

# Are You Seeking...



Text: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 NAS 1995; Words in Red: TLSB

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Today we are going to learn about ♦Amos, ♦his words of warning to Israel, and ♦how such things apply to the present circumstances of the USA.

1. **The LORD's Work through Amos:** To warn Israel and Judah that God would punish them for injustice and for idolatry, though a remnant would be saved.... // The Lord called the shepherd Amos to deliver a surprising and ominous [*threatening*] message for Judah and Israel.... // The kingdoms were prosperous when Amos preached, but his prophecies of destruction were rapidly fulfilled by the invading Assyrians, who besieged Samaria [*the capital of the northern kingdom*] within a few decades.
2. **Luther on Amos:** Amos... lived and preached in the days of Hosea and Isaiah. ...and... forewarns of the Assyrian captivity. He... denounces the people of Israel throughout almost the entire book... ...and [*being of the tribe of Judah in*

*the south*] preaches there as a foreigner. It is for this reason that they say the priest Amaziah, whom he rebukes in chapter 7 [read vv. 10–17], beat him to death with a club.

3. **Amos 5:1-5 Summary:** Even though many in Israel were living in prosperity then, like the USA today, Amos said, “Hear this word which I take up for you as a dirge [*lament*], O house of Israel: She has fallen, she will not rise again... For thus says the Lord God, ‘The city which goes forth a thousand *strong* Will have a hundred left, And the one which goes forth a hundred *strong* Will have ten left to the house of Israel’” (5:1-3). What does that mean? Though they had not yet died, *Amos was mourning the death of most of his hearers!* Now, **today’s OT reading...**
  
4. **Repent Now:** <sup>6</sup> “**Seek the LORD that you may live, Or He will break forth like a fire, O house of Joseph, And it will consume with none to quench it for Bethel** [*an important place of false worship*], [This is a second description of the unrepentant:] <sup>7</sup> **For those who turn justice** [*what is right*] **into wormwood** [*what is bitter*] **And cast righteousness down to the earth.**” // The LORD used Amos to put a choice before the people of the northern kingdom:  
➔repent now **or** ➔be consumed by the unquenchable fire of the LORD! What happened? Most did **not** repent and *fell to the Assyrians or were taken into exile.* What about the USA? *Now is the time for our nation to repent!* What does that mean?
  - a. **Compare** ➔the ways of our nation ➔with God’s word!
  - b. **Admit our sins:** ➔rejection of God’s word, ➔trust in self and money, ➔embracing evolution, ➔committing shameless immorality, ➔massive govt corruption,

✦provoking wars, ✦blatant lying, ✦heartless destruction of human life, ✦brainwashing of children, ✦silencing of Christians, ✦falsifying of science for evil gain, etc.

- c. **Recognize our helplessness!**
  - d. **Be filled with godly sorrow!**
  - e. **Cry out to God for mercy!**
5. **VV. 8-9**: They focus on the almighty power of the LORD who made ✦the stars, ✦day and night, and ✦hurricanes!
6. **The Unrepentant of Israel**: <sup>10</sup> **They hate him [a prophet of God] who reproves in the gate, And they abhor him who speaks *with integrity*. // Dr. Luther wrote: “Wickedness cannot bear sound doctrine” (AE 18:161).**
7. **Specific Rebukes**: <sup>11</sup> **Therefore [you, unrepentant ones,] because you impose heavy rent on the poor And exact a tribute of grain [that is, a gift of gratitude] from them, *Though you have built houses of well-hewn stone, Yet you will not live in them; You have planted pleasant vineyards, yet you will not drink their wine.* <sup>12</sup> **For I know your transgressions are many and your sins are great, *You who distress the righteous and accept bribes And turn aside the poor in the gate.* // Like the USA today, the politicians – *who live in extreme luxury because of their schemes and bribes* – will eventually be taken down by the LORD God Almighty, *just as He took down Israel long ago!*****
8. **Advice for the Repentant**: *Godly sorrow and trust in Jesus!*
- a. <sup>13</sup> **Therefore at such a time the prudent person [the wisely cautious person] keeps silent, for it is an evil time. // Unbridled wickedness forced the wise into resigned**

silence. Pressing for justice seemed futile and even dangerous. As we lose more and more of our freedom of speech in America, and we hear of more and more Christians being silenced and jailed,<sup>1</sup> we know we are living in an evil time.

- b. **14 Seek good and not evil, that you may live; And thus may the LORD God of hosts be with you, Just as you have said!** // Many of the people of Israel at the time of Amos were doing evil – *living in opposition to God’s word, yet they were claiming that God was with them.* Therefore, Amos called them to repent – *to turn from evil and do good*, so the LORD would indeed be with them. *Let us do the same!*
- c. **15 Hate evil, love good, And establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the LORD God of hosts May be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.**
  - i. Now the Words are Stronger: Don’t simply stop seeking evil **but hate evil!** Don’t simply seek good **but love God!**
  - ii. Radical Changes are Needed: Wherever the Holy Spirit is calling each of us to change, **let’s do it!**  
What about the USA, **LORD, HELP US!**

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Father, please expose all evil, fill many with godly sorrow, comfort many through Jesus’ saving work, and shower many with Your undeserved blessings!

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.newsweek.com/christians-arrested-preaching-gospel-wisconsin-video-lgbtq-pride-1816965>