

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 Sept 2022.....	Amos 01-02.....	Listen to God
2) 11-Sept.....	Amos 03-04.....	Turn to God
3) 18 Sept.....	Amos 05-07.....	Seek God
4) 25 Sept.....	Amos 08-09.....	Hope in God
5) 02 Oct.....	Jonah 01-02.....	No Escape
6) 09 Oct.....	Jonah 03-04.....	No Compassion
7) 16 Oct.....	Hosea 01-03.....	The Unfaithful Bride
8) 23 Oct.....	Hosea 04-07.....	The Hollow Promises
9) 30 Oct.....	Hosea 08-12.....	The Sin Harvested
10) 06 Nov.....	Hosea 13-14.....	The Restoration Promised
11) 13 Nov.....	Micah 01-03.....	Leaders Needed
12) 20 Nov.....	Micah 04-06.....	Humble Beginnings
13) 27 Nov.....	Micah 07.....	Hope Found

INTRODUCTION

- **Amos, Jonah, Hosea, and Micah** were the last prophets to warn the Northern Kingdom to repent before they were overthrown by the Assyrians ~ 712 BC, while **Jonah** preached to Gentiles in Iraq
 - ♦ **Amos** tried to motivate Israel to repent by stating that her sins were worse than the combined sins of all surrounding nations
 - ♦ **Jonah's** ministry was to win the lost in a foreign land, who happened to be Israel's worst enemy – the unbelieving Arabs
 - ♦ **Hosea** is best known for marrying an unfaithful woman, Gomer, to emulate the rocky relationship between God and Israel
 - ♦ **Micah.** Micah declares God's charges against his people (3:8). He indicts Samaria and Jerusalem for their sins (1:2-7). Both Assyria (5:5-6) & Babylon (4:10) stand ready to carry out God's judgment
- War is inevitable in a fallen world; Cities can be leveled, innocent civilians often die, and war orphans face a bleak future.
- However, God warns nations about endorsing war atrocities such as cruelty and brutality to captives, rampant injustice and immorality, national slavery, and destruction of family structure.
- **Typical War Atrocities:** Genocide, rape, torture, execution of POWs and non-combatants, enslavement
- Amos was from the southern kingdom of Judah, but he prophesied to the northern kingdom of Israel just prior to Hosea's ministry.
- In this lesson Amos shows that war atrocities invoke God-inflicted consequences on a national scale, which are still applicable today

Passage	Comments
Amos 1:1-15	<p>War Atrocities of Surrounding Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. Amos prophesied 2 yrs before a major earthquake <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Archeologists found evidence of a major earthquake dated to 760 B.C., which lines up with Amos • vv3-5. Damascus War Atrocities – They were brutal to the people of Gilead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Their punishment: Destruction by another army • vv.6-8. Gaza War Atrocities – They deported an entire population to another country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Their punishment: They will cease to exist • vv9-10. Tyre War Atrocities – They sold an entire population to another country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Their punishment: Fire will destroy their defenses • vv11-12. Edom War Atrocities – They were unmerciful, uncompassionate, and unrelenting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Their punishment: Fire will destroy their major cities • vv13-15. Ammon War Atrocities – They ripped open pregnant women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Their punishment: They will be conquered & exiled
	<p>War Atrocities by Others and by God's People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-3. Moab War Atrocities – They desecrated a foreign leader (similar to dragging a soldier's body through the street, or spitting/urinating on the dead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Their punishment: They will be ravished by war.

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv4-5. Judah's War Crimes. They rejected God's laws ("...<i>their lies have led them astray</i>") HOW? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Their punishment: They lost their defenses (same as Tyre for selling a nation into slavery)..... WHY? • vv6-16. Israel's (Northern Kingdom) War Crimes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ vv6-8. They perverted justice & promoted immorality ♦ Their penalty: A stronger nation will conquer them
Recent War Atrocities Attributed to Russia in Ukraine	<p>Ukraine' prosecutor general is currently investigating 5,800 cases of alleged Russian war crimes with "more and more" proceedings opening every day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discriminate killings of civilians fleeing the violence • Victims found with their hands tied behind their backs • An attack on a maternity hospital • Attack on a theater turned shelter bombed • Attacks on a train station and on a shopping mall <p>Source: https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/14/europe/ukraine-russia-atrocities-eyewitness-intl-cmd/index.html</p> <p>Russia denies allegations of war crimes. If found guilty in a world tribunal what would be required in payment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Financial recompence? ♦ Prison or execution of perpetrators? <p>What would God require for recompence from Russia (if truly guilty) and when would God's penalty be levied?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Russia's demise or at least economic ruin? ♦ Russian government & military leaders judged, imprisoned, or executed?
2:9-12	<p>Israel Failed to Acknowledge God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v9. It was God who went before them to conquer the Promised Land • v10. It was God who got them out of bondage in Egypt • v11. It was God who gave them good spiritual leaders • v12. But Israel failed to follow. They instead forced their evil ways onto the righteous (much like how military chaplains are being forced to perform gay marriages)

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Would the following be declared war atrocities, or would they be conditional on other factors (i.e., cruelty by the oppressors)?
 - Widespread bombing campaigns to force unconditional surrender
 - Scourged earth campaigns to shorten horrific wars?
 - Use of Napalm, Chemical, Biological, or Nuclear weapons?
- Consider God's directed genocide for atrocious sins, including showing no mercy, making no treaty, no exceptions, no compromise, and take no prisoners of war.....**Deut 7:2**
 - Noahic Flood (due to extreme wickedness) **Genesis 6-8**
 - Command to Jews to ethnic-cleanse the Promise Land due to extreme wickedness – including child sacrifice**Deut 7:1-6**
 - Slay the Amalekites for Antisemitism **1Sam 15:2-3**
 - Future annihilation of ungodly world inhabitants by fire .**2Pet 3:7-10**
 - And God shows no mercy to wicked orphans & widows**Is 9:17**
- **But Why Such Harshness?** The wicked will turn the righteous away from God to worship other gods, then God will have to destroy them.
 - ♦ The only cure for unrepentant behavior is annihilation
- **NEXT WEEK: Amos 3-4.** Amos shows that intentional war atrocities invoke God-inflicted consequences on a national scale.

