**AMOS LESSON 31** (08-14-16) AMOS 5, pg. 51

***John 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29) and come out, those who have done*** (the) ***good*** (believed in Christ) ***to the resurrection of life, and those who have done*** (the) ***evil*** (rejected Christ) ***to the resurrection of judgment.***

Hell [**Power Point found in Visuls**]

JSC and GWT **PP**

Dispensations **PP**

***15) Hate evil, love good, and establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the LORD God of hosts may be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.***

***Establish*** [hif’il. Imperative] ***justice in the gate!***

***Establish,*** Heb. YATSAG; to place, to cause to be, to make a change.

You will notice that this is an action verb. God expects us to act in order to see to it that justice is practiced. This phrase is telling us to establish justice in the courts. How can we do that?

1. Vote for judges that are honorable and will abide by the constitution.

2. Pray for our judges and all those in office.

3. Hold those holding office accountable for their actions.

4. If we are on a jury, we should judge both the law and the facts.

*“When someone is acting as a jury member during a courtroom trial, he has more power than the President, all of Congress, and all of the Judges combined. Congress can legislate (make law), the President or some other bureaucrat can make an order or issue regulations, and judges may instruct or make decisions, but no juror can ever be punished for voting ‘Not Guilty!’ A juror can, with impunity, choose to disregard the instructions of any judge or attorney in rendering his vote. If only one juror should vote ‘Not Guilty’ for any reason, there is no conviction and no punishment at the end of the trial. Thus, those acting in the name of government must come before the common man to get permission to enforce law.”*

*Citizens Rule Book, Jury Handbook, p. 4.*

*“The pages of history shine on the instances of the jury’s exercise of its prerogative to disregard instructions of the judge...*

*”U.S. vs. Dougherty, 473 F 2nd 1113, 1139, (1972)*

**“The jury has the right to judge the law as well as the fact in controversy.”**

*John Jay, 1st Chief Justice U.S. Supreme Court, 1789*

**“The law itself is on trial quite as much as the cause which is to be decided.”**

*Harlan F. Stone, 12th Chief Justice U.S. Supreme Court, 1941*

**“The jury has the right to determine both the law and the facts.*”***

*Samuel Chase, U.S. Supreme Court Justice, 1796, Signer of the unanimous Declaration*

***https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm#inbox/156cc7991fc5b809***

**AMOS LESSON 32** (08-21-16)

***Amos 5:16-17*** describe what will happen to those who refuse to turn to the Lord, to seek Him, to seek good and not evil, and to hate evil and love good.

***Amos 5:17* …*for I will pass through your midst," says the LORD.***

***Exodus 11:4-7 Moses said, "Thus says the LORD, 'About midnight I am going out into the midst of Egypt, 5) and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of the Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the millstones; all the firstborn of the cattle as well. 6) 'Moreover, there shall be a great cry in all the land of Egypt, such as there has not been before and such as shall never be again.***

 AMOS 5, pg. 52

***7) 'But against any of the sons of Israel a dog will not even bark, whether against man or beast, that you may understand how the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.'***

***Exodus 12:12-13 For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments-- I am the LORD. 13) 'The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.***

***Amos 5:18 Alas, you who are longing for the day of the LORD, for what purpose will the day of the LORD be to you? It will be darkness and not light;***

The reason that the people of the Northern Kingdom were looking forward to the Day of the Lord was because they thought it would be the time when the Lord would destroy their enemies. They didn’t realize that they had become His enemies.

Their continual disobedience, stiff-necked rebellion, and stubborn refusal to turn back to the Lord should have tipped them off that they were going to catch it from God’s wrath rather than His blessing. Amos made it clear to them that they had no reason to look forward to the Day of the Lord.

One wonders how they be so stupid to believe God would continue to bless them after they showed such defiance towards Him. They still went through the motions of observing the Sabbath just like people do today going through the motions of church attendance, observing rituals and singing praise songs and hymns when they could care less about learning or applying God’s Word.

**DAY OF CHRIST:** The Rapture, ***1 Cor. 1:8; 5:5***; ***2 Cor. 1:14***; ***5:10***; ***Phil. 1:6***, ***10; 2:16***.

**LAST DAY:** The last day of the Church, ***John 6:40, 44, 54***, exception, ***John 12:48***, GWT.

**LAST DAYS OF THE CHURCH:** The last part of the Church Age will be exceedingly sinful, ***2 Tim. 3:1-5***; cf.***1 Tim. 4:1-5***; ***James 5:3***; ***2 Pet. 3:3***.

**DAY OF JUDGMENT / JUDGMENT DAY:** The Great White Throne Judgment, ***Mt 10:15***; ***Jn 12:48***; ***2 Pet 2:9***; ***3:7***; ***Jude 1:6***; ***Rv. 20:5***, ***11-15***; Unbelievers standing before JC as Judge, not Savior.

**DAY OF SALVATION:** Any moment within the Church Age as a time when Christ may be received as Savior ***2 Cor. 6:2***.

**DAY OF GOD:** Eternity future when the new heavens and the new earth will have been created***, 2 Pet. 3:12.***

**THE LORD’S DAY:** ***Rev. 1:10***; The first day of the week”, ***Matt. 28:1,*** is called the Lord’s day in this age of the Church and on the ground of the fact that on this day, Christ arose from the tomb. The Lord’s Day was designed for the Church only, so it ceases when Christ’s body of people is removed from the earth.

**DAY OF THE LORD**

*Definitions of the word day vary from a specific event, such as a twenty-four-hour day, to an extended period of time stretching all the way from the rapture to the end of the thousand-year reign of Christ. Generally speaking, pretribulationists have identified the day of the Lord as the millennial kingdom, including the judgments that introduce the kingdom.*

*Dallas Theological Seminary, Bibliotheca Sacra Volume 134 Dr. Walvoord, 1977; 2002), 134:3-4.*

**DAY OF THE LORD**

*The greatest expectation of the Old Testament was that of the Day of the Lord, yet it had not come when the Old Testament record closed and it has not come to the present time. It is still future, cf.* ***1 Thess. 5:1-2****.*

 AMOS 6, pg. 53

*It is related to Christ’s second advent and not to His first advent. This period extends from Christ’s coming “as a thief in the night”,* ***Matt. 24:43****;* ***Luke 12:39-40****;* ***1 Thess. 5:2****;* ***2 Pet. 3:10****;* ***Rev. 16:15****, to the passing of the heavens and the earth that now are and the melting of the elements with fervent heat.*

*It is essential that every student make a complete induction of all in the Bible which pertains to the Day of the Lord and thus gain for himself firsthand knowledge of all that has been divinely determined for this extended period.*

*It includes both Christ’s return* [2nd Advent] *and the kingdom of a thousand years* [the millennium] *which follows. It extends indeed to the final dissolution with which the kingdom ends,* ***2 Pet. 3:8-13****;* ***Rev. 20:1-15****.*

*Lewis Sperry Chafer, Systematic Theology, Originally Published: Dallas, Tex. : Dallas Seminary Press, 1947-1948. (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 7:110.*

So, The Day of the Lord begins after the Rapture and ends with the creation of the new heavens and new earth. See *Day of the Lord* **PP in Visuals.**

***Amos 5:19-20 As when a man flees from a lion and a bear meets him, or goes home, leans his hand against the wall and a snake bites him. 20) Will not the day of the LORD be darkness instead of light, even gloom with no brightness in it?***

There is danger outside as well as in the home where you would think it would be safe, but there is no safe place when you have become an **enemy of the Lord**. There will be no place to hide or be safe.

***Verses 21-27*** describes what the Lord thought of their phony-baloney worship. They were going through the motions of worship but they really didn’t care about honoring or pleasing the Lord.

*A style shift to first-person divine speech beginning at 5:21 sets off this passage (5:21–27) from the previous one (5:18–20).*

*Billy K. Smith and Franklin S. Page, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, vol. 19B, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 110*

READ: ***Amos 5:21-23*** and \****Isa. 1:11-20***.

***Amos 5:24 But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.***

God’s wrath on the people was righteous, right and just. If the people had been doing what was righteous, right and just, they would have received His blessings instead of His wrath.

***Amos 5:7 For those who turn justice into wormwood and cast righteousness down to the earth."***

***Amos 6:12 …you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood.***

How many times have I pointed out to you how important it is to stand firm for justice and righteousness? God will not accept worship from those who treat others unjustly and unrighteously or who do nothing to protest or resist those who abuse others.

**AMOS LESSON 33** (08-28-16) AMOS CHAPTER 6

Verses 1-7 of chapter 6 addresses those who were arrogant, complacent, smug, and unconcerned about the dangers that threatened them. *Does this sound familiar?*

***Amos 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!***

***“Woe*** *(HÔY, cf. 6:1) was ordinarily the wail of grief over the dead (cf. 1 Kings 13:30 [“Oh”]; Jer. 22:18; 34:5 [“****Alas****”]). When it was pronounced over the living, “woe” was a prediction of death*

 AMOS 6, pg. 54

*(cf. Amos 6:1; Isa. 5:8–24; 10:1–4; Micah 2:1–5; see comments on Amos 5:1) or an interjection of distress in the face of present or coming calamity (cf. comments on Isa. 3:9; 6:5).”*

*The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 1441

***Zion*** refers to the capital city of Juda, the Southern Kingdom, which was Jerusalem. These people were at ease, they felt secure, carefree, and undisturbed in the face of the awesome warnings that Amos was giving. ***Does this sound familiar?***

These people were wealthy and powerful, everything was going their way so why should they be concerned about the predictions of an unknown prophet who was from the Southern Kingdom?

***Mount Samaria*** refers to the Northern Kingdom with its great location and natural fortifications. The city of Samaria was considered to be impregnable.

Both the Sothern and Northern Kingdoms were strong militarily and economically so they believed they were beyond the reach of their enemies and their God. They saw themselves as the foremost nation among the nations. ***Does this sound familiar?***

The people put their trust in the "***notable persons***”, (the rulers, the rich, the pundits and lawyers.) ***Does this sound familiar?***They turned to these misguided, self-indulgent, pompous know-it-alls rather than those who were communicating God’s Word to them. These were the very people who were taking advantage of the widows and the poor. They amassed their great wealth by cheating and abusing the people.

If God’s people are indifferent to that which is important in His eyes, why should they expect Him to act for them when difficulties and afflictions arise?

***Psalm 62:9 Surely men of low degree are a vapor, Men of high degree are a lie; If they are weighed on the scales, They are altogether lighter than vapor.***

***Psalm 118:8-9 It is better to take refuge in the LORD Than to trust in man. 9) It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.***

***Jeremiah 17:5 Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD.***

***Psalm 146:3*** ***Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.***

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

***Proverbs 11:10-11 When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; and when the wicked perish, there is jubilation. 11) By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.***

***Zephaniah 1:12 It will come about at that time That I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are stagnant in spirit, who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good or evil!'***

**AMOS LESSON 34** (09-04-16)

***Amos 6:2 Go over to Calneh and look, and go from there to Hamath the great, then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are they better than these kingdoms, or is their territory greater than yours?***

*“God directed these proud men to go to cities which once also considered themselves great, and to learn from their fall.*

***Calneh****, also called Calno, Isa. 10:9.* [See Map. It appears in *Gen.10:10* among the cities of Nimrod. Probably the site is the modern Niffer. In the eighth century B.C., Calneh was taken by one of the Assyrian kings, the Apaches of the ancient world who would rip pregnant enemy women apart, skin enemy men alive, and ate some even as they were dying. Calneh never recovered its prosperity.]

 AMOS 6, pg. 55

***Hamath*** *was one of the city-states in northern Aram. It had been overrun by Assyria during Shalmaneser III’s campaign in 854–846 B.C.*

***Gath*** [was a stronghold and the capital city of Philistia belonging to the Philistines. It was the birth place of Goliath. It was destroyed by both an Israel king and an Assyrian king.]  *It had been devastated in 815 B.C. by Hazael, king of Aram, and again in 760 B.C. by Uzziah, king of Judah (2 Kings 12:17; 2 Chron. 26:6; cf. comments on Amos 1:6). Was Israel any better prepared to fend off an attack than were those powerful kingdoms?”*

*The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 1442

Was Israel any better prepared to fend off an attack than were those powerful kingdoms? No.

***Are they*** [Israel’s “nobles” and rulers] ***better than these kingdoms*** [The answer is “No”]***, or is their territory greater than yours?***  [The answer is “Yes”. These nations were larger than Israel.]

Read: ***Jer. 2:5-11***

So the pagan nations were more faithful to their false gods than Israel was to the true and living God. Couldn’t the same thing be said about the majority of Christians today in the US?

***Amos 6:3 Do you put off the day of calamity, and would you bring near the seat of violence?***

They assigned a distant date to the time of punishment and calamity; they would not look it in the face or contemplate it as approaching, ready to pound down upon them.

These arrogant and foolishly confident of their own prowess people, put off their day of reckoning. They scornfully dismissed any thought of coming calamity. But all the while, by their sinful actions, they were hastening it on.

Isn’t that the way most Americans, especially our leaders, look at the astronomical deficit that increases around 1 ½ billion dollars every day? If drastic changes are not made to our fiscal policies, the financial doom of our country is an absolute certainty but we allow the unbelievable spending to continue and even to increase.

***…and would you bring near the seat of violence?***

Who was responsible for the reign of terror that was about to come upon them? They were! They could have humbled themselves and repented to God possibly avoided the horrendous suffering that was coming their way. But they just continued to ignore God’s warnings, doing whatever they wanted to do.

Those who are ignorant of God’s Word and those who don’t believe His Word, think that the world will go on as it always has and nothing will change so they keep on living in a way that demonstrates they have no fear of our almighty God. If you tell them that He is coming back to judge the world, they just laugh at you. This was the attitude of the rulers and the rich who were abusing the less fortunate in Israel.

**AMOS LESSON 35** (09-18-16) BRIEF REVIEW

***Amos 6:1-7*** Remember how many Israelites were comfortable, arrogant, complacent, smug, and unconcerned about the dangers that threatened them.

***Amos 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!***

They had the best wine, food, music, homes and thought that they were the greatest people on the earth even though drunk and passing out on their couches. They never thought they would fall like their brothers had done in other cities had. *Does this sound familiar?*

 AMOS 6, pg. 56

***2 Peter 3:3-4 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, 4) and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."***

The calamity that Amos warned them about came sooner than they thought. They surely regretted not heeding Amos’ desperate plea for them to “***Seek the Lord that you may live” Amos 5:6***

**LUXURIOUS INDULGENCE** verses next:

***Amos 6:4-6 Those who recline on beds of ivory and sprawl on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, 5) Who improvise to the sound of the harp, and like David have composed songs for themselves, 6) Who drink wine from sacrificial bowls while they anoint themselves with the finest of oils, yet they have not grieved over the ruin of Joseph.***

*“Rather than humbling themselves before the Lord and acknowledging their woeful sins to God, they doubled down on their hedonistic luxuriant lifestyle. Rather than returning the money and goods that they stole from the common folks, they indulged themselves with lavish banquets, eating the best meat and drinking the best wines.*

*At their opulent feasts they “sprawled” or “lounged” on their couches. The Hebrew word for lounge (sarak) conveys a sprawled stupor of satiation and drunkenness, with arms and legs hanging over the side.”*

*ibid*

In their drunken revelry they imagined themselves strumming like David as they attempted to improvise music at their parties, yet they were vastly different from David who was a fantastic musician and composer.

**These selfish, self-absorbed, hedonistic scoundrels had no concern for their nation’s impending doom.**

How many in our own country have this same attitude?

How many have a robotic, inordinate loyalty to a political party that represents an immoral, unconstitutional, and socialistic worldview that is destroying our country?

How many will support any scoundrel in office that will continue the welfare programs no matter how unjust and unconstitutional they are, not only for themselves, but for illegal aliens as well? Isn’t this what is bringing our country to financial ruin?

How many people in office do what is most politically expedient for themselves rather than do what is best for our country?

How many Americans will go along with every freedom-destroying, politically correct, dictatorial, mandate, statute, regulation, directive, executive order, or Supreme Court opinion, even knowing that they are unconstitutional, immoral, and repugnant to God?

***Amos 6:7 Therefore, they will now go into exile at the head of the exiles, and the sprawlers'*** [same word as in vs. 4] ***banqueting will pass away.***

There is always a day of reckoning. You can run but you can’t hide from God. And look who is the first to be taken away into exile.

***Numbers 32:23 …behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out.***

The drinking the finest wine from sacrificial bowls, dining on the best gourmet food and the choicest of meets, using the finest oils on their body, and sleeping on ivory inlaid beds would come to an abrupt halt.

 AMOS 6, pg. 57

Their sounds of revelry would turn into screams of pain and wailing of sadness.

***Amos 6:8 The Lord God has sworn by Himself, the LORD God of hosts has declared: "I loathe the arrogance of Jacob, and I detest*** [hates] ***his citadels*** [palaces built on the backs of people forced to build them who were robbed]***; Therefore, I will deliver up the city and all it contains."***

The Hebrew word for ***loathe*** is TAV and it means something repugnant. Jacob refers to the nation of Israel. The Hebrew word for ***detest*** is SONE’ and it means to hate.

Why did the Lord God hate the citadels of the Northern Kingdom? Because they were purchased with the money stolen and extorted from the weak and poor of society. Their palaces were places of corruption and storehouses of plunder from the poor

***Amos 3:10-11 But they do not know how to do what is right," declares the LORD, "these who hoard up violence and devastation in their citadels." 11) Therefore, thus says the Lord God, "An enemy, even one surrounding the land, will pull down your strength from you and your citadels will be looted."***

***Amos 6:9 And it will be, if ten men are left in one house, they will die.***

This is talking about when Assyria will come defeat and enslave them. If any man escaped death in war, they would die of famine and pestilence in the three years’ siege of Samaria, ***2 Kings 17:5***.

***Amos 6:10 Then one's uncle, or his undertaker, will lift him up to carry out his bones from the house, and he will say to the one who is in the innermost part of the house, "Is anyone else with you?" And that one will say, "No one." Then he will answer, "Keep quiet. For the name of the LORD is not to be mentioned."***

The few who survived the devastation would have to bury or burn the dead to keep down disease. They would even eat their own children. In this case, if a relative or an undertaker went into a house and found dead bodies, they would remove them and call out to see if anyone was actually still alive. The reason he would tell the survivor not to mention the Lord’s name is because he was afraid that it would get the Lord’s attention and He would see that there were some He had over- looked and would come slay them as well. So, don’t draw the Lord’s attention.

***Amos 6:11 For behold, the LORD is going to command that the great house be smashed to pieces and the small house to fragments.***

The dwellings of both rich and poor would be totally demolished into rubble. All that would remain would be a field of debris. This should be a vivid testament to us that God is serious about people turning to Him and seeking Him rather than continuing on with their arrogant sinful lifestyle. Those who ignore Him wind up with their house turned to rubble and themselves in horrible suffering or in a grave.

***Amos 6:12 Do horses run on rocks? Or does one plow them with oxen?*** [2 ridiculous examples] ***Yet you have turned justice into poison, and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood,***

Two ridiculous things are mentioned to make a point. Horses do not run over rubble and oxen could never plow over rubble. But these disobedient people had done something just as crazy; by their behavior, they turned the great justice of God into poison and His wonderful righteousness principles into wormwood. They spurned everything that would bring blessing and prosperity and embraced everything that would bring cursing, disaster, and ruin.

***Amos 6:13 You who rejoice in Lodebar, and say, "Have we not by our own strength taken Karnaim for ourselves?"***

*Under Jeroboam II they had won an unbroken string of military victories (2 Kings 14:25). They had even recovered all their lands east of the Jordan.*

*The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1,* 1443

 AMOS 7, pg. 58

***Lodebar,*** one of the two Israeli cities mentioned, means “not a thing”.

***Karnaim*** is the other city’s name meaning “a pair of horns”. Horns were a symbol of strength and power so they were boasting about their victory over this supposedly powerful city.

Amos was being sarcastic using puny Lodebar in the N. Kingdom as an example to help point out that they were nobody and nothing to be boasting about their victory over a powerful pair of horns.

***Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.***

***Proverbs 18:12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, but humility goes before honor.***

***Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.***

***Amos 6:14 "For behold, I am going to raise up a nation against you, O house of Israel," declares the LORD God of hosts, "And they will afflict you from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of the Arabah."***

Their citadels, buildings, and every house was smashed to pieces and turned to rubble demonstrating God’s wrath poured out on them, like Syria today. ***Lodebar*** meaning “not a thing” and ***Karnaim*** meaning a pair of powerful horns were both depending on themselves and their own strong militaries instead of God. They boasted over their greatness when they were nothing. The Lord allowed powerful Assyria to wipe them out because of they did not trust in the Lord.

Jesus Christ controls history but always gives a period of grace warning before judgment

He never destroys a nation or permits its destruction until it has ventured beyond all reasonable hope of humbling itself and returning to Him. He used several prophets to warn them of their impending doom. Grace always precedes discipline.

***Amos 4:6 & 8-10***

***Hosea 7:13-14 Woe to them, for they have strayed from Me! Destruction is theirs, for they have rebelled against Me! I would redeem them, but they speak lies against Me. 14) And they do not cry to Me from their heart when they wail on their beds;***

***Joel 1:5-6 Awake, drunkards, and weep; and wail, all you wine drinkers, on account of the sweet wine that is cut off from your mouth. 6) For a nation has invaded my land, mighty and without number; Its teeth are the teeth of a lion, and it has the fangs of a lioness.***

Israel was warned in ***Amos 4:6, 8, 9,10,*** and ***11*** after they had received warning discipline and intensified discipline, ***“Yet you have not returned to me”.*** He told them in ***Amos 5:4 & 6***, ***“Seek Me that you may live.”***

The nation that the Lord brought up against Israel was Assyria.

**AMOS LESSON 36** (09-25-16)AMOS CHAPTER 7

*In chapters 3-6 Amos had documented the reasons for God’s judgment against Israel—legal injustice, economic exploitation, religious hypocrisy, luxurious indulgence, and boastful complacency.*

*The Bible Knowledge Commentary, 1444*

Because of these covenant violations “the LORD God Almighty,” would crush His rebellious people. Individuals who humbled themselves and repented might be spared, but the nation as a whole was irrevocably doomed.

***Amos 7*** describes the coming judgment. In a series of five visions (7:1, 4, 7; 8:1; 9:1), God’s total destruction of the land, its buildings, and its people is depicted. We would call this a scorched earth policy.

There are no prophets during the Church Age, so how can we know what will happen to us?

 AMOS 7, pg. 59

We see our future through studying these ancient nations and what happened to them. That’s why we are going verse by verse in Amos.

The book of Amos has 31 questions which is more than any of the other minor-prophets. The average being 14. The OT has 2,274 questions and the NT has 1,024. That’s 3,298 questions altogether in the Bible.

***Amos 7:1-9*** describes 3 visions Amos had.

**VISION 1:** ***Amos 7:1-3*** describes God possibly destroying His own people with **locusts**. Here is a description of what locusts did to Egypt when Pharaoh refused to let God’s people go:

***Exodus 10:15 For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. So there remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.***

But Amos interceded on behalf of the Israelites.

*Amos argued that the nation was so small that they could never survive the plague of locusts. Amos didn’t plead any of the covenant promises of God because he knew the people had violated God’s covenant and were deserving of a plague (Deut. 28:38-42). But God heard the prophet’s plea and relented (Joel 2:12-14).*

*Warren W. Wiersbe, Be Concerned, “Be” Commentary Series (Colorado Springs, CO: Chariot Victor, 1996), 64.*

God used the prophet Joel to warn the people that He would destroy them with locusts but He also offered them a reprieve if they would humble themselves.

***Joel 2:12-14 Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." 13) So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm. 14) Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?***

**VISION 2:**

***Amos 7:4-6*** This time the destruction would come by **fire,** used here to describe a horrible drought and the resulting wild fires that destroy the land. But Amos interceded again and God relented again. Amos joined that select group of intercessors:

***Gen. 18****,* Abraham concerning Sodom and Gomorrah

***Ex. 32:30-35***, Moses, concerning the golden calf incident

***Num. 14****,* Kadesh-Barnea

Samuel, ***1 Sam. 12****,* when people wanted a king

Elijah, ***1 Kings 18*** on Mt. Carmel

Paul, ***Rom. 9:1-3****;* he would forfeit his salvation for them

***Rom. 10:1-2****,* Paul greatly desired their salvation

*Moses recognized that the people had sinned so he did not seek to justify their actions. As a result God relented of His threatened course of judgment. The word “relented” does not mean that God changed His mind but that He embarked on another course of action. The Hebrew word nāḥam suggests relief or comfort from a planned, undesirable course of action. God is not inflexible; He responds to individuals’ needs, attitudes, and actions.*

*The Bible Knowledge Commentary: 156*

One thing we see in this is the power of prayer. Sometimes we may think that it is useless to pray for our country because we are so far gone that we are not redeemable and that there is nothing

that will stop or delay God’s impending wrath on our nation. We can learn from Amos that that is not necessarily so.

**VISION 3:**  AMOS 7, pg. 60

***Amos 7:7-9*** is the last vision picturing a plumb line of righteousness. A plumb line is used to test to see if something is straight. You can see how much something or someone is crooked by using a plumb line.

God’s Word is His plumb line and it was easy to see that the people were not straight but crooked. They were into idolatry, they were unjust, cruel, and perverted. This time Amos did not intercede and God did not relent because there is a limit to His relenting.

***Jeremiah 15:5-6 Indeed, who will have pity on you, O Jerusalem, Or who will mourn for you, Or who will turn aside to ask about your welfare? 6) "You who have forsaken Me," declares the LORD, "You keep going backward. So I will stretch out My hand against you and destroy you; I am tired of relenting!***

The incident recorded in ***Amos 7:10-7*** is integrally tied to Amos’ third vision in ***Amos 7:7-9***. It reveals the immediate historical reaction to the vision’s content because this time, it represents a concrete example of the “plumb line” in operation as a test of two individuals. They can relate with it.

One was Amos, a prophet, the other a priest, Amaziah. One was accepted; the other was not. One heard and obeyed the voice of the Lord; the other refused to hear.

Amaziah refused to acknowledge in any way the divine source of Amos’ prophecies, choosing instead to view him as a political agitator.

This is the way we believers are viewed when we emphatically declare that homosexuality is a sin and out rightly refuse to obey the perverted dictates of our president and his minions. Others don’t understand or consider for one second that our words and position come from a divine source but instead, see it as a political statement that is contrary to the politics and unlawful authority our current administration enforces on us. Our current administration is not obeying the Highest Authorities, God and our constitutions.

Notice how Amaziah presented the prophecy from Amos in his report to the king:

***Amos 7:11 For thus Amos says, 'Jeroboam will die by the sword and Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.'***

*This is what Amos is saying, rather than with, “This is what God has said.” In quoting Amos, the priest deliberately omitted the prophet’s words about God’s claim of personal action, “with My sword I will rise against … Jeroboam” (v. 9). Amaziah substituted the simple fact, Jeroboam will die. He reported Amos’ words in a form designed to incite the king, twisting the prediction of the dynasty’s fall (v. 9) into a threat against Jeroboam himself* (v. 11)

*The Bible Knowledge Commentary, 1446*

This kind of deception and duplicity is used every day in the media and by our government. They twist words, spin issues and events, and lie, lie, lie to obtain the outcome they desire.

They choose to see us as a menace just as Amaziah chose to see Amos as a menace to the status quo rather than as a messenger from the God.

***Amos 7:12 Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Go, you seer, flee away to the land of Judah, and there eat bread and there do your prophesying!***

His scornful advice to earn his bread in Judah implied that Amos was a professional predictor who made his living selling prophecies, ***Micah 3:5, 11***; an example were the women of ***Ezek. 13:17-20*** who prophesied ***“out of their own imagination for a few handfuls of barley and scraps of bread.”***

***Amos 7:13 "But no longer prophesy at Bethel, for it is a sanctuary of the king and a royal residence."***

As the temple in Jerusalem drew devotion to the lineage of David, so the existence of Bethel implied God’s sanction and support of the Northern monarch.

 AMOS 7, pg. 61

To denounce Bethel and its system of worship was to attack the very foundation of the kingdom.

***Amos 7:14-15 Then Amos answered and said 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.'***

Amos was explaining to Amaziah that he didn’t claim to be a prophet and he certainly wasn’t charging people money. Evidently, credentials didn’t mean much to Amos but telling the truth did. He reiterated that his message came from God. He told Amos what to say and where to say it and that is what he was going to do whether Amaziah liked it or not.

Amos was not impressed with Amaziah’s title, position, or power. He continued to blast away with the truth that God revealed to him and this time it is directed toward Amaziah himself and his family.

***Amos 7:16-17 "And 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.'"***

**AMOS LESSON 37** (10-2-16)

We ended last time focusing on two men who exemplify two opposites. Amos believed what God told him and was obedient to pass it on to the people. Amaziah refused to acknowledge in any way the divine source of Amos’ prophecies, choosing instead to view him as a political agitator.

There is a parallel between Amos and Christians who are not intimidated by overbearing officials and refuse to heed their unjust, immoral, or unconstitutional commands. The problem is, these arrogant officials think that you must comply with their dictates because they don’t believe there is any authority higher than them. They don’t hesitate to try to force us to comply with what God has condemned because they think they are totally unaccountable to Him.

Notice what Amos did:

1. He refused to obey the official.

2. He corrected the false insinuations and lies with facts

3. He did not take the issue to court.

4. He kept doing what the Lord called him to do.

Amos was a messenger of God who was called to convey God’s truth to the people and we also are messengers of God with the same responsibility.

***Ezekiel 2:7 "You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious.***

There was no level so low that Amaziah would not sink to in order to get rid of Amos. A contemporary parallel:

**Traditional-Marriage 'Hero' Roy Moore Removed From Office**

*WND, by Bob Unruh, 9-29-16*

*Judicial officials in Alabama have chosen to “ignore the law and the rules” by imposing a term-long unpaid suspension on state Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore, his lawyers are charging.*

*The banishment until the end of Moore’s term was imposed by a* ***Court of the Judiciary panel*** *led by J. Michael Joiner, a criminal appeals judge, after the* ***Judicial Inquiry Commission****, at the behest of the Southern Poverty Law Center, claimed Moore essentially told probate judges to disobey the law.*[LIE]

 AMOS 8, pg. 62

*The case was developed with the help of a former SPLC official who was hired by the JIC for the case* [Unbelievable!]. *Moore’s legal representatives at Liberty Counsel were outraged, arguing the Court of the Judiciary (COJ) didn’t even follow the law in its decision.*

*“To suspend Chief Justice Moore for the rest of his term is the same as removal,” said Liberty Counsel Chairman Mat Staver. “The COJ lacked the unanimous votes to remove the chief, so the majority instead chose to ignore the law and the rules by suspending him for the remainder of his term which is the same thing as removing him.*

*Judge Moore did nothing wrong yet the COJ suspended him anyway even though they produced no live witnesses or affidavits*. [Where do you go to get justice when the judicial officials are corrupt?]

Some may think that Judge Moore is the looser in this but you never loose when you stand for what is right and just. Judge Moore is the winner, he may suffer a bit but he has God’s approval and His blessings.

*“Amaziah had position, wealth, authority, and reputation, but Amos had the Word of the Lord. Amaziah served the king of Israel and depended on him for support, but Amos served the King of kings and had no fear of what men could do to him. Many times in the history of the church, God has called humble instruments like Amos to declare His Word; and we had better be prepared to listen and obey. It’s not the approval of the “religious establishment” that counts, but the calling and blessing of the Lord.”*

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Concerned, “Be” Commentary Series* (Colorado Springs, CO: Chariot Victor, ‘96), 67.

Had Amaziah responded differently, had he repented at Amos’ prophecy, he might have been spared, ***Amos 5:4-6, 14-15***. But instead he chose to align with an earthly monarch, to embrace the national mood of pride and security, and to assert his authority against God’s messenger

***Amos 5:4-6 For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel, "Seek Me that you may live. 5) "But do not resort to Bethel, and do not come to Gilgal, Nor cross over to Beersheba; for Gilgal will certainly go into captivity, and Bethel will come to trouble. 6) "Seek the LORD that you may live, lest He break forth like a fire, O house of Joseph, and it consume with none to quench it for Bethel,***

***Amos 5:14-15 Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and thus may the LORD God of hosts be with you, just as you have said! 15) Hate evil, love good, and establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the LORD God of hosts may be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.***

AMOS CHAPTER 8

***Amos 8:1-2 Thus the Lord GOD showed me: Behold, a basket of summer fruit*** (KAITS)***. 2) And He said, "Amos, what do you see?" So I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me: "The end*** (KETS) ***has come upon My people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore.***

After Amos had the unpleasant incident with Amaziah, God encouraged Amos by giving him another vision. It’s typical for God to encourage His children after they’ve been through a tough time.

***Acts 18:9-10 Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; 10) "for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city."***

The first one had to do with locusts, the second one with fire, and the third one with a plumb line. This fourth vision Amos received from God consisted of summer (ripe) fruit signifying Israel’s destruction and captivity.

 AMOS 8, pg. 63 ***Summer fruit*** is “end-of-the-year fruit” the last fruit of the season, fully ripened, with a short edible life. Israel was ripe for her dreadful harvest; her end had come. There would be no stay of execution, no last-minute reprieve.

***The end has come upon My people Israel…*** The time is ripe for the end of My people Israel to come. There is a play on the word “fruit” (KAITS) in verse one and the word “end” (KETS) in verse two. They sound similar and they both refer to the termination of Israel.

(NASV) ***I will not pass by them anymore.***

(NET) ***I will no longer overlook their sins.***

(NIV) ***I will spare them no longer.***

This supports what you have heard me say many times, there is a point where God’s grace ends and His judgment begins.

***Isaiah 55:6-8 Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.*** [There is a point when it is too late to seek Him for you will find that he is no longer near.]  ***7­) Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 8) " For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.***

QUESTIONS:

1. The evil and unjust rulers, the rich, and merchants would get the punishment they deserved, but what about those who had been oppressed and the ones who were not guilty of oppressing their neighbors, would they suffer as well?

2. Was it fair that they suffered right along with the ones guilty of disobedience to God, the ones who were oppressive?

a. Were they innocent?

b. When Jeroboam set up his counterfeit system of worship which included idolatry, did they refuse to be a part of it?

c. When the poor and needy and the average people were being oppressed by those who had power, did they stand up for them and demand that the rulers follow the Mosaic Law or did they do nothing?

***Isaiah 5:21&23 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and clever in their own sight! 23) Who justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away the rights of the ones who are in the right!***

***Proverbs 29:7 The righteous is concerned for the rights of the poor. The wicked does not understand such concern.***

***Proverbs 31:8-9 Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all the unfortunate. 9) Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.***

**AMOS LESSON 38** (10-9-16)

Read: ***Jeremiah 15:7-9, 19-22, 15:1-7***

QUESTIONS Continued:

3. Was there anyone in the Northern Kingdom that did not voluntarily comply with the tyranny that prevailed in that day?

4. If there was, what would happen to them? Is God able to protect His godly people?

***Amos 8:3*** Songs would disappear as they would be replaced with wailing and funeral dirges.

The slaughter of the people would be so great that there would not be enough people or places to bury the dead. The corpses were scattered around on the ground everywhere and they would lie there until dogs or birds would eat them or they would just decompose. Can you imagine the stench and the ghastly sight it must have been? There would also be people who would die from disease caused by the putrefying bodies everywhere.

 AMOS 8, pg. 64

***They shall be thrown out in silence***." Their suffering would be too deep for words. It is reminiscent of the Jews suffering in the German death camps.

The silence could also refer to the silence of God. When the people would cry out to Him for help and mercy there would be only silence from heaven.

***Amos 8:4*** God reminds them of the horrible way the rulers, the rich, and the powerful took advantage of and cheated the poor and needy. You could probably describe these scoundrels as “a basket of deplorables”.

***Amos 8:5*** They couldn’t wait for the festivals and Sabbaths to be over so they could get back into their regular routine of cheating and defrauding their customers. They had several tricks up their sleeve to hornswoggle buyers. Smaller bushel baskets: chip bags, cutting amounts but charging the same, larger center holes in toilet paper, etc.

Rigging the scales was a big No-No in the Mosaic Law.

***Leviticus 19:35-36 You shall do no wrong in judgment, in measurement of weight, or capacity. 36) 'You shall have just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin…***

***Deuteronomy 25:13-16 You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a large and a small. 14) "You shall not have in your house differing measures, a large and a small. 15) "You shall have a full and just weight; you shall have a full and just measure, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you. 16) "For everyone who does these things, everyone who acts unjustly is an abomination to the LORD your God.***

***Hosea 12:7 A merchant, in whose hands are false balances, He loves to oppress.***

***Proverbs 11:1 A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, But a just weight is His delight.***

***Proverbs 16:11 A just balance and scales belong to the LORD; All the weights of the bag are His concern.***

***Amos 8:6*** These thieves couldn’t care less about the people they preyed on. They forced the needy into slavery in exchange for a pair of sandals. This was also stated in ***Amos 2:6***.

***Amos 2:6***. They would take the sweepings of soiled and trampled grain and mix it in with the clean pure wheat in order to make an extra buck here and there. Dairymen would pull a similar stunt by adding water to their milk before they sold it so they could make more money.

Dishonest dairymen would pull a similar stunt to cheat people by adding water to their milk before they sell it so they could make more money (homogenized and pasteurized milk). Raw milk is better in that it can easily be made into clabber, butter milk, cream, butter, curds, whey, kefir, yogurt, cottage cheese, and cheese.

***Amos 8:7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob*** (Israel)… refers to the Lord Himself. We saw an example of this in:.

***Amos 4:2 The Sovereign Lord has sworn by His holiness…***

Notice that ***“the pride of Jacob”*** is used in a different way in ***Amos 6:8***.

***Amos 6:8 The Lord GOD has sworn by Himself, the LORD God of hosts has declared: "I loathe the arrogance of Jacob, and detest his citadels; Therefore I will deliver up the city and all it contains."***

In the following verses, Amos used four pictures to describe the terror of the coming judgment. The first one was an earthquake. Notice the way that ***“the pride/arrogance of Jacob”*** is used in this verse.

***Amos 8:8*** It appears that this verse is describing an **earthquake**. Could it be the one mentioned in Amos 1:1? The Nile could rise as much as twenty-five feet during its annual flooding stage.

 AMOS 8, pg. 65

When God punishes man, there is often negative effects on the land as well which causes hardship for man. ***Gen. 3:18*** (thorns and thistles)

***Amos 8:9***

*God would also visit them with* ***darkness****, perhaps an eclipse. (There was one in 763 B.C.) The Day of the Lord will begin as a day of darkness, (Isa. 13:9; Joel 2:30–31).*

*Warren W. Wiersbe, Be Concerned, “Be” Commentary Series (Colorado Springs, CO: Chariot Victor, 1996), 69.*

***Isaiah 13:9 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it.***

***Amos 8:10***  Now **a funeral** is depicted. This describes a horrible time, just the opposite of what they were used to with the joy and feasting associated with their holy days.

Parents would mourn greatly if an only son died because that would mean the end of the family name and line. But God’s judgment would mean the end of a nation.