

Amos 5

Israel has not returned to the Lord

(The People's Bible, Hosea, Joel, Amos, pages 220-234)

Discuss

1. The fall of the Northern Kingdom is pictured figuratively in verse 2. What concrete details are given in verse 3?
2. What did seeking the Lord mean for Israel, besides worshiping in the place he designated? (See Isaiah 55:6,7.)
3. The Lord had made Israel for himself. Every Israelite was precious to him. Yet what were the rich and powerful doing to their fellow Israelites? (verses 7-13)
4. How were the people of Israel fooling themselves, according to verse 14?
5. The people of Israel longed for the day of the Lord, imagining it to be a day of blessing for them. What would the day of the Lord mean for them? (verses 18-20)
6. Assemblies and offerings were instituted by the Lord in the ceremonial law. Why does he “hate” and “despise” them? (See Isaiah 1:11 for similar statements.) What did the Lord want from the Israelites rather than their offerings? (verses 21-24)
7. What characterized Israel from the beginning of its existence as a nation? (verses 25-27)

Apply

8. What comfort is there for believers in the Lord in being able to say “the Lord is with us”?
9. Comment on this statement: “Worship is life, and life is worship.”

The Lord urged Israel to repent. But if it continued in its wickedness, Israel would be taken into exile far beyond Damascus.