

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

June 2014

Amos

Lesson #3: The Dangers of Man-made Security

INTRODUCTION

What do you think would happen if the US economy folded like that of Greece? (i.e. US dollar is no longer the world trade standard)

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Amos 6:1 – 6:7

Note: Zion is another name for Jerusalem. Some say the New Testament version of this term is the church. Rom 9:33 Since "Israel" (vs 1) is made up of 12 tribes, Judah (the southern kingdom) is included in Amos' condemnation, not just the northern kingdom.

1. Calneh, Hamath and Gath are cities near the people of Israel that were prepared invasion. How does that compare to the Israelites?
2. How does security relate to complacency? Vs 1
3. How does Amos describe their decadent lifestyle? Vv 4-7
4. *Note: Ivory was popular in those days, coming from the tusk of Syrian elephants (now extinct). Feed lots provided specially bred animals to be fattened on barley. The term for wine bowl is one usually associated with cultic activity, implying that they were profaning sacred objects. Hosts at parties anointed the foreheads of guest with special oils (lotions), providing a glistening appearance and fragrant aroma. The "ruin of Joseph" (vs 6) is a reference the indifference to the spiritual condition of Israel.*
5. What happened to the people that had the most prosperity and privilege and yet abused it? Vs 7
6. Where should they have been looking for their security? Matt 6:33

Read Amos 6:8 – 6:14

Note: 10 men in one house represents more than a family. The bodies were probably burned because of a plague.

7. What has the Lord sworn to do?
8. Why is the Lord so against pride? Vs 8 Prov 16:18; 1 Pet 5:5; James 4:6
9. How could a nation be humble? Matt 23:12; Prov 14:34; Ps 33:12

APPLICATION

How does Israel compare to the US? Has your spiritual life taken a break? Has pride made you discount God's work in your life? How can you responsibly prepare for the future? What must you do to put your security in God?