

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

- America paid a hefty price in its Civil War for sanctioning and profiting from slavery in its early years of existence. Repercussions are still being felt generations later.
- Yet, America reaped prosperity for several post WW-II generations following its noble efforts to fight tyranny on a global scale
- In this lesson Amos shows that war atrocities invoke God-inflicted consequences on a national scale, which are still applicable today
- Amos was from the southern kingdom of Judah, but he prophesied to the northern kingdom of Israel just prior to Hosea's ministry
- Recall God's dealings with Israel.** God wanted to bless His people immensely if they simply, humbly, and willingly obeyed His commands; but they preferred to chase after their lusts & false gods. So God had to ratchet up His discipline of His people:
 - God initially forewarned His people that He would punish them 7x for their disobedience [Lev 26:18,21,24,28](#)
 - He stopped blessing His people for their sins..... [Jer 5:25](#)
 - He eventually allowed them to reap what they sowed..... [Jer 25:14](#)
 - He sent economic & environmental challenges..... [Is 29:6](#)
 - He sent foreign armies to harass them..... [2Ki 21:14](#)
 - He sent plagues to try and turn their hearts..... [Lev 26:16](#)
 - He allowed them to be conquered by evil nations [Hab 1:13](#)
 - When King Manasseh "caused Israel to sin" atrociously with rampant child sacrifices and even allowing male cult prostitutes in His Temple, then God said, "I will no longer forgive"..... [2Ki 24:3-4](#)
 - Only when God slew His people would some seek Him..... [Ps 78:34](#)

Passage	Comments
3:1-9	<p>Charges Against God's Wayward People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v1. God speaks AGAINST His own people..... WHY? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should we ever speak against our loved ones? Consider this: We should speak to our children of pending consequences for bad behavior What happens to a rebellious child when they become an adult? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In our modern society, rebellious souls seem to have more rights than their victims or the police Pr 28:28. When the wicked rise, the righteous hide vv3-6a. Cause & Effect statements to make a point that God cannot lead them if they do not choose to follow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Even God cannot lead stubborn cows Hos 4:16 v6b. "If a calamity occurs in a city has not the Lord done it?" From tornados to school shootings, Scripture is clear God allows such events to fulfill His will, but such horrendous events are not His intentcf Jer 7:31 vv7-9. God's word will prevail. God always seems to have prepared saints ready to proclaim His truth

Passage	Comments
3:10-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v10. "[The wicked] do not know how to do what is right" vv11-12. "THEREFORE..." God's saints should be prepared for disaster to affect their livelihood, even to affect our ability to worship (consider recent Covid impacts), and, worst still, affect the weakest members in society vv13-15. Fortunately, God does intend to justify the righteous, to right the wrongs done to His people, and to bring judgment on the oppressors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> So, better days are coming, but not yet
4:1-13	<p>Prepare to Meet Thy God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv1-3. Girls Gone Wild. "Cows of Bashan" was a derogatory description of possibly a band of rich women who oppressed the poor & made demands on their husbands to keep them in their lavish lifestyle. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why would this warrant punishment with hooks? Consider this. We don't know the whole story, but God has His limits with the wicked, be they men or women, who oppress the poor Prov 22:22-23 vv4-5. The rich elite went to church & paid their tithes, and they loved to do so – even while oppressing the poor. How should we challenge such behavior? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider what Paul told Timothy 1Tim 6:17-18 vv6-12. God brought national catastrophes to entice His people to repent from their sins and return to Him <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v6. Empty store shelves in the cities v7. Drought conditions in certain parts of the country vv7-8. Rain & Flooding in other parts of the country v9. Heat waves and crop devastations by insects v10. Pandemics, pollution, and wars v11. Total upheaval and still no repentance v13. But God is still on His Throne

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- America's military, with rare exceptions, have been exemplary when it comes to showing mercy on the battlefield and in post-war rebuilding efforts for war-torn nations from Panama to Vietnam. May God bless America, Israel, and other nations who take steps to prevent war atrocities with future peace and prosperity
- Yet, may we as a nation consider the floods, fires, earthquakes, heat waves, crop failures, pestilence (Covid), wars, and 40+ school shootings in the past 20 years as God's way to wake us up from our slide into immorality and materialism, & repent before things get worse
- Note:** The only things we have not endured yet in our generation are a major pandemic (scratch that one off the list with COVID) and a major invasion and conquest

NEXT WEEK: Amos 5-7. 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 – till they 'turned justice into poison'?" Finally, God told Amos that time was up and "I will spare (Israel) no more." Can we tell if we are hearing the end of God's patience with us in our day and age, individually, nationally, globally?

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