

Amos 3

The cause of God's judgment on Israel

(The People's Bible, Hosea, Joel, Amos, pages 206-214)

Look

Verse 12 *"Two leg bones or a piece of an ear"*—If an animal were killed by a wild beast, the shepherd or the person who found it would bring it to the owner as proof that he did not steal it.

"The edge of their beds . . . in Damascus on their couches"—The meanings of the words translated "edge" and "Damascus" are uncertain. Amos may be saying that only a few remnants from the luxurious homes of the upper class in Samaria would be saved.

Discuss

1. Why would the Lord punish the house of Israel for its sins? (verses 1,2)
2. In verses 3-6, the prophet points out a list of causes and effects. Point out the cause and effect in each pair of lines. What will Israel soon see happening to it? What is the underlying cause?
3. What comfort does God give his people—the true believers, that is?
4. Whom does the Lord call as witnesses to his people's wickedness? Why do you think he uses these people as witnesses?
5. Verse 12 is very ironic. In what would Israel's salvation consist?
6. What is significant about the altar at Bethel? about Israel's large and richly decorated houses?

Apply

7. How does the principle Jesus expresses in Luke 12:47,48 apply to Christians?

The Lord continued to announce his judgment on Israel and Judah.