

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 Dec 2012.....Hosea 1:1-3:5..... Exposing a Broken Relationship
- 2) 09 Dec.....Hosea 4:1-7:16..... Rebuking Destructive Behavior
- 3) 16 Dec.....Hosea 8:1-10:15.....Deciding on Discipline
- 4) 23 Dec.....Matthew 1:18-2:18..... Seeking the Savior
- 5) 30 Dec.....Hosea 11:1-12:14..... Remembering Compassion
- 6) 06 Jan 2013.....Hosea 13:1-14:9..... Restoring the Repentant
- 7) 13 Jan.....Amos 1:1-4:13..... Unseal the Indictment
- 8) 20 Jan.....Gen 1; Ex 1, Ps 139; Mk 10..... Value of Human Life
- 9) 27 Jan.....Amos 5:1-6:14.....**Court is in Session**
- 10) 03 Feb.....Amos 7:1-17..... Can I Get a Witness
- 11) 10 Feb.....Amos 8:1-9:15..... Let the Verdict be Read
- 12) 17 Feb.....Jonah 1:1-2:10.....Pursuing Those Called to Tell
- 13) 24 Feb.....Jonah 3:1-4:11.....Pursuing Those Who Need to Hear

INTRODUCTION

- The question of ‘Why would God punish Israel so severely for their sins?’ is not nearly as significant as “Why did God wait so long to punish Israel?”

Passage	Comments
Amos 5:1-13	<p><b>God’s Simple Solution for Israel – “Seek Me &amp; Live”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v3. Taken literally, the Israelites would experience a 90% casualty rate – for soldiers and families</li> <li>• v4. God’s Remedy: “Seek Me and Live” – Why would Israel prefer death to life?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Unfortunately, those who end up in Hell prefer to be there than spend 1 minute with a holy God</li> <li>♦ Jesus said in John 5:40 that the wicked “are unwilling to come” to Him so that they may live</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v6. Again, God repeats the message “Seek the Lord that you may live” or else destruction</li> <li>• v7. God’s key attributes: <b>Justice and Righteousness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Psalms 89:14</b> “<i>Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne</i>”</li> <li>♦ <b>Jeremiah 9:24</b> “I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, <b>justice and righteousness</b> on earth; for I delight in these things”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v10. The wicked abhors those who have integrity and who contend with the wicked..... Prov 28:4</li> <li>• v11-12. The rich are wicked when they rob the poor and pervert justice – there end is annihilation                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Can someone be Rich and Righteous? YES – BUT they are rare like Job</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>v13. Principle to Live By</b> – Know when to speak, when to shut up, when to be bold, and when to flee: “The wise man keeps silent during evil times” (teaching fools is a losing battle, so when they rule, hide/prepare)                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Pr 22:3. <i>The prudent sees the evil and hides (or prepares) himself</i></li> <li>♦ Pr 28:28 <i>When the wicked rise, [good] men hide; But when the wicked perish, the righteous increase</i></li> <li>♦ Mt 10:23 <i>“But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next”</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Low Key Approach Promotes God’s Kingdom Better than having a High Profile</b>	<p>Yes, we are to contend with the wicked, and defend the weak. Yes, we are to be bold in our witness – BUT we are not commanded to be flamboyant about it.</p> <p>A low key approach is often times the wiser approach. Jesus came to us as a poor baby in a manger with little fanfare. Even His miracles and resurrection were low-key as He minimized exposure to the high &amp; mighty Herod, Pontius Pilate, Priests, Pharisees, &amp; Sadducees</p> <p>Also, being confrontational doesn’t work when wicked fools rule (Prov 29:9), – So the wise abide their time</p>

Passage	Comments
5:14-27	<p><b>Judgment’s Timetable May Prevent Repentance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv14-15. Seek good and not evil – Hate evil, love good, and “<i>PERHAPS God will be gracious to the remnant</i>”                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ We must realize God has a timetable for judgment</li> <li>♦ If we don’t avail ourselves of His mercies early when they are plentiful, all bets are off as time progresses</li> <li>♦ God eventually has to shut the door..... Mt 25:10</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv18-20. “<b>The Day of the Lord</b>” to the Jew meant any time the Lord opted to visit man with judgment; To us modern Christians it signifies the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ</li> <li>• vv21-23. God HATES false worship from the rich and from the poor. God doesn’t need to have our money or need to hear our singing; He wants to see our HEARTS</li> <li>• v24. God emphasizes Justice &amp; Righteousness again</li> <li>• vv25-26. God brings up the past that Israel had been unfaithful from Day 1 of their marriage covenant</li> <li>• v27. THEREFORE, the only remedy left to try is exile</li> </ul>
6:1-7	<p><b>The Rich May Have it Easy, But it Comes at a Cost</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having money does not provide security                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Prov 11:4 <i>Riches do not profit in the day of wrath</i></li> <li>♦ Prov 18:11 <i>A rich man’s wealth is his strong city, And like a high wall in his own imagination</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• It is rare for the rich and the poor to be on good terms                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Job 12:5 <i>He who is at ease holds calamity in contempt (i.e., the rich look down on the poor)</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• v7. A special punishment awaits the wealthy wicked – they will be at the head of the exile line for all to see</li> </ul>
6:8-14	<p><b>Justice is Turned into Poison</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v8. God “loathes” Israel’s Pride. If you think about it all sin is due to pride. “I don’t need God – I can manage”</li> <li>• v9. Again, God emphasizes 90% casualty rate</li> <li>• v10. “<i>Keep quiet. For the name of the Lord is not to be mentioned</i>” (Interpretations abound for this phrase)                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Don’t bring God’s holy name in this desecrated place</li> <li>2. Don’t entice God to bring more calamity on us</li> <li>3. What more can God do to us – His name is bad luck</li> <li>4. An unholy people should not invoke God’s holy name</li> </ol> </li> <li>• vv12-14. “<i>You have turned justice into poison</i>”                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Prov 17:23 <i>The wicked accepts a bribe in secret to pervert the ways of justice</i></li> <li>♦ The only way to correct this is to remove the wicked from power, and God did it through exile</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Thank God for His enduring patience with us sinners. But we must realize God’s patience doesn’t last forever. God’s people always need to discern how to contend with wickedness in society, and even know when it is time to flee

NEXT WEEK: **Amos 7.** God told Amos that time was up and “I will spare (Israel) no more.” Can we tell if we are nearing the end of God’s patience with us in our day and age, individually, nationally, globally?

