

Amos 6

Woe to the complacent

(The People's Bible, Hosea, Joel, Amos, pages 234-241)

Look

- Verse 1 *"Zion"*—The Northern Kingdom and Judah are addressed in this chapter of woes.
- Verse 2 *"Calneh . . . Hamath . . . Gath"*—These were great and powerful cities of the day. Yet the Lord had made Israel greater than them. The point is that Israel was rejecting the Lord's blessings.
- Verse 3 *"Put off the evil day."* The leaders brushed off the words of the prophets and said they would never happen.
- Verse 10 *"We must not mention the name of the LORD."* In this chapter, we witness the time when the Lord had forsaken Zion. The terror of the Lord was so great that people didn't even want to mention his name.

Discuss

- Verses 1-7 picture the life of the wealthy Israelites in the last years of the Northern Kingdom. Why did Jesus say, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God"? (Luke 18:24).
- In what sense was "Joseph" (the Northern Kingdom, which included the tribes of Joseph's sons Ephraim and Manasseh) ruined? (verse 6)
- According to verses 8, 11, and 14, who is the cause of all the destruction Israel will experience at the hands of the Assyrians? What should this lead Israel to do?
- Verse 12 may be based on a proverb. In what way is Israel like the foolish farmer in the first half of this verse?
- Israel boasted of its victories under Jeroboam II (who did, in fact, usher in a time of prosperity for Israel). Yet what would the Lord do to Israel and Judah?

Apply

- Do we as a church point with pride at impressive buildings while failing to show love to fellow believers who need our help? Do we congratulate ourselves over the success of an ecclesiastical program without caring how it serves God's will to save all people?

The Lord continued to warn Judah and Israel of his wrath and impending judgment. Repent!