

# SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015

## THEME: GOD'S RIGHTEOUS DEMANDS FOR JUSTICE

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

## “HOW LONG WILL THE INJUSTICES COMMITTED BY GOD'S PEOPLE GO ON?” (GOD'S WARNING!)



Sunday School Lesson No. I – June 7, 2015

Rev. Frank A Davis, III – Pastor-Teacher

**Lesson Text:** Amos 2:4-8

**Motto Text:** Amos 2:4, *“Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked.”*

**Required Reading:** Amos 1:1 – 2:16

**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

### LESSON INTRODUCTION

From “Understanding the 66 Books of the Bible” by Dr. David Jeremiah, “When Paul Harvey gave his famous speech, ‘So God Made A Farmer,’ at a 1978 convention of Future Farmers of America, he began: ‘God said, I need someone willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper, and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board: so God made a farmer.’” Dr. Jeremiah continued, “Well, I have a feeling Amos would have liked that speech. Amos was a farmer – a sheep breeder and fruit grower – from the town of Tekoa in Judah. In the eighth century B. C., when God needed a plain-spoken man to deliver His message to Samaria, He chose a farmer – Amos. Amos traveled north and preached during a period of prosperity. Worship was hollow and injustice filled the land, with the rich trampling the rights of the poor.

The book of Amos is a collection of sermons condemning the nations-including Judah and Samaria-for the absence of true worship and the presence of true injustice. The first two chapters of Amos focus on God’s judgment on the nations. The next several chapters warn of judgment on Judah and Samaria.

The last half of the final chapter is a beautiful promise of hope and restoration. Amos tells us God despises the exercise of empty religious ritual. Our conduct must always grow from an authentic desire to love others and please Him, and our lives should always produce a true harvest of justice and righteousness.”

### **Anticipated Power Points:**

- **God’s Warnings to Surrounding Nations. Amos 1:1 – 2:3**
- **God’s Warning to Judah. Amos 2:4-5**
- **God’s Warning to Israel. Amos 2:6-8**
- **God’s Warning to Us All. I Corinthians 10:11-12**

***HOW LONG WILL THE INJUSTICES COMMITTED BY GOD'S PEOPLE GO ON?***

## OUTLINE

A country preacher shows up from the wilderness of Judah and begins to speak prophetically at the doorstep of King Jeroboam II. Times were great financially, culturally, and both Israel's northern and southern kingdoms were living in the laps of luxury. According to chapter 1 and the beginning of chapter 2, this untrained prophet spoke words of condemnation against the Jews' neighbors. This pleased the blinded, backsliding people of God! You could almost hear the people applaud as this backwoods wilderness prophet castigated the sinful neighbors of the Jews.

The prophet Amos used a prophetic formula to describe that the patience of Jehovah had come to its limitations "for three transgressions of (the nation) and for four." Three strikes we say and "you're out." God challenged destruction against the capitals of Syria, Philistia, Phoenicia, Edom, Ammon and Moab that the practices of their sinful ways of injustice had reached the end. Judgment was now the next step on His ladder. Let us note how the prophet declares God's judgment against all types of injustices both foreign and domestic. H. L. Willmington gives a synopsis of the crime and punishments (pg. 832 of the Visualized Bible).

### **I. God's Warnings to Surrounding Nations. Amos 1:1 – 2:3**

According to H. L. Willmington...

<u>Nation</u>	<u>Crime</u>	<u>Punishment</u>
"Syria 1:1-5	•Had often harassed Israel	•The Capital at Damascus to be burned •Their strongholds to be broken •Their citizens to be enslaved"
"Philistia. 1:6-8	•Had sold Israelites into slavery to Edom	•The burning of their 4 main cities"
"Phoenicia. 1:9-10	•Had broken their peace covenant with Israel	•The burning down of the forts and palaces in Tyre, their chief city"
"Edom. 1:11-12	•Had murdered many Jews	•The destruction of their cities"
"Ammon. 1:13-15	•Had murdered many Jewish women	•Their cities to be burned •Their citizens to be enslaved"
"Moab. 2:1-3	•Had desecrated the tombs of the dead	•They would be defeated in battle"

### **II. God's Warning to Judah. Amos 2:4-5**

According to H. L. Willmington...

<u>Nation</u>	<u>Crime</u>	<u>Punishment</u>
"Judah	•Had rejected the Word of God •Had disobeyed the God of the Word	•Their Temple in Jerusalem to be destroyed"

Beloved just as God's prophet declared, so it happened in 586 BC under the hands of the Babylonians. (II Chronicles 36:11-21)

### **III. God's Warning to Israel (Ephraim). Amos 2:6-8**

According to H. L. Willmington...

<u>Nation</u>	<u>Crime</u>	<u>Punishment</u>
"Israel 2:6-16	•Had accepted bribes •Had enslaved the poor •Had committed adultery •Had stolen •Were totally unthankful •Had caused the innocent to sin	•Their punishment would make them groan as a loaded down wagon •Their armies would stumble in battle."

Beloved, just as God's prophet declared, so it happened in 721 BC (II Kings 17:1-18).

### **IV. God's Warning to Us All. I Corinthians 10:11-12**

Beloved, this is where I close today with the words of the Apostle Paul from the J. B. Phillips translation: "*Now these things which happened to our ancestors are illustrations of the way in which God works, and they were written down to be a warning to us who are the heirs of the ages which have gone before us. So let the man who feels sure of his standing today be careful that he does not fall tomorrow.*" I Corinthians 10:11-12

---

**Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA & Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite, LA**

**Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179-0768**

**Phone: (504) 486-7876      Email: [bible32@bellsouth.net](mailto:bible32@bellsouth.net)**

**Website: [www.thestudyhour.com](http://www.thestudyhour.com)**

**Radio Broadcast: WABL AM (Amite City), Saturday, 3:00 p.m.**

**TV Telecast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.**

**Looking Ahead:**

**June 14, 2015**

**Amos 5:14-15, 18-27**



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