

AMOS - SIN BRINGS JUDGMENT

Title: The Carrot or the Stick?

What's it Going to Be?

What do you respond better too?

I. THE CARROT: Amos Highlights the Goodness of God

A. Seen in His love.

1. He has elected, chosen, Israel to be His special people.
 - a. As a Father knows His Family. (3:2)
You are My people. I am your God.
You had my Word, Witness, Worship, & Presence
2. Proof of His faithfulness.
 - a. Delivered them from the Amorites. (2:9)
 - b. Delivered them from the Egyptians. (2:10)
 - c. Supplied their needs in the wilderness: (2:10)
 - d. Gave them the Promised land for possession. (2:10)
 - e. Supplied their spiritual needs. (2:11)

B. Seen in His Compassion.

1. He judged those who took advantage of the weak.
 - a. Other nations against Israel. (1:3, 9, 11)
 - b. Other nations against themselves. (1:6-8, esp vs 8)
 - c. Jews who Oppress other Jews. (2:6-8; 5:12)
2. God's Compassion extends to everyone.
3. God's earnest desire is that they may have life. (5:14)

C. Seen in His Longsuffering:

1. 3 transgressions & for 4 is an example. (1:3)
2. Does not mean 3 sins is Ok & 4 is not.
 - a. Like God has been longsuffering to us: (II Pet 3:9)
3. Israel is chastised so they might repent. (4:6-11)
 - a. Famine. (4:6) "*want of bread*"
 - b. Drought. (4:7-8)

c. Blight & Pestilence. (4:9)

4.) Disease and war. (4:10)

5.) Miracle Catastrophe. "Acts of God" (4:11)

D. Twice God yielded to Amos's intercession. (7:1-6)

1. God made Grasshoppers & Fire to destroy the Crops.
2. Amos Asked God to Forgive.
3. Twice the Lord Repented~ Repent ~ To Turn away from
~God Turned from His intended Wrath. (7:3, 6)

E. Amos shows them that God has loved them and taken care of them in spite of their unfaithfulness. (1 Thes 5:18)

II. THE STICK - The Causes for the Judgment of God

A. Amos outlines the Sins of the people.

B. They have Sinned against their fellowmen

1. The needy, The helpless, The humble, The innocent.

C. Five different kinds of crime.

1. Oppression. (4:1)
 - b. Tread upon the poor. (5:11)
2. Swindled:
 - a. Took others clothes as Collateral. (2:8)
 - b. Falsify the balances. (8:5) Cheated the System
3. Perversion of Justice.
 - a. Tum aside the meek. (2:7) Can't defend themselves
 - b. They take bribes. (5:12)
4. Slavery.
 - a. Sold the righteous. (2:6)
 - b. Buy the Poor. (8:6) (For Pennies)
5. Violence & Robbery: (3:10)

E. Motivation for Their Crimes.

1. Selfishness, Covetousness, Cruelty, Compassionless
2. Rebellion - Disobedience to God's law.

F. Sins of Ritual Worship. (Institutional-Religion)

1. God hates their Festivals or Religious Events. (5:21)
2. He will not accept their offerings. (5:22)
3. He refuses to listen to their music. (5:23)
4. More offerings & sacrifices only add to their sin (4:4-5)

G. God's attitude was one of COMPLETE rejection.

1. Connection between Worship & Righteousness
2. They attempted to appease God w/ Religious Displays.
3. Israel, the people, Self confident & Arrogant. (4:5)
4. The Worship they offered did not meet God's standards.
 - a. Cos-Play Church. or Dress up Church. (6:5-6)
 - b. Prostitution. (2:7) - Rainbow Church
 - c. Outright Idolatry. (8:14) (The Golden Calf's)

III. This is Why Judgment is the Central Theme

A. This is the inevitable RESULT of Israel's sin.

B. God Will Judge.

1. God threatens judgment at least 40 times in Amos.
2. God carries out His programs Personally, (8:9-10)

C. Judgment is total in its extent.

1. Affects all levels of society. (6:11)
2. Wide area of land. (Ch 6:14)
3. No escape from it. (2:14-15)
 - a. God will Slay. (9:1-4), esp vs 1
4. Help is non-existent. (5:2)
5. Devastation will be permanent. (8:14)

D. Judgment is imminent.

1. Israel is Ripe for judgment. Like Ripe fruit. (8:1-2)
2. God States Clearly His Intentions.

E. Areas in which God's judgments affect.

- I. God Judges The Land.
 - a. Vegetation destroyed by drought. (7:4)

- b. Vegetation destroyed by Grasshoppers. (7:1-2)
- c. Strongholds - Palaces. (3:11)
- d. Houses. (3:15)
- e. Vineyards. (5:11)
- f. Earthquakes. Remembered 200 yrs (8:8)(Zech 14:5)

2. God Judges The People.

- a. Suffer Death. (3:8)
 - 1.) Suffer from death by the sword. (7:9, 11; 9:10)
 - 2.) Suffer from death by the plague. (6:10)
 - 3.) They mourn because of death. (5:16)
- b. Suffer Exile.
 - 1.) People in general. (4:2; 6:8, 7:11, 17)
 - 2.) Nobles. (6:7)
 - 3.) Amaziah the priest (7:17), refer vs 14

3. God Judges their False Forms of worship.

- a. All ritual ceases. (8:3)
- b. Ritual centers destroyed.
 - 1.) Bethel. (3:14; 5:5; 7:9)
 - 2.) Gilgal. (5:5)
- c. All the worshippers die. (8:14; 9:1-4)
- d. Famine of the Word of God: (8:11-12)
 - 1.) Hearing. (8:11)
 - 2.) Seeking. (8:12)

God did not hide this from Israel, But Warned them.

(Deut 28:1-14) Blessing

(Deut 28:15-37) Cursing

God warned them WHY he would do it:

(Deut 28:45-48) Why Judgment Comes

(Deut 29:22-29) What Benefit Judgment will Be.

God did not hide this from Us, But Warned Us:

(Gal 6:7-9)(Prov 6:27-28)

God's Promise to Israel was that they Could THRIVE!

(Deut 29:9)

God's Promise is that we Can THRIVE!

(Gal 6:8b-9)(Rom 12:18-21)

The CARROT or the STICK.

The Choice is OURS.

EITHER way, we are a testimony to the next Generation.