

## Amos

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Amos 6:1-7

Vs. 1

- "Woe to those who are at ease in Zion." Here the prophet again widens his target to include the Southern Kingdom of Judah and its capital of Jerusalem as well. People have always created a false sense of security in their minds to help them sleep at night. To the south, the Jews believed that Jerusalem was invincible because the Ark of the Covenant was there and that God resided in the Temple on Mt. Zion. Who could ever attack the place that to their minds was literally the city of God? And the people of the Northern Kingdom had the city of Samaria, perched there in the mountains, seemingly impregnable. Woe to the leaders of these two cities, the distinguished men of Judah and Israel.

Vs. 2

- This seems to be the reply of the distinguished men of Samaria who are in the crowd listening to Amos. Calneh was a city in northern Syria. Hamath was situated on the Orontes River and was said to be quite wealthy. So it seems the reply back to Amos is something of a boast: "Are we not better, stronger, and wealthier than these other so-called Great Cities? Is not our territory greater than these?"

Vs. 3

- This reads like the distinguished men of Samaria interrupted Amos with vs. 2, because here in vs. 3 Amos continues his thought from vs. 1. The people of both Jewish kingdoms think they are fully secure and above reproach. They have nothing to fear. They can eat, drink, and be merry without worrying about dying tomorrow at all. "Day of calamity? Nonsense!" And so Amos is telling them that by continuing as they are instead of the drunken bliss they have been living, they are in fact inviting violence.

## Vss. 4-7

- In this section Amos gives us a picture of how he sees the wealthy and powerful in Samaria and he sees those in Judah as no different.
- And too be clear, it is not their wealth per se he is preaching against, but it is in HOW they gained their wealth, by gaining complete control of the financial and legal systems, so that all the wealth is in the hands of a few families while the rest of the country is starving. Bribery, corruption, and outright theft are the means by which these people can afford to recline on beds made of pure ivory.
- While the rest of the people have little or nothing to eat, these people are eating lambs (which to a shepherd is outrageous – how do you eat your future flock?) and eat cattle that are stall-fed.
- While the rest of the nation look for scraps to survive day to day, these people spend their time amusing themselves with dumb songs of their own composition, thinking they are as gifted as David.
- They do not drink from cups or even goblets. No, these are not big enough. Rather, they drink wine from bowls, bowls that were supposed to be reserved for worship.
- And here's the rub: while they lounge around singing drunken melodies all day, they are ruining the whole nation and they have not grieved. This is so reminiscent of 1 Cor. 5:1-2 where the church is harboring a sin that not even the Gentiles will commit and they have not grieved. When God's people have a fatal cancer of sin in their midst and are unconcerned, not grieving over the sin, then they can no longer truly call themselves God's people.
- Thus, the judgement is coming. They will in fact lose everything and go into exile and the distinguished men of Zion and Samaria will be at the head of chain of slaves. The sprawler's banquets will be over.