
→ 'Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria; → see the great unrest within her and the oppression among her people. It

appears that God is using or calling some of the neighbors of Israel to witness the ‘sin/evil’ that existed within Israel at this point in time. I will explain:

- 1) Ashdod was a major city in Philistine and Egypt was another neighbor of Israel, they were both very sinful and evil, verse 9a, Proclaim **to the fortress of Ashdod and** → **to the fortresses of Egypt;**
- 2) Samaria was the capital of Israel (10 northern tribes) and built on one of the **many mountains** surrounding the sprawling city of Samaria – Samaria was also where the palace of Ahab and Jezebel resided. **‘Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria.**
- 3) God calls the neighbors of Israel to ‘**assemble themselves on the other mountains surrounding Samaria**’ to again witness the ‘sin in Israel’, verse 9b, **‘Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria.**
- 4) Last God spells out some of the specific sins of Israel, which God will discuss in the last portion of this chapter, verse 9c → **see the great unrest within her and the oppression among her people.** Actually, many scholars believe that there were many ‘riots’ going on in Samaria during this period because of the ‘**heavy oppression of the poor**’ during this period—by the rich’.

America: Does this sound like → What other countries are saying about America of today? A country that is → where the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer and at an ever-increasing rate.

Verse 10:

They do not know how to do right, ‘declares the Lord, ‘who hoard plunder and loot in their fortresses.’ God is saying that over the last 200-300 years, the 12 tribes of Israel:

- 1) Had fallen away from God and His Laws, Commands and decrees and no longer **‘walked with Him’**—see verses 3-6.
- 2) Became very **worldly & wealthy** and put their **‘faith/defense’** in **‘worldly things’** and **‘NOT GOD’**. See verse 15

Verse 11:

Therefore, this is what the Sovereign Lord says, → ‘An enemy will overrun the land; → he will pull down your strong holds and plunder your fortresses.’ This is God pronouncing the Judgement that will come on both Israel (by Assyria in 722 BC) and Judah (by Babylon in 586 BC). Based on the previous verses and all of this chapter it appears to me that → **God was saying that Judgement was ‘ALREADY ORDAINED FOR ALL 12 TRIBES OF ISREAL’**. He/God knew that, based on the condition of their hearts that they would never repent.

- 1) America today does not know what the future holds in terms of **God’s judgement**; I think to even guess at this → **We would need to compare America’s sins to those of Israel → And then make a guess! → You Decide.**

Verse 12:

This is what the Lord says, → ‘As a shepherd saves from the lion’s mouth only two leg bones or a piece of an ear, → so will the Israelites be saved, → those who sit in Samaria on the edge of their beds and on the corner of their couches.’ It appears that in this verse God is making two points:

One—Verse 12a: ‘As a shepherd saves from the lion’s mouth only two leg bones or a piece of an ear, → so will the Israelites be saved,
Israel will not be totally destroyed → There will be a small remnant left → so that God can keep His promise to Abraham and that remnant will

only be returned to 'Israel → At the Beginning of the End Times period'.

Two—Verse 12b: those who sit in Samaria on the edge of their beds and on the corner of their couches.” The last words within this verse are somewhat unclear but seem to indicate that → **These 10 tribes thought that they were living in security and comfort.** **Note:** Actually, this type of prophetic event will happen twice in the history of Israel (meaning major event).

First: When Assyria destroyed Israel, the 10 northern tribes, in 722 BC.

Second: When the anti-Christ attacks and destroys 2/3 of the Jewish people—just before the '**Second Coming of Jesus**—which saves the remainder of the Jewish people (**which will be the saved Jews**). This event will include all 12 tribes of Israel. See, Zechariah, chapters 12-14.

Does this sound like the mind set of most of the **American People** today? **Tomorrow will be just as safe and good as today was!**

Verse 13:

Hear this and testify against the house of Jacob, 'declares the Lord, the Lord God Almighty.' Then in the very next verse God states → **Hear these words Judah** → and know that **YOU** are following the same path, even though not as fast, the same judgement will come upon you → **136 years later**. This will be done by Babylon, in 586 BC and again → Just before the second coming of Jesus.

Verses 14-15:

“On that day I will punish Israel for their sins, → I will destroy the altars in Bethel; → the horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground. → I will tear down the winter houses along with the summer houses; → the houses adorned with ivory will be destroyed and the

mansions will be demolished’. In these two verses (14-15) God makes several points, as follows:

Point One—Verse 14a:

On the day that I punish Israel for their sins, → On the day that God has decided to bring Judgement on each of these two portions of Israel
→ It will happen just as **He/God has Prophesied—through His Prophets.** Remember, this is prophecy at this point in time.

Point Two—Verse 14b:

“...will destroy the altars of Bethel; → Then God makes a second statement about these ‘calf gods’, the **horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground.”**

In this section (verse 14b) God is making a statement of fact → He/God will **‘tear down the altar of a golden calf in Bethel and Dan as well’.**

Note: The significance of Bethel is given to us in 1 Kings, 12;25-33, quoted, verse 28-30a, **“After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, ‘It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt. One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan. And this thing became a sin...”** I think the other interesting issue here— is that the **‘calf god’** was the same false god that Israel made when they had just left Egypt during the Exodus, see Exodus, chapter 32. Also, the **‘calf god’** was a god of the Egyptians, which Israel had adopted while they were in Egypt.

Point Three—Verse 14b: **will destroy the altars of Bethel;** → Again, God makes a second statement about these ‘calf gods’, **the horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground.** which I believe has two meaning:

- 1) The physical **“horns”** of the golden calf altar will be **‘literally cut off’** and **‘destroyed’**.
- 2) In the Old Testament the words **“horns”** normally means **‘power’**, and in this case the **‘military power of Judah will be totally destroyed**.

As for → **America** it would appear to mean that **‘All of our Idols (power, fame, money/wealth, pride, greed, self-centeredness/love of self, hatred of God → and Military Power will be destroyed’** at some point in the future.

Verse 15:

“I will tear down the winter houses along with the summer houses; → the houses adorned with ivory will be destroyed and → the mansions will be demolished’.”

It appears that God is giving three specific examples of **‘Items of the Very Rich and Wealthy’**. Remember, at this point in time Israel had become a **very rich and wealthy and affluent society—for some**. However, the rich had become rich at the expense of the poor, as they became even poorer at an accelerating rate. Israel had become a country of the **‘elite and of the poor’**, as well as **the leadership in the Government and Religious System had become very—very corrupt and worldly**.

Example One—Verse 15a: **I will tear down the winter house along with the summer house.** Only the rich had two homes, where as, some of the poor did not even have one home.

Example Two—Verse 15b: **the houses adorned with ivory will be destroyed and** Again, only the very rich had homes with expensive furnishings. Remember, the issue of **‘do not harm the wine or the oil’** during the end times period.

Example Three—Verse 15c: **the mansions will be demolished.** Again, I think God is ending this chapter by **‘re-stating that this ‘destruction will be extremely harsh and gruesome for the rich’.**

Verse 15d: God then ends this verse/chapter with a statement of fact → **Declares the Lord.” All of this will happen just as God has stated**
→ **prophesied through His Prophets.**

America → I think that God does not show favoritism when it come to either **‘blessing or judging people/nations.** it is based solely on → How they respond to Gods: Laws, Commands and decrees. Therefore, how do you think → God will React to the **‘Open Rebellion in America Today’?**

Again, I think this scripture is a good road map of → **What is in Americas near future** → **If we do not repent and return to God** → **ASAP.**