

# Amos Today

-- January 31, 2010/Sun Valley/tp

## Introduction

A. Message of Amos the Minor Prophet is tailor made for us today in the US.

1. The times were prosperous during the lull of hostilities between Assyria (growing in power but delayed in the context perhaps of Jonah) and Egypt (most powerful empire for many years but now in decline).

2. Jereboam II (last great heir to Jehu's dynasty) was on the throne in Samaria of the northern ten tribes of Israel. They were at peace and were prospering nearly as great as the days of Solomon. They had beds of ivory, summer and winter homes, along with graft, corruption and greed oppressing the weak and poor.

3. Amos was a country farmer tending his olive trees and sheep in Judah when God called him to go to the decadent northern neighbors and warn them of His wrath.

B. Language of Amos is colorful, blazing, harsh, and unmistakable. We need to hear this message if we have the stomach for it.

## I. God has clearly spoken and He is not pleased. Amos 3:1-12

A. The lion roars and the bird is caught in the snare. The trumpet of alarm has sounded.

1. Roar of the lion is terrifying -- being caught in a trap is a nightmare.

2. Scream of the siren still stirs up our our adrenaline.

3. **3:7-8** God has spoken, how can we not fear -- like Josiah reading the law for the first time, and tearing his garment in anguish as he realizes their doom.

B. **Galatians 6:7** Reap what we sow

1. We have aborted 30 million human beings since 1973, legally, with the approval of our men and women... so that the survivors can have a better life. Is life better? Is barrenness better? Is childlessness better? Is the quiet of the cemetery better than the laughter of children?

2. We want our recreational drugs and beers and wines. Now our children at the universities prove their worldliness by binge drinking. Vast numbers of good boys and girls leave the schools with their faith torn to shreds, their character compromised, and their fitness for marriage and family almost ruined.

3. Our culture embraces adultery and sexual immorality as if they are wholesome. So we have an epidemic of divorce, orphaned children, and HIV - AIDS disease.

4. The lion is roaring. Can you hear him roar? God has spoken. Who can be silent?

5. Our economy is in serious trouble because of greed and corruption in high places of government and private enterprise. We have accepted the wholesale removal of the Bible from the public arena: out of sight and out of mind -- as if it is shameful to speak in public the name of Jesus or quote publicly a verse of Scripture. Can we be shocked at the dishonesty of our people?

## II. Many Women Have Been Corrupted by Greed, Amos 4:1-2

A. Great prosperity, **3:15** -- many own two homes: one for the summer and the other for the winter. They lie down on beds made of imported (from Africa) ivory.

**B. Affluence has bred materialism, greed, oppression of the poor.**

1. "Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to tyour husbands, 'Bring, that we may drink!' ... These are PUSHY WOMEN!

2. The Lord has "SWORN" by his holiness --

a. they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks."

b. God does not swear casually. Doesn't have to. See Hebrews 6.

c. Women who incite their men to abuse the poor so that they can indulge their whims, are especially vile in God's eyes.

**C. We are raising a generation of Aggressive Women.**

1. Since 1970, women graduates have grown from 36% to 53.5%. Men have reduced from 64% to 46.5%.

2. Since 1970, women's earnings have grown 44% while men's earnings have grown by 6%.

3. Growing numbers of men marry women (those who are willing to marry) who make more than they do.

4. Our current recession has left 11% of men unemployed to 8.8% of women. (Bureau of Labor Statistics.)

5. Since 1970, married women 30-44 years have gone from to 84% to 60%. (Pew Research study)

6. Since 1970, increasing numbers of women are dying from causes that used to only kill men: heart disease, lung cancer, killed in action, killed by work related injury.

7. Helen Ready said, "I am woman, hear me roar." How do you suppose God thinks about that? 1 Peter 3:4 "the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious."

**D. The impetus of this movement is completely shallow, materialistic, and covetous.**

1. Tender compassion must be traded for hard-nosed competition for the best jobs, better houses, better clothes, better jewelry, better pleasures .... all pure flesh.

2. If some poor sclup gets in the way, too bad!

3. **Amos 2:7** they trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth -- KJV "that pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor"

**III. Seek - seek - seek, Amos 5:4, 6, 14.**

**A. Seek the counsel of the Lord, v. 4**

1. The big failure of our times.

**B. Seek the favor of the Lord, v. 6**

1. When God is pleased, all is better in our life, righteous dwells among us, and our home and family will be a pleasure both to us, to our neighbors, and to God in heaven.

**C. Seek the good, love the good, establish justice, v. 15**

1. Because they do not seek the good and love it, they HATE him who reprovess at the gate.

2. It always shocks me to see the ferocity of anger and hate to comes from those who do not want to be corrected by truth and justice.

**D. Worship is a sham and therefore not acceptable.**

1. God says rather, "let justice roll down like waters."

**IV. At ease in Zion, Amos 6:1**

- A. Spend a lot of time in bed, fancy elegant beds, **v. 4** eating the lambs of the flock
- B. Absorbed with entertainment, the sound of the flute, **v. 5** all forms of sensual pleasure.
- C. Drink wine, anoint themselves with fine oils, **v. 6**  
-- yet not grieved over the ruin of Joseph