**AMOS LESSON 11, (02-28-16)** AMOS 1, pg. 17

God gave the Israelites the Law for their own benefit so that they could worship Him and prosper but rather than appreciate what He had provided, they believed the lies of pagan nations, intermarried with them and worshiped their idols. They perverted the Mosaic Law into a system of works, trying to obtain salvation when the Law had been designed to point them to the **GRACE** of God and so that they would learn to depend on Him for everything else after salvation. The Law referred to the Mosaic Law in general while the Commandments referred to statutes, ceremonies, and civil laws.

**PP** Mosaic Law Spiritual Law pertaining to the Congregation.

***Amos 2:5 But I will send a fire upon Judah, And it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem."***

*“In 586 B.C. after a lengthy siege, Nebuchadnezzarbroke through Jerusalem’s defenses, slaughtered the royal family, burned the temple, the palace, and all houses in the city, and deported almost the entire population to Babylon, 2 Kings 25:1-12.”*

*Bible Knowledge Commentary*

**AMOS LESSON 12, (03-06-16)**

**COMMUNION:** We are the Royal Family of God assembled together this morning to obey the command given to us:

***Luke 22:19 …do this in remembrance of Me***.

***1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*** [Tell others about the free gift of salvation that is offered to them because of Christ’s perfect sacrifice on the cross for the sins of the entire world***.***]

***John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.***

***Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.***

***Colossians 1:15-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17) He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.***

**The Bread:** Unleavened bread represents the impeccability of the humanity of Christ.

Unleavened bread relates to fellowship with God. That was what the Feast of Unleavened Bread represented.

***John 6:47-54 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. 48) "I am the bread of life. 49) "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50) "This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51) "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh."***

There were hundreds and hundreds of strict laws that could have condemned Christ, but He never broke even one of them. We are responsible for this one which relates to bread:

***Matt. 4:4 Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God...***

**THE CUP**: Represents the perfect completed work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

*“On Feb. 10 this year hundreds of millions of people started observing Lent.*

*The traditional purpose of Lent is the penitential preparation of the believer—through prayer, penance, repentance, almsgiving, and self-denial.”*

*Wikipedia*

Definition of Penance: “*voluntary self-punishment to atone for a sin.”*

*World English Dictionary and Dictionary.com*  AMOS 1, pg. 18

Poor, misguided people who “do penance” evidently don’t know that self-punishment can never atone for sin. Only the perfect sacrifice of one, perfect, qualified man on the cross, Jesus Christ, is acceptable to God as an atonement for sin.

Lent is not commanded nor is it practiced in the Bible.

Lent, along with its pious customs, are observed by Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Anglicans, as well as some Baptists and Mennonites.

Our point of contact with God is always **GRACE**. Everything depends on who and what God is and on what He has done for us, not on who or what we are or on what we have done.

***1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also died for sins ONCE for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God…***

***1 John 2:2 …and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.***

***John 19:30 ...it is finished!***

H***ebrews 10:10 ...we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once*** [and for all time] ***for all.***

***Hebrews 10:12 …but He*** [Christ]***, having offered ONE SACRIFICE for sins FOR ALL TIME, sat down at the right hand of God…***

***Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering He*** [by Christ offering Himself on the cross] ***has perfected for ALL TIME those who are sanctified.*** [those who were set apart for special blessings the moment they believed the gospel. Most people do nott understand this!]

***2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***

***Amos 2:6 Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Israel and for four I will not revoke its punishment, because they sell*** [into slavery] ***the righteous*** [those who would pay] ***for money*** [they borrowed] ***and the needy for a pair of sandals.***

At last, the Lord pronounces judgment on Israel, the Northern Kingdom.

Greed became so all-consuming that for insignificant debts one would sell his fellow countryman into slavery. The people who could be trusted to pay off loans were being sold into slavery for the amount they owed. The desperately poor were also being sold into slavery for as little as the amount of a pair of sandals. This was done to their kin, their fellow Israelites which was contrary to the Mosaic Law.

The rich were paying bribes to the corrupt judges who were supporting the rich when they sued the poor who couldn’t pay their bills and then sold those destitute people into servitude and slavery.

***Proverbs 22:16 He who oppresses the poor to make more for himself or who gives to the rich*** [a bribe]***, will only come to poverty.***

***Proverbs 14:31 He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, but he who is gracious to the needy honors Him.***

***Jeremiah 5:28 They are fat, they are sleek, They also excel in deeds of wickedness; They do not plead the cause, the cause of the orphan, that they may prosper; and they do not defend the rights of the poor.***

During the time of the prophet Joel, the people were no better than the people of Israel.

***Joel 3:3 "They have also cast lots for My people, Traded a boy for a harlot and sold a girl for wine that they may drink.***

Read: ***2 Kings 4:1-7*** God’s supply and provision for us is as large as our faith and obedience.

Read: ***Deut. 15:1-11***

***Amos 1:4-5*** promises prosperity for Israel on the condition of obedience to the Lord. This surely applies to our country as well. ***“There shall be no poor among you.”***

A NT verse relates to lazy freeloaders who would try to take advantage of those who are generous to the poor is:

***2 Thess. 3:10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.***

***Amos 1:6*** You will not borrow.

***Proverbs 22:7 The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave.***

**AMOS LESSON 13, (03-13-16)**

***Amos 2:7-11*** deal with the mandate to treat the poor graciously and forbids taking advantage of them.

***Amos 2:7 These who pant after the very dust of the earth on the head of the helpless also turn aside the way of the humble; and a man and his father resort to the same girl In order to profane My holy name.***

Amos makes an issue of how to treat the poor. He makes at least five references to them in this short book.

The judicial system of Israel was so tainted that injustice ran rampant. The judges were so greedy and selfish that they even resented the poor having enough dust left to throw upon their heads as a token of sorrow for being brought to so low a state.

The legal procedures were being perverted to exploit the poor. Contrary to the Mosaic Law.

***Exodus 23:6 You shall not pervert the justice due to your needy brother in his dispute.***

***Deuteronomy 16:19 You shall not distort justice; you shall not be partial, and you shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous.***

***Proverbs 22:22-23 Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, 23) for the LORD will take up their case and will plunder those who plunder them.***

***…and a man and his father resort to the same girl In order to profane My holy name.***

It is not clear whether a father and his son shared the same prostitute, temple prostitute, or probably a young slave girl. The Greek word for “girl” in the Septuigent is PAIDISKEN; in any case, it was a grievous sin which profaned the God of Israel and us all.

The way a slave girl was to be dealt with concerning a father and his son is given in the following verses:

***Exodus 21:7-11 "If a man sells his daughter as a female slave, she is not to go free as the male slaves do. 8) "If she is displeasing in the eyes of her master who designated her for himself, then he shall let her be redeemed. He does not have authority to sell her to a foreign people because of his unfairness to her. 9) "If he designates her for his son, he shall deal with her according to the custom of daughters. 10) "If he takes to himself another woman, he may not reduce her food, her clothing, or her conjugal rights. 11) "If he will not do these three things for her, then she shall go out for nothing, without payment of money.***

***Amos 2:8 And they lay themselves down upon clothes laid to pledge by every altar, and they drink the wine of the condemned in the house of their god.***

God’s Law placed restrictions on items which could be taken as collateral.

***Exodus 22:26-27 "If you ever take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, you are to return it to him before the sun sets, 27 for that is his only covering; it is his cloak for his body. What else shall he sleep in? And it shall come about that when he cries out to Me, I will hear him, for I am gracious.***

***Deuteronomy 24:10-13 When you make your neighbor a loan of any sort, you shall not enter his house to take his pledge. 11) "You shall remain outside, and the man to whom you make the loan shall bring the pledge out to you. 12) "If he is a poor man, you shall not sleep with his pledge. 13) "When the sun goes down you shall surely return the pledge to him, that he may sleep in his cloak and bless you; and it will be righteousness for you before the LORD your God.***

***Deuteronomy 24:17 You shall not pervert the justice due an alien or an orphan, nor take a widow's garment in pledge.***

The dignity of the borrower was preserved by prohibiting the lender to enter his house and take anything he might want as a pledge. It was one who made the pledge that chose the item of collateral, not the one who was making the loan. This lends itself to harmony between the two and eliminated greed on the part of the lender.

*“But these hardhearted* ***\*usurers*** *unlawfully kept the garments of the poor as their own, and reclined luxuriously upon them at their feasts and carousals in their pagan temples.”*

H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., *Amos, The Pulpit Commentary* (London; New York: Funk &Wagnalls Company, 1909), 25.

**\***A person who lends money and charges interest, especially at an exorbitant or unlawful rate. Dictionary.com

It was customary in the Mid-East for the ancients to recline and rest, reclining at full length in eating, the upper part of the body resting on the left elbow.

***By every altar…*** included pagan altars such as the ones at Dan and Bethel where sacrificial feasts were observed.

***And they drink the wine of the condemned*** [those who were fined unjustly] ***in the house of their god.***

The rich fat cats would guzzle the wine obtained by fines extorted from the oppressed.

*These rich sinners got drunk on wine purchased with the fines they exacted from the poor. Then, in their drunken stupor, they slept by the altars on other people’s garments, defiling the garments and disobeying the law. The officials were getting rich by exploiting the people, and then were using their unjust gain for committing sin.*

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Concerned, “Be” Commentary Series* (Colorado Springs, CO: Chariot Victor, 1996), 20.

**AMOS LESSON 14, (04-03-16)**

***Verses 7 and 8*** give us an example of how “the haves” afflict the “have-nots”. The rich and powerful oppressed the poor with their unjust fines and taxes. There is nothing new under the son is there? *Examples:*

**PROPERTY TAXES:**

*The Texas Constitution, Article 8. Section 1-e*

*Sec. 1-e. ABOLITION OF AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES. No State ad valorem taxes shall be levied upon any property within this State.*

“Ad valorem” means a tax imposed on something (property) according to its estimated value.

*The Texas Bill of Rights Article 1 Section 2*

***INHERENT POLITICAL POWER; REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT.*** *All political power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their benefit. The faith of the people of Texas stands pledged to the preservation of a republican form of government, and, subject to this limitation only, they have at all times the inalienable right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such manner as they may think expedient.*

**INHERITANCE TAXES:**

The Mosaic Law demonstrates the importance of parents passing on their land to their children. Thousands of families every year are prohibited from passing their land on to their children because they have to sell their land in order to pay the sinister inheritance tax to our ever growing government.

Of course the inheritance our parents leave us is nothing compared to the eternal inheritance that awaits mature believers but parents have a right to pass on to their children the property that they usually worked so hard to obtain without a greedy government demanding a share of it.

***Proverbs 13:22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children****…*

This is yet another way that those in power cheat and oppress the people.

**CARBON TAXES:** (The Bill was not enacted)

***Boxer-Sanders Carbon Tax***

*In 2013 Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT) proposed a carbon tax in their Climate Security Act of 2013.**[[1]](http://www.heritage.org/research/testimony/2014/11/the-impacts-of-carbon-taxes-on-the-us-economy%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1)  The tax started at $20 per metric ton and would rise by 5.6 percent per year, reaching $50 per metric ton by 2030 (the endpoint for the Heritage analysis).*

*Using the Heritage Energy Model (HEM), a derivative of the Energy Information Administration’s National Energy Modeling System (NEMS), Heritage projected what the economic impacts would have been had the bill become law.**[[2]](http://www.heritage.org/research/testimony/2014/11/the-impacts-of-carbon-taxes-on-the-us-economy%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn2)*

*The impacts would have included (dollar values are adjusted for inflation):*

* *GDP loss of $146 billion in 2030*
* *A family of four losing more than $1,000 of income per year,*
* *Over 400,000 lost jobs by 2016,*
* *Coal production dropping by 60 percent and coal employment dropping by more than 40 percent by 2030,*
* *Gasoline prices rising $0.20 by 2016 and $0.30 before 2030, and*
* *Electricity prices rising 20 percent by 2017 and more than 30 percent by 2030.*

[***http://www.heritage.org/research/testimony/2014/11/the-impacts-of-carbon-taxes-on-the-us-economy***](http://www.heritage.org/research/testimony/2014/11/the-impacts-of-carbon-taxes-on-the-us-economy)

***Proverbs 16:12 It is an abomination to kings to do evil, for the throne is established by righteousness.***

***Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, But when a wicked man rules, people groan.***

***Proverbs 25:5 Remove the wicked from the king’s presence, and his throne will be established through righteousness.***

***Proverbs 17:15 He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous, Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.*** [Example. Kim Davis]

Read: ***Nehemiah 5:1-9*** Nehemiah confronted those in power, holding them accountable for taking advantage of their own countrymen and their disregard for the law.

Read: ***Nehemiah 9:21-37*** People get the government and the leaders they deserve

In ***verses 9-12***, Amos writes for God in the first Person, reminding them of all of the wonderful blessings of protection and provision He had given them. Were they thankful for it? Did they show their appreciation by obeying God?

***Amos 2:9 Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, though his height was like the height of cedars and he was strong as the oaks; I even destroyed his fruit above and his root below.***

The Amorites were the most powerful of all the Canaanite nations.

***Deuteronomy 1:20 "I*** [Moses] ***said to you, 'You have come to the hill country of the Amorites which the LORD our God is about to give us. 21) See, the LORD your God has placed the land before you; go up, take possession, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has spoken to you. Do not fear or be dismayed.'”*** *(The Israelites at Kadesh-barnea)*

They sent spies into the land and it was all that the Lord said it was but they did not trust the Lord so they were afraid and refused to go.

**AMOS LESSON 15, (04-10-16)**

***Numbers 13:3- 33 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us." 32) So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size. 33) "There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."***

The sons of Anak were known for their size and height but they were not part of the Nephilim. This statement was made by men who had panicked and were exaggerating.

***2 Peter 2:5*** [For if God] ***did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;***

*“The Nephilim are, without doubt, the primæval tyrants mentioned under that name in Gen. 6:4. The renown of these sons of violence had come down from those dim ages, and the exaggerated fears of the spies saw them revived in the gigantic forms of the Beni-Anak. There is no certainty that the Nephilim had been giants, and no likelihood whatever that the Beni-Anak had any real connection with them.”*

Whitelaw Thomas, “*Introductory Essay on the Authenticity and Authorship of the Book of Numbers,”* in Numbers, ed. H. D. M. Spence, Exell Joseph S., *The Pulpit Commentary* (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1910), 145.

These Israelites would wonder in the wilderness for 40 years and die but their children would defeat the Amorites later under Joshua. The Gibeonites tricked Joshua into making a vow that they would be destroyed by Israel and would come under their protection. Five Amorite kings attacked Gibeon and Joshua took the Israelite army on a 25 mile forced march uphill at night to rescue the Gibeonites, ***Joshua 10:7***.

The Lord was faithful and delivered the Amorites into the hands of the Israelites as He had promised ***Joshua 24:8.*** He used large hail from heaven that fell on the Amorites but not on any of the Israelites.

The hail killed more of Amorites than those who were killed in battle. God also caused the sun to stand still for about a day so that the Israelites could finish off the Amorites, their strongest enemy, ***Josh.*** ***10:7-15*.**

Joshua had already defeated two Amorite kings on the east side of the Jordan.

Rahab knew about this great feat when she hid the Israelite spies from the Jericho patrols.

***Joshua 2:10-11 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. 11) "When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.***

***Deuteronomy 3:11 Behold, his*** [Og’s] ***bedstead was an iron bedstead; it is in Rabbah of the sons of Ammon. Its length was nine cubits and its width four cubits by ordinary cubit.)***

The bedstead is believed to have been an iron-trimmed stone coffin that measured 13 ½ feet by 6 feet.

***I even destroyed his fruit above and his root below.*** This means that God would utterly destroy the Amorites.

***Ezekiel 17:9 Say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Will it thrive? Will he not pull up its roots and cut off its fruit, so that it withers-- so that all its sprouting leaves wither? And neither by great strength nor by many people can it be raised from its roots again.***

***Amos 2:10 It was I who brought you up from the land of Egypt, and I led you in the wilderness forty years that you might take possession of the land of the Amorite.***

The Israelites were enslaved in Egypt for 430 years. The United States has existed as a nation for 240 years, so the Israelites were under bondage for 190 years longer than we have existed as a nation.

Just think of what it took for God to force the Pharaoh to release them, the ten plagues. Think of the logistical support it took to provide for around 2 million people wandering around in the wilderness for 40 years.

The Amorites occupied land on both sides of the Jordan and the mountains afterward possessed by Judah. Here, *“the land of the Amorite”* refers to all the Canaanites.

***Amos 2:11-12 And I raised up some of your sons for prophets, and some of your young men for Nazirites. Is it not indeed so, O people of Israel?" declares the LORD. 12) "But you made the Nazirites drink wine, and commanded the prophets, saying, 'You shall not prophesy.'***

*“The prophets gave heavenly teaching, the Nazirites exhibited holiness of life. It was the Lord who gave the prophet power and authority to proclaim his will; it was the Lord who inspired the vow of the Nazarite and enabled him to carry it out in practice.”*

H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., *Amos*, ***The Pulpit Commentary*** (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 25.

***Amos 2:13 "Behold, I am weighted down beneath you As a wagon is weighted down when filled with sheaves.”***