

WORDS OF WARNING
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Amos 5:18-27

1. The name Amos means “burden” or “burden-bearer.”
2. He was from Tekoa, a small village located 10 miles south of Jerusalem.
3. God had a message He wanted delivered to the Northern Kingdom of Israel and Amos was His chosen instrument.
 - a. Amos defended his call when rebuked by Amaziah. Amos 7:14-17.

14 Then Amos replied to Amaziah, "I am not a prophet, nor am I the son of a prophet; for I am a herdsman and a grower of sycamore figs. 15 "But the LORD took me from following the flock and the LORD said to me, 'Go prophesy to My people Israel.' 16 "Now hear the word of the LORD: you are saying, 'You shall not prophesy against Israel nor shall you speak against the house of Isaac.' 17 "Therefore, thus says the LORD, 'Your wife will become a harlot in the city, your sons and your daughters will fall by the sword, your land will be parceled up by a measuring line and you yourself will die upon unclean soil. Moreover, Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.'"
 - b. He also shared his perspective on the role of the prophet. Amos 3:7-8
7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets. 8 A lion has roared! Who will not fear? **The Lord GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy?**
NOTE: A number of years ago I completed what is called a spiritual gifts assessment and found out that I have a pastoral calling with a prophetic emphasis. Being a pastor is one thing, but functioning as a prophet is another because prophets have the unpleasant task of pointing out things most people do not want to think about.
4. Interestingly Amos’ ministry took place during the reign of Jeroboam II, king of Israel, who ruled from 793-753 BC.
5. During Jeroboam’s reign Israel enjoyed unprecedented peace and prosperity so Amos’ words of warning seemed to be out of place and misdirected since Israel seemed to be enjoying God’s blessings.
6. Amos’ message included three warnings that apply to our day as well.
 - a. “Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!” 5:18 AMP
 - b. “Woe to those who are at ease in Zion (Judah) and to those on the mountain of Samaria (Israel) who are careless and feel secure.” 6:1 AMP
 - c. “Woe to those who lie upon beds of ivory and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock and calves out of the midst of the stall.” 6:4 AMP
7. Before we move on I want to mention a trend that is almost universal in its application, and that is the fact that God’s original intent always suffers in the hands of men.
 - a. Think of the church and how far it has moved away from the simplicity and effectiveness of its early years.
 - b. Think of the great universities in this country that were founded by godly men to advance the kingdom of God that are now bastions of liberalism and license.
 - c. Think of the denominations that were born out of the Reformation that now support and promote an agenda that defies the clear teaching of God’s word.

d. Think of what Christianity means to most people.

NOTE: I prefer to refer to myself as a follower of Christ rather than a Christian because the word Christian has lost its meaning in our culture.

I. Woe to you who are deceived about your relationship with the Lord and your worship of the Lord.

A. Amos told his listeners that they were deceived about the day of the Lord.

B. The Israelites were longing for a day that would prove to be a day of darkness and not light.

NOTE: Many today are looking forward to the Rapture who will in fact be rejected.

C. They loved religion, but God hated their hypocrisy. 21-24

D. Notice what God took no delight in.

1. "I hate, I reject your festivals."

2. "Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies."

3. "I will not accept or look on your offerings."

4. "I will not listen to your misguided attempts at worship."

NOTE: All across America luke-warm professing Christians, whose lives actually deny the Lord that bought them, are enthusiastically participating in what is mistakenly called worship.

E. God will not accept so-called worship from those who neglect justice and righteousness.

G. Some thoughts.

1. True worship can be entered into only by true worshippers. John 4:20-25

"Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

2. True worship is not external but internal. Matt 15:7-9

7 "You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you: 8 **THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. 9 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'**"

3. True worship is not something that can be manufactured or produced although true worshippers will give outward expression to an inward reality.

NOTE: We have come to equate worship with a place and certain practices while God's intent for His church was to place true worshippers (temples of the Holy Spirit) throughout whatever culture they may find themselves in. Those true worshippers do gather for corporate worship, prayer, Bible study, and fellowship.

II. Woe to you who take your relationship with the Lord for granted.

A. The people of Israel possessed a false sense of security.

B. They were careless when it came to their relationship with the Lord.

C. Something is wrong if a professing Christian approaches his or her relationship with the Lord in an indifferent manner.

D. Love for God and a zeal for God are going to characterize the lives of those who truly know the Lord. Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

E. The writer of Hebrews asked an important question in Heb 2:1-4.

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, 3 **how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?** After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

F. Note the following passages.

1. 2 Cor 13:5-6

5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you — unless indeed you fail the test? 6 But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves do not fail the test.

2. 2 Peter 1:10-11

10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

3. 1 John 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

NOTE: John provided those who profess to believe in the name of the Son of God with definitive standards designed to help them know that they have eternal life.

III. Woe to those who are both in the world and of the world.

A. Notice what characterized the lives of the Israelites.

1. Leisure: They were the original couch potatoes.

2. License: They focused on:

a. Feasting.

b. Fun.

“Who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and invent for themselves instruments of music like David’s.” 6:5 AMP

c. Drinking.

d. Pampering their bodies.

3. Lack of concern.

“...but are not grieved and sick at heart over the affliction and ruin of Joseph (Israel). 6:6 AMP

NOTE: Are we grieved and sick at heart over what is happening to church here in America and the Western World?

B. We must be in the world if we are going to impact the world, but we are not to be of the world. John 17:13-19

"But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. 14 "I have given them Your word; and **the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.** 15 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. 16 "**They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.** 17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. 18 "**As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.** 19 "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth."

C. The modern American church has embraced the culture to the degree that the things that use to distinguish us from the world no longer do.

NOTE: The idea is anything goes as long as we have prayed the Sinner's Prayer.

D. James 4:1-4

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you (professing Christians)? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

"You are like unfaithful wives (having illicit love affairs with the world and breaking your marriage vow to God)! Do you not know that being the world's friend is being God's enemy? So whoever chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God." 4 AMP

APPLICATION

1. Jesus walked this earth in perfect harmony with God and in right relationship to this world, even though many did not think so.
2. He said everything God wanted Him to say and did everything God wanted Him to do.
3. He is our example of what it means to be in the world but not of the world.
4. He could interact with the world without being impacted by the world.
5. If we want to count for God we must look to Jesus for the desire and grace to live a separated life while not separating ourselves from life.