

Amos Lesson 2 Articles

Amos told the northern kingdom of Israel that God was about to bring it to an end. He showed that Israel's outward displays of worship could not compensate for a lack of the compassion and humanity that the covenant with Moses demanded. Just because the Israelites had been chosen by God did not mean they could ignore the conditions of the covenant handed down to them by Moses.

Would God abandon His eternal covenant with His people? Amos responded with a decisive no! The Lord had always been full of compassion and mercy in His dealings with Israel, and past judgments were intended to bring the people back to their God. Although there would be no escape from complete destruction, Amos held out hope for a restoration of Israel in a new Davidic era. A righteous remnant would always exist to inherit the promises of the messianic kingdom.¹

GREAT SINS OFTEN ENTAIL GREAT SUFFERINGS UPON PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT THE ACTUAL OFFENDERS. "The fire," which is here the instrument of God's retribution to us sinners, would not only scathe the persons and consume the property of the *actual* offenders, but others. The fact is patent in all history and in all experience -- that men here suffer for the sins of others. We are so rooted together in the great field of life that if the tares are pulled up the wheat will be injured if not destroyed. The cry of men in all ages has been, "Our fathers have sinned, and we have borne their iniquities." Two facts may reconcile our consciences to this. 1. *This few, if any, suffer more than their consciences tell them they deserve.* 2. *That there is to come a period when the whole will appear to be in accord with the justice and goodness of God.*²

EXILE (5:27)

5:27 God had delivered the people out of their exile in the wilderness (those who did not commit idolatry) into the promised land. Now God was about to drive them back into exile. God's judgment word for Israel was "exile beyond Damascus." This word was for a people who were enthusiastic in their worship but misguided in their devotion. This word would be carried out by Yahweh, the God of hosts. No intermediate agent is named. The absence of justice and righteousness in Israel and the presence of idolatry there meant that the nation could not survive the judgment of God.³

¹ Cabal, T., Brand, C. O., Clendenen, E. R., Copan, P., Moreland, J. P., & Powell, D. (2007). *The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith* (pp. 1321–1322). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

² Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Ed.). (1909). *Amos* (p. 22). London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

³ Smith, B. K., & Page, F. S. (1995). *Amos, Obadiah, Jonah* (Vol. 19B, p. 116). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.