

COMPLACENCY IS DEADLY

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Amos

- first of the latter or writing prophets
- lived among shepherds on the hills of Tekoa
- older contemporary of Hosea and Isaiah
- prophesied 8th BC during the reign of Jeroboam II

Amos 6

He declared judgement against inconsistency of word and action.

Amaziah [7:10] complained to the King: "Amos is raising up a conspiracy against you.... The land cannot bear his words....". Like the cant of governments through fear of the virus, which is paralysing activity everywhere.

A compromised church has been strangely silent

Amaziah claimed [7:11] "Amos is saying: Jeroboam will die by the sword...."

Israel will go into exile...."

Here is the touchstone, by which justice can be determined.

Though Israel was 'the apple of God's eye', God judges his unfaithful people, when they disobey and break his covenant.

Chapter 5 calls for repentance; the gracious key to forgiveness and grace.

The call is supported by fearful anticipation of 'The Day of the Lord'.

1 Beware of Complacency [v1-3]

You who live in Zion feel safe.

You, who are in Samaria, consider that place, just as secure.

You princes and elders consider yourselves indispensable.

From earliest times there have been great fortified cities.

v2 Remember Kalneh built by Nimrod. Where is it now?

The great Syrian city of Hamath was destroyed by Sennacherib.

Gath over on the sea coast in Philistia was wiped out by Hazael [2 Kings 12:17]

Great powers perished trying to live in God's world without reference to God

God's judgement is only held back to allow for repentance.

Where there is no repentance, the days "bring near a reign of terror." v 3

2 Consider your Lifestyle [v5-6]

v 4 "You lie on beds adorned with ivory and lounge on your couches."

Lesser beings sleep on wooden beds, and the poor sleep on the ground.

v 5 "You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves."

"You strum on harps like David and improvise on musical instruments."

Israel's complacency was evident in extravagant comfort...: thoughtless

gluttony...and bold pleasure-seeking. No thankfulness!

v 6 No 'social drink' in Zion. "You drink wine by the bowlful..."

"you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph..."

Israel was defeated because it did not acknowledge, that their sin refuted the godliness of saints like their ancestor Joseph.

3 Face Judgement [v7-14]

v 7 "You will be among the first to go into exile: your feasting and lounging will end: The Lord Abhors the Pride of Israel..."

v 8 "The Sovereign Lord has sworn by himself....". All, that outward membership

of Jacob's heritage meant --- Temple, sacrifice, Law...will be lost.

v 9 "If ten people are left in one house, they too will die." Those who escape the

sword will perish some other way...famine, plague, or some other thing.

Can houses without families and a city devoid of worshippers honour the Lord?

A bold and living church in this generation should be saying to those who have

brought judgement in universal illness....'Repent and run to Jesus for salvation'.

v 10 " We must not mention the name of the Lord." How can the people of the

Lord not mention the Name of the Lord? They might as well be dead.

v11 Houses great and small will be deserted and destroyed.

v 12 Israel's turning " justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into

bitterness," is like horses trying to gallop on rocks, or oxen ploughing the sea.

Past conquests are no guarantee of future salvation. v 13-14.

Sin comes in as many forms , but nothing invites God's condemnation more, than the complacency of the blessed, when they fail to acknowledge the King.

Fear of people [or so-called 'pandemics']; a culture of worldly success ... and achievement are no substitute for godly quietness.

v 1 "Woe to you who are complacent..."

v 7 You will be among the first to go into exile..."