

Everyone Is Equal Before God

Amos 1:3-2:6



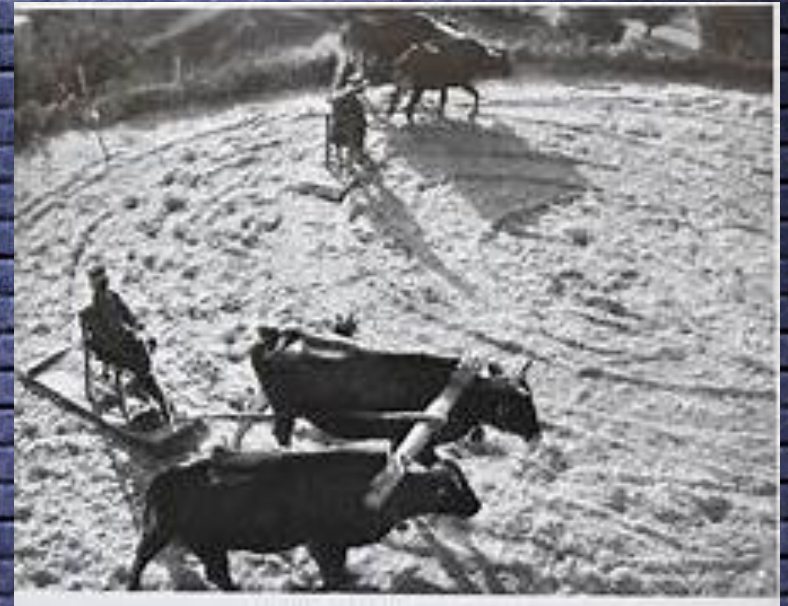
God's Judgment on the Nations

- Amos pronounced God's judgment on six nations surrounding Judah and Israel.
- Amos was winding a noose around the neck of Israel.
- The judgment against each nation began with the statement, "Thus says the Lord."
- The opening phrase of each judgment: "For three transgressions of [the nation], and for four" was a way of expressing totality.
- God's mercy was replaced with judgment upon those who did not repent.
- Each judgment included an indictment of the sin of the nation as well as a sentence against each nation.

God's Judgment on Syria

- Though judgment was pronounced on Damascus, since it was the capital of Syria, judgment was for all of Syria.
- The Syrians dragged instruments of torture, *"sledges having iron teeth,"* over their Israelite prisoners.
- Syria was to be burned with fire and sent into exile.

Threshing Sledge



God's Judgment on Philistia

- The sin of Philistia was that they sold God's people into slavery.
- Philistia not only sold the men as slaves, they sold the women and children into slavery as well.
- The Philistines wanted to get rid of all God's people.
- The sentence against Philistia was that they were to be torched and even the remnant of the Philistines killed.

God's Judgment on Phoenicia

- The sin of Phoenicia was that they betrayed God's people and broke their treaty with them.
- The covenant spoken of here was not God's covenant with His people but a treaty made between Solomon and Hiram, King of Tyre.
- The Phoenicians violated that treaty and betrayed God's people.
- The sentence against Phoenicia was that their city would be burned.
- This prophecy was fulfilled when Nebuchadnezzar took it after a thirteen year siege.

God's Judgment on Edom

- Edom's sin was an unmerciful, unwearied pursuit of the people of God.
- The Edomites used every opportunity to express their wrath and enmity against Israel.
- Whenever any enemy put Judah or Israel to flight, the Edomites would fall upon the rear, and kill those who were half dead, casting off all pity.
- The sentence against Edom was that their cities would be burned.

God's Judgment on Ammon

- The sin of Ammon was that they ripped open pregnant women in Gilead to enlarge their territory.
- They wanted to eradicate the race of Israel by killing not only all who were born, but all who were to be born.
- Ammon wanted to enlarge their borders by keeping the land they had stolen from the Israelites.
- The sentence against Ammon was that their city would be burned and their royal leadership banished into exile.

God's Judgment on Moab

- The sin of Moab was that they desecrated graves, showing no respect for the dead.
- Not content to leave the dead king of Edom in his grave, the Moabites got his bones and burned them to desecrate his memory.
- To abuse the dead bodies of kings, whose persons and names ought to be respected, is an affront to majesty.
- The sentence against Moab was that the nation would be burned and their leadership killed.

God's Judgment on His People

- Amos' message was directed not only against Israel, but Judah as well since both Judah and Israel were at one time united.
- The sin of Judah was that they rejected the law of God.
- The sentence against Judah was that they will be burned and the city of Jerusalem destroyed.
- The sins of Israel included bribery, cruelty to the poor, immorality, hypocrisy, and tempting the godly to sin.
- The sentence against Israel was that their enemies would defeat them.

Conclusion

- None of the surrounding nations had a relationship with God.
- They did not have the Law of God, but they did have God's law written on their hearts.
- God will hold anyone responsible for sins that violate His law that is written on their hearts.
- God's people had the law of God, and yet they rejected God's law.
- A Christian is one who seeks to obey all of God's Word.