

SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015

THEME: GOD'S RIGHTEOUS DEMANDS FOR JUSTICE

UNIT I – GOD'S INDICTMENT AGAINST ISRAEL'S INJUSTICES

“BE NOT DECEIVED...GOD REALLY KNOWS OUR HEARTS”



Sunday School Lesson No. II – June 14, 2015

Rev. Frank A Davis, III – Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Amos 5:14-15, 18-27

Motto Text: Amos 5:24, *“But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.”*
Galatians 6:7, *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”*

Required Reading: Amos 5:1-27

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI); Standard lesson Commentary; “Preaching from the Prophets” by Kyle Yates; “Understanding the 66 Books of the Bible” by David Jeremiah; Word-Search 10 Electronic Library System; The Outline Bible by H. L. Willmington; Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament

LESSON INTRODUCTION

Dr. Warren Wiersbe summarizes this chapter in a simple unique way. Let us examine it. “Amos weeps as he contemplates the judgments coming to his nation. Verse 3 suggests that 90% of the people will die. Note the repetition of the word ‘seek’ (5:4, 6, 8, 14). ‘Don’t seek religious services; seek the Lord!’ There were some in the nation who were saying, ‘The day of the Lord will come and then God will deliver us’ (5:18-20). They did not realize that the Day of the Lord would be a time of judgment for them as well as for their enemies. They are like Christians today who ‘long for’ the return of Christ, yet may not be prepared to meet the Lord... Amos longed to see the Nation obeying God and executing His justice in the land.”

Beloved, with this overview, let us visit the prophet as he spells out the truth that every believer needs to remember... **“Be Not Deceived...God Really Knows our Hearts!”**

Anticipated Power Points:

- **Seek Holiness. Amos 5:14-15**
- **Shun Hypocrisy. Amos 5:18-20**
- **Sanctified Worship. Amos 5:21-24**
- **Sin’s Recompense. Amos 5:25-27**

LESSON OUTLINE

I. Seek Holiness. Amos 5:14-15

The key to Israel's help was to seek the holy way of the Lord. Note the following verses:

- Vs. 4, "***Seek me and ye shall live.***" Not religion, wealth, or leisure but truly seek the Lord.
- Isa. 55:6 reiterates, "***Seek ye the Lord while he may be found.***"
- Prov. 9:6, "***Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.***" Israel had sought all the wrong ways. (Read 4:1-3)
- Vs. 6, "***Seek the Lord, and ye shall live.***"
- Vs. 8, "***Seek the Lord who is the Creator!***"
- Vs. 14, "***Seek good, and not evil; that ye may live.***"
- Vs. 15, "***Hate evil and love good!***"

II. Shun Hypocrisy. Amos 5:18-20

There was a great hypocrisy in the hearts and actions of the Israelites. They really thought that their outward religious and social acts could cover up for their dark rebellious hearts. But notice how God warns them to not play the role of the hypocrite. (Read vs. 18-20). Israel looked outwardly for the "***Day of the Lord***" when they would be, according to Deuteronomy 28, "***the head, and not the tail.***" But God sought a relationship of purity. Again, we repeat Galatians 6:7, "***...God is not mocked...***"

III. Sanctified Worship. Amos 5:21-24

No matter how ornate the worship of men may appear before others, God looks all the way into the heart of the worshipper. Note I Sam. 16:7, "***...for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.***" Israel was making a lot of noise and offering a lot of smoke, but their worship was polluted. Why? Because they didn't handle others with the justice of equality and dignity! They were blind hypocrites to whom Amos cried for their repentance.

IV. Sin's Recompense. Amos 5:25-27

From their days in Egypt and their wilderness journey, God knew the hidden sins of their hearts. (Read God's verdict in II Kings 17:9-12, 16-18). Beloved, I cry out as God's modern day Amos! Amos 7:14-15, "***I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdsman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit: And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.***"

Closing

Beloved, remember the words of the hymnist: "Yield not to temptation for yielding is sin; Each victory will help you Some other to win; Fight manfully onward, Dark passions subdue, Look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through."

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Looking Ahead:

June 21, 2014

Amos 6:4-8, 11-14

You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.