

**Jesus in Amos**  
**Book of Amos**  
**15084-D October 25, 2105**

- I. **Matt. 15:1-9. Jesus was scandalously un-religious by Jewish standards.**
- A. He relates to God as a Son and bypasses the Jewish interpretation/traditions.
    - A.1. The Jews related to the *traditions*, thinking that they produced something meritorious before God.
  - B. He explains that the problem in humanity is in the heart, not external micro-ethics.18 (Matt.23)
    - B.1. He is looking for hearts, not traditions and ceremonies
  - C. He quotes Isa.29:13. Because people haven't changed in 700 years...
    - C.1. The background for much of Isaiah is found in Amos.
- II. **The prophet Amos spoke almost exactly the same thing to his generation.**
- A. **The Times:** some 200 years after the civil war, 8<sup>th</sup> century BC
    - A.1. An era of comfortable idolatry.
      - A.1.a) Religious Pluralism in Israel: Jeroboam cult in full swing.
        - (A.1.a.1) A pluralistic religion combining Baal/Calf worship with Judaism.
      - A.1.b) Biblical Apostasy in the Judah (more or less)
        - (A.1.b.1) Widespread idolatry and apostasy “confirmed” by apparent financial success.
    - A.2. An era of debauched prosperity.
      - A.2.a) Both in the north and south, there were stable economies and strong military support. While Assyria re-grouped up north.
      - A.2.b) Affluence, exploitation and profit motive were the most notable features of society which Amos observed and in which he worked. The rich were affluent enough to have several houses apiece, to go in for rather ostentatiously expensive furniture and not to deny themselves any bodily satisfaction. On the other hand the poor were really poor and were shamelessly exploited: they suffered from property rackets and personal covetousness ruled all: the men lived for their offices, the women lived for excitement, and the rulers lived for frivolity. J.A. Motyer, BST *The Message of Amos* (IVP, 1974) p.15

### III. The Message of Amos:

#### A. The problem: Apostasy, Injustice, Impending Judgment

- A.1. **The roar of a lion against the evil of humanity: 2**  
A.1.a) Ever heard a real lion really roar? Camping? That's the feeling. Suddenly wide awake!
- A.2. **Crimes against humanity. The surrounding nations 1:2-2:3**  
A.2.a) Primarily for war crimes and crimes against humanity.  
A.2.b) *People think that if they don't adopt God, they won't answer to him.*  
A.2.c) *All nations and all people will be judged by God according to his standard.*
- A.3. **Rejection of God's Word. Judah/Jerusalem: 2:4-5; 8:11-12**  
A.3.a) He judges Judah. "Their lies have led them astray..."  
A.3.b) *Not the rejection of God, but of his Word. He would be a mute God... how handy.*  
A.3.c) *They thought they were free from God's judgment because they had the temple—but they weren't listening to his Word*
- A.4. **Moral and ethical debauchery Israel/Samaria: 2:6-8**  
A.4.a) **Taking advantage of the weak and the poor. 6-7a:**  
(A.4.a.1) Radical oppression of those who can't defend themselves.  
(A.4.a.2) Even the women are indicted. 4:1-3  
(A.4.a.3) *Social Darwinism: the strong eating the weak economically and socially. Comes very naturally to all humans.*  
A.4.b) **Desacralizing sexuality. 7b**  
(A.4.b.1) Father and son using same concubine.  
(A.4.b.2) Sex is no big deal, just a bodily function, belongs entirely to humans to use as they wish—not so... Sex is sacred, belongs to God.  
A.4.c) **Turning worship into extortion. 8**  
(A.4.c.1) Deliberately foreclosing on the poor (garments taken in pledge)  
(A.4.c.2) Drinking wine extorted from people by "fines" in the temples (the Jeroboam temples)  
A.4.d) **Which amounts to a personal rejection of YHWH. 9-16**  
(A.4.d.1) Yet it was I who...  
(A.4.d.1.a) defeated the Amorites before you,  
(A.4.d.1.b) delivered you from the Egyptians  
(A.4.d.1.c) raised up ministers among you  
(A.4.d.2) But you repudiated the people I sent to represent me.
- A.5. **Judgment is inevitable: God will destroy Israel as a nation (Samaria). 8:1-3; 9:1-4**  
A.5.a) All these judgments point to a final judgment. Rev.19-20

**B. The WRONG solution: More Religion-as-Usual.**

- B.1. He rejects religion as a substitute for integrity. 5:21-25  
B.1.a) They were doing great productions of praise, but in personal life were unfair, mean, selfish, angry—no justice and no real goodness. 24  
B.1.b) *Final scene Godfather 1, Michael Corleone (Al Pacino) at church for a christening while his men are killing the other dons all over town.*
- B.2. He rejects religion as superstition to ensure success. 8:4-6  
B.2.a) *Why were these people at the temple at all? Because they thought they should keep God happy so he would bless their businesses.*  
B.2.b) *In fact they were frustrated with “church” because they wanted to get out and make money.*
- B.3. He insists on a changed heart: people that love him for who he is. 5:4-7  
B.3.a) Seek Me ... 5:4-7, 14-15  
B.3.b) Let the discipline bring you back to Me. 3:6  
B.3.c) *The mark of a changed heart is that when discipline happens they come to the Lord and don't run away from him.*
- B.4. *But it doesn't happen in that generation...The Law cannot change hearts!!!*

**C. The Coming Hope—a King who turns judgment into blessing: 9:8-15**

- C.1. God's discipline will not utterly destroy his people. 8  
C.1.a) Man's kingdom will fall, but ...  
C.1.b) Evil people will die under judgment, but...
- C.2. A Davidic King is coming. 11-12. (Isa.9:6-7)  
C.2.a) David's fallen dynasty will rise and bring with it a healed reality for the whole world.
- C.3. He will turn judgment into unimaginable blessing. 13-15  
C.3.a) Israel restored, the universe set right  
C.3.b) We live in the inaugurated kingdom, but look forward to this fulfillment. Rev.20-22

IV. *How can this King turn judgment into blessing? By bringing a new covenant, absorbing it and coming back from the dead. This is the gospel. You should become a Christian and walk in Grace. 2 Cor.5:21*