

# AMOS – CHAPTERS 4-6 – Israel Did Not Accept Correction; A Lament for Israel; A Call to Repentance; The Day of the Lord; Warnings to Zion and Samaria

## OBSERVATION

## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/>  
Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

*Amo 4:1 Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, Who oppress the poor, Who crush the needy, Who say to your husbands, "Bring wine, let us drink!"*  
*Amo 4:2 The Lord GOD has sworn by His holiness: "Behold, the days shall come upon you When He will take you away with fishhooks, And your posterity with fishhooks.*  
*Amo 4:3 You will go out through broken walls, Each one straight ahead of her, And you will be cast into Harmon," Says the LORD.*  
*Amo 4:4 "Come to Bethel and transgress, At Gilgal multiply transgression; Bring your sacrifices every morning, Your tithes every three days.*  
*Amo 4:5 Offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven, Proclaim and announce the freewill offerings; For this you love, You children of Israel!" Says the Lord GOD.*

### **ISRAEL DID NOT ACCEPT CORRECTION**

*Amo 4:6 "Also I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities. And lack of bread in all your places; Yet you have not returned to Me," Says the LORD.*

*Amo 4:7 "I also withheld rain from you, When there were still three months to the harvest. I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, And where it did not rain the part withered.*

*Amo 4:8 So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water, But they were not satisfied; Yet you have not returned to Me," Says the LORD.*

*Amo 4:9 "I blasted you with blight and mildew. When your gardens increased, Your vineyards, Your fig trees, And your olive trees, The locust devoured them; Yet you have not returned to Me," Says the LORD.*

*Amo 4:10 "I sent among you a plague after the manner of Egypt; Your young men I killed with a sword, Along with your captive horses; I made the stench of your camps come up into your nostrils; Yet you have not returned to Me," Says the LORD.*

*Amo 4:11 "I overthrew some of you, As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, And you were like a firebrand plucked from the burning; Yet you have not returned to Me," Says the LORD.*

*Amo 4:12 "Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel; Because I will do this to you, Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"*

*Amo 4:13 For behold, He who forms mountains, And creates the wind, Who declares to man what his thought is, And makes the morning darkness, Who treads the high places of the earth— The LORD God of hosts is His name.*

**v. 1** Cows of Bashan - So Amos compares the mighty, wanton, and oppressive rulers of Israel, to those full - fed, strong, and wanton beasts which in the herds did push at, hurt, and disturb the weaker cattle.

**v. 2** By His holiness - By Himself as He is the holy God. The days - Of famine, desolation and captivity. He - God by the Assyrian army will take you, as fish are taken with the hook. Your posterity - The children of these oppressors.

**v. 3** In effect, God is saying, "If you think because you are rich or because you are a ruler living in a palace that you will be spared, you are wrong." And we read in the historical record that when Assyria finally came and took them into captivity, the king was taken also Harmon – Mt. Hermon, or possibly “oppression”..

**v. 4** Come to Bethel - A strong irony, giving them over as incorrigible. At Gilgal - Gilgal was a place where much idolatry was acted. Every morning - In the same irony God reproves their sins tho' they imitated the instituted worship at Jerusalem. Three years - God had Deu 14:28, commanded every third year that all the tithe of that year should be brought, and laid up in a public store - house.

**v. 5** With leaven - As all the rest of your will - worship, so this also is against the express law, Lev 2:11. However, do so at your peril, try whether it will end in good. Proclaim - Publicly persuaded your people to voluntary sacrifices.

**v. 6** Also I - The Lord who gave many blessings to win you to repentance, hath also tried what might be done by judgments. Cleanness of teeth - This is a description of famine.

**v. 7** When - At a season when your country most needed it. Upon one city - That you might see my hand in it, I gave rain to one city, and withheld it from the next; nay one part of the same field was watered and flourished: another part, dry and withered.

**v. 8** Not satisfied - Either that had not enough for them, or durst not part with it.

**v. 9** Increased - When they were most fruitful. Devoured - Eat up all, as is the manner of them.

**v. 10** Your horses - The riders being killed. The stench - So great slaughter hath been made in your camp that there were not sufficient to bury the slain.

**v. 11** Overthrew - By grievous and desolating judgments. As a fire - brand - Such of you as escaped were yet as fire - brands in the midst of the fire, 'till infinite mercy saved a remnant.

**v. 12** Therefore - In a more terrible manner will I now proceed against thee.

**v. 13** Declares - Knows the thoughts of all men. The God of hosts - Whose sovereign power all creatures obey, and acts for or against us as He wills. Let us humble ourselves before this God, and give all diligence to make him our God. For happy are the people whose God he is, and who have all this power engaged for them.

**v. 12** They're going to meet God in a way that you don't want to meet God. You see, if after all God has done to bring you to Himself, you still refuse to come, you still reject His love, His innovations to draw you to Himself, ultimately you will meet God on a different level. Not a God of love, but a God of justice. Righteousness, holiness, whose holiness demands a punishment for sin. You surely do not want to meet God without preparation. The preparation that is necessary for us to meet God is a faith and a trust in Jesus Christ, whereby our sins have been forgiven, cleansed. *For behold, He who forms mountains, And creates the wind, Who declares to man what his thought is, And makes the morning darkness, Who treads the high places of the earth— The LORD God of hosts is His name. (4:13).* This is the God that one day you will face, you will have to face. *“For it is appointed unto man, once to die, and after that the judgment.”*

If you don't grasp this point, I believe your perspective of God will be off a bit. This isn't God saying in anger and hostility, “I'm going to destroy you,” but rather, “You're so stubborn, You're unteachable. Therefore, I'll short-circuit you into eternity because the path you're on will destroy you!

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**A LAMENT FOR ISRAEL**

*Amo 5:1 Hear this word which I take up against you, a lamentation, O house of Israel:*

*Amo 5:2 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.*

*Amo 5:3 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."*

**A CALL TO REPENTANCE**

*Amo 5:4 For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel: "Seek Me and live;*

*Amo 5:5 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.*

*Amo 5:6 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—*

*Amo 5:7 You who turn justice to wormwood, And lay righteousness to rest in the earth!"*

*Amo 5:8 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.*

*Amo 5:9 He rains ruin upon the strong, So that fury comes upon the fortress.*

*Amo 5:10 They hate the one who rebukes in the gate, And they abhor the one who speaks uprightly.*

*Amo 5:11 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.*

*Amo 5:12 For I know your manifold transgressions And your mighty sins: Afflicting the just and taking bribes; Diverting the poor from justice at the gate.*

*Amo 5:13 Therefore the prudent keep silent at that time, For it is an evil time.*

*Amo 5:14 Seek good and not evil, That you may live; So the LORD God of hosts will be with you, As you have spoken.*

*Amo 5:15 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.*

**v. 1** He is taking up a dirge. He is singing a funeral song, a very sad one. He speaks of them now with tenderness— **So God is lamenting here over the judgement that is gonna come upon His people.**

**v. 2** The virgin - So she was, when first espoused to God. Upon her land - Broken to pieces upon her own land, and so left as a broken vessel.

**v. 3** By a thousand - That sent out one thousand soldiers. An hundred - Shall lose ninety percent of them.

**v. 4** Seek Me and live - Cease your rebellion against Me; return to Me with all your heart; and though consigned to death, you shall be rescued and live. Deplorable as your case is, because of His mercy, it is not utterly desperate.

**v. 5** Do not seek - Consult not, worship not the idol at Bethel, Gilgal, or Beersheba.

**v. 6** The house of Joseph - The kingdom of the ten tribes, the chief whereof was Ephraim, the son of Joseph. In Bethel - If once this fire breaks out, all your idols in Beth - el shall not be able to quench it.

**v. 7** You - Rulers and judges. Judgment - The righteous sentence of the law. To wormwood - Proverbially understood; bitterness, injustice and oppression. Leave off - Make to cease in your courts of judicature. A perversion of their judgment, corruption of judgment

**v. 8** He turns the shadow of death into the morning - Who makes day and night, light and darkness. He calls for the waters of the sea - Raising them up by evaporation, and collecting them into clouds. And pours them out - Causing them to drop down in showers upon the face of the earth. Who has done this? Jehovah is his name.

**v. 9** The strong - The mighty, victorious and insolent. Shall come - Shall rally and form a siege against their besiegers.

**v. 10** They - The judges and people. In the gate - Where judges sat, and where the prophets many times delivered their message.

**v. 11** You tread - You utterly oppress the helpless. Ye take - Ye extort from the poor great quantities of wheat, on which he should live.

**v. 12** At the gate - In their courts of justice.

**v. 13** keep silent - Be forced to it. Evil - Both for the sinfulness of it, and for the troubles, wars, and captivity now at hand.

**v. 14** With you - To bless and save you yet.

**v. 15** Hate evil - All evil among the people, and yourselves. Love - Commend, encourage, defend: let your heart be toward good things, and good men. Remnant - What the invasions of enemies, or the civil wars have spared, and left in Samaria and Israel.

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### THE DAY OF THE LORD

*Amo 5:16 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.*

*Amo 5:17 In all vineyards there shall be wailing, For I will pass through you," Says the LORD.*

*Amo 5:18 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.*

*Amo 5:19 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!*

*Amo 5:20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?*

*Amo 5:21 "I hate, I despise your feast days, And I do not savor your sacred assemblies.*

*Amo 5:22 Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.*

*Amo 5:23 Take away from Me the noise of your songs, For I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments.*

*Amo 5:24 But let justice run down like water, And righteousness like a mighty stream.*

*Amo 5:25 "Did you offer Me sacrifices and offerings In the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel?*

*Amo 5:26 You also carried Sikkuth your king And Chiun, your idols, The star of your gods, Which you made for yourselves.*

*Amo 5:27 Therefore I will send you into captivity beyond Damascus," Says the LORD, whose name is the God of hosts.*

### WARNINGS TO ZION AND SAMARIA

*Amo 6:1 Woe to you who are at ease in Zion, And trust in Mount Samaria, Notable persons in the chief nation, To whom the house of Israel comes!*

*Amo 6:2 Go over to Calneh (Shinar) and see; And from there go to Hamath (Syria) the great; Then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are you better than these kingdoms? Or is their territory greater than your territory?*

**v. 16** Therefore - The prophet foreseeing their obstinacy, proceeds to denounce judgment against them. The husbandman - This sort of men are little used to such ceremonies of mourning, but now such also shall be called upon; leave your toil, betake yourselves to public mourning.

**v. 17** Vineyards - In these places were usually the greatest joy. Pass through - To punish all everywhere.

**v. 18** Who desire - Scoffingly, not believing any such day would come. To what end - What do you think to get by it? Is darkness - All adversity, black and doleful. Not light - No joy, or comfort at it.

**v. 19** And a bear - You may escape one, but shall fall in another calamity. Into the house - At home you may hope for safety, but there other kind of mischief shall meet you.

**v. 20** "The day of the LORD" begins with a period of judgment that is yet to come upon the nation of Israel. There is more than a period of judgment that is included in the Day of the Lord, however. The Day of the Lord also includes the second coming of Christ to the earth and the time of the millennial Kingdom here upon earth.

**v. 21** I hate - Impure and unholy as they are. Will not smell - A savor, of rest or delight, I will not accept and be pleased with.

**v. 22** neither will I regard your fatted peace offerings; even though their peace offerings were of the best of the herd.

**v. 23** Your songs - Used in their sacrifices, and solemn feasts; herein they imitated the temple - worship, but all was displeasing to the Lord. Will not hear - Not with delight and acceptance. Thy viols - This one kind of musical instrument is put for all the rest.

**v. 24** Let judgment - Let justice be administered constantly. Righteousness - Equity. Stream - Bearing down all that opposes it.

**v. 25** Did you offer - Their fathers and they, tho' at so great a distance of time, are one people, and so the prophet considers them. Unto me - Was it to me, or to your idols, that you offered, even in the wilderness?

**v. 26** You also carried - **You carried along with you in the wilderness;** the shrine, or canopy in which the image was placed, Sikkuth (Moloch) - The great idol of the Ammonites. Chiun - Another idol also called Rompha.

**v. 27** Therefore - For all your idolatry and other sins, in which you have obstinately continued.

**v. 1** At ease - That neither fear nor believe the threatened judgments of God. In Zion - That is put for the kingdom of the two tribes, and principally the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Samaria - Woe to them also who rely upon the strength, wealth, and policy of the kingdom of Samaria or Israel. Which - Which two cities, Zion and Samaria.

**v. 2** Go over - Run over the history of that great and ancient city. Hemath - Head of the Syrian kingdom, lately overthrown by Tiglath - Pilneser, and a fresh instance of God's just indignation against secure sinners. Gath - The chief city of the Philistines, a few years before wasted by the arms of Hazael; by these examples learn to amend your ways, or expect to perish in them..

5:18 – The Day of the Lord - *Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord! to what end is it for you? the day of the Lord is darkness, and not light (5:18).*

**Yes. For the child of God it's going to be a glad day.**

**But if you're not a child of God, it's going to be the saddest day of your life.** To realize that the Lord has come, and taken away His church, and **you're going to be here to face the Great Tribulation. It's going to be a day of sorrow and wailing, weeping, it's going to be a horrible day, for those that are left!**

So, here they're saying, "Oh the day of the Lord, oh my the day the Lord comes!". The Lord says, "Hey wait a minute!

**The day of the Lord isn't going to be joyous for some of you! It's not going to be a day of light for some of you. It'll be a day of gloominess, of darkness! You desire the day of the Lord, but for you it's going to be a severe time!"** You see, they were looking for the day of the Lord, when God would conquer all of their enemies. When God would reign. **But they had become an enemy of God.**



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## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

Amo 6:3 *Woe to you who put far off the day of doom, Who cause the seat of violence to come near;*  
Amo 6:4 *Who lie on beds of ivory, Stretch out on your couches, Eat lambs from the flock And calves from the midst of the stall;*  
Amo 6:5 *Who sing idly to the sound of stringed instruments, And invent for yourselves musical instruments like David;*  
Amo 6:6 *Who drink wine from bowls, And anoint yourselves with the best ointments, But are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.*  
Amo 6:7 *Therefore they shall now go captive as the first of the captives, And those who recline at banquets shall be removed.*  
Amo 6:8 *The Lord GOD has sworn by Himself, The LORD God of hosts says: "I abhor the pride of Jacob, And hate his palaces; Therefore I will deliver up the city And all that is in it."*  
Amo 6:9 *Then it shall come to pass, that if ten men remain in one house, they shall die.*  
Amo 6:10 *And when a relative of the dead, with one who will burn the bodies, picks up the bodies to take them out of the house, he will say to one inside the house, "Are there any more with you?" Then someone will say, "None." And he will say, "Hold your tongue! For we dare not mention the name of the LORD."*  
Amo 6:11 *For behold, the LORD gives a command: He will break the great house into bits, And the little house into pieces.*  
Amo 6:12 *Do horses run on rocks? Does one plow there with oxen? Yet you have turned justice into gall, And the fruit of righteousness into wormwood,*  
Amo 6:13 *You who rejoice over Lo Debar, Who say, "Have we not taken Karnaim for ourselves By our own strength?"*  
Amo 6:14 *"But, behold, I will raise up a nation against you, O house of Israel," Says the LORD God of hosts; "And they will afflict you from the entrance of Hamath To the Valley of the Arabah."*

v. 3 You - That flatter yourselves the day of darkness foretold, is far off. The seat - The judgment seat which should relieve the oppressed, is made a seat of violence.  
v. 4 Who lie - That out of laziness or luxury, lay themselves to rest. And eat - The very best in all their flock.  
v. 5 That sound - That in a time of deep mourning entertain themselves with songs, and musical instruments.  
v. 6 From bowls - Not in little vessels, but probably bowls: they drank these filled as full as they could hold too, and in design to drink each other down. And anoint - In those hot countries this anointing was much used. Not grieved - Nothing affected with the calamities of their country.  
v. 7 At banquets - The feasting of voluptuous ones shall cease.  
v. 8 The pride - All that the seed of Jacob accounts a glory and excellency to them, all their external privileges and worship.  
v. 9 Remain - Escaping the enemies sword. Ten men - Many men, a certain number for an uncertain. They shall die - Tho' they escape a while, they shall not finally escape.  
v. 10 relatives - Or near kinsman, instead of those who were wont to do this, and were paid for it; but now none of these remaining, the next to the dead must, as well as he is able, take him up on his shoulders, and carry him. The bones - The flesh being consumed, the bones are reserved to be buried. For - It is too late to seek God, who is executing his immutable decree. Those hearts are wretchedly hardened indeed that will not be brought to make mention of God's name, and to worship him, when the hand of God has gone out against them, and when, as here, sickness and death are in their families..  
v. 11 For behold - It seems to be the continued speech of him who took care of the dead, Amo 6:10. God hath sent out war, famine, and pestilence. The great house - The palaces of great men shall have great breaches made in them, and the cottages of poor men shall, by lesser strokes, be ruined.  
v. 12 Do horses - If prophets exhort or advise, it does no more good than if you would run your horses upon the precipices of rocks You've taken an impossible position with God! You don't leave God any out!"  
v. 13 Who rejoice - In your victories, alliances, and idols. Have we not - We have raised ourselves to greatness by our wisdom and courage.  
v. 14 Hamath - A city of Syria, bordering on Israel, north - east. The wilderness - Which is the south - west parts of Canaan. So all your country shall be destroyed.  
Prosperity and success commonly make men secure and haughty; and those that have done much think they can do anything, anything without God, nay, anything against him. But those who trust in their own strength rejoice in a *thing of nought*, and so they will find. Probably they did not say this with their lips, in so many words, but it was the language of their hearts and of their actions, both which God understands.

v. 8 "I abhor the pride of Jacob, cf. Proverbs 3:34  
"Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble." James 4:6 "But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."  
1 Pet. 5:5 "Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

## SUMMARY:

- Amo 4:12 "Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel; Because I will do this to you, Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"
- Amo 5:4 For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel: "Seek Me and live;
- Amo 5:6 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—
- Amo 5:14 Seek good and not evil, That you may live; So the LORD God of hosts will be with you, As you have spoken.
- Amo 5:15 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
- Amo 5:24 But let justice run down like water, And righteousness like a mighty stream.
- Amo 6:8 The Lord GOD has sworn by Himself, The LORD God of hosts says: "I abhor the pride of Jacob, And hate his palaces; Therefore I will deliver up the city And all that is in it."
- Even though Israel has sinned and gone over the line and faces destruction, we see the graciousness and mercy of God - Amo 5:15 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