

AMOS chapters 3-6 = Three Major Sermons to Legitimate Amos' message

Sermon #1 -- The _____ were abusing the _____ (3:1-4:3)

1. Israel was sharply divided into 2 _____ groups:

The Wealthy Upper class

- * They lived in luxury palace-fortresses (3:9-12; 4:1-2; 5:11)
- * They had summer and winter homes (3:15)
- * Their houses were made of expensive cut stone (5:11, 6:11)
- * They had exotic furniture (3:15)
- * They enjoyed opulent feasts (6:4-6)
- * Some were dominated by powerful women (4:1)
- * Wealthy unscrupulous merchants controlled the markets (8:4-6)

The Poor Lower class

- * They were oppressed and crushed (4:1)
- * They were controlled through violence (3:9-10)
- * They were crushed under heavy rents and taxes (5:1-6:14)
- * Some were poor, subsistence farmers (5:11; 8:4-6)

Summary: The wealthy had misinterpreted God's _____ and decided it was a guarantee of divine protection and blessing disconnected from following covenant behavior.

Sermon #2 -- The _____ _____ was Unacceptable (4:4-5:17)

1. A sarcastic Call to _____ (4:4-5)

2. Their _____ did not belong to God (4:8-11; 5:4-7)

- * God had been disciplining them, but they did not listen (4:6-11)
- * They were spiritually dead (5:1-17)
- * They said, "God is with us!", and they assumed that meant blessings (5:14)
- * Amos warned them of the coming judgment (4:12-13)

Summary: The people assumed that since they were "God's _____" He would be with them and bless them, no matter how they lived

Sermon #3 -- The _____ of _____ (5:18-6:14)

1. False Hope (5:18-27) and False Security (6:1-14)

- * They thought the "Day of the Lord" was for them (5:18-20)
- * They trusted in their wealth (6:1-7)

- * They trusted in the military (6:8-14)
- * In their pride, they ignored the nation's social chaos (6:6-8)

2. The "Day of the Lord" would be a day of judgment on the people of God (5:18-20)

Summary: God's _____ were not automatically guaranteed to those who knew the correct theological traditions. Rather, God's blessings were reserved for people who feared His words (3:7-8), returned to Him with all their heart (4:6-11), worshipped Him (4:4-5, 12; 5:4-6), acted justly (5:14-15), grieved over those less fortunate (6:6), and rejected attitudes of pride and self-sufficiency (6:8-14).

Application for us:

"In God We Trust" is a false motto if we do not live in trust of our God.

- * How do we view God's gracious "Election" or "choosing" of us?
- * Since we are God's "Chosen", does it matter how we live?
- * Do we value "correct theological tradition" over "worshipping Him with all of our heart"?