

## THE DARK DAY OF THE LORD AMOS 6:16-27

**Objective:** To firmly implant the reality of God's Judgment upon his people.

### Introduction

1. There is a great day coming.
2. There is a day of division coming.
3. There is a day of rejoicing and of weeping and wailing.
4. Prophesying to the Northern Kingdom of Israel, Amos said "*prepare to meet thy God, O Israel...*" (Amos 4:12).
5. He promised a dark day of judgment against those who seemed devout but were not.
6. We should learn from Amos' warnings.

### Discussion

#### **Amos prophesied that...**

##### **I. The Day of the Lord will be Darkness for many.**

- A. There were scoffers even in the days of Amos.
  1. They refused to hear his plea and rejected his counsel (Amos 7:10-13).
  2. Likewise, there were scoffers in the early days of the church. (2 Peter 3:3).
- B. Some made a pretense of calling for the Day of the Lord but did not really believe he would come.
  1. Perhaps our generation has the same problem: A voice of commitment with a heart of unbelief.
    - a. Jesus demanded belief from those who would follow him. "*...he marveled because of their unbelief...*" (Mark 6:6).
    - b. Paul declares that Israel was cast away because of unbelief (Romans 11:20)

2. Much like a school bully who huffs and puffs only to flee when someone stands up to him.
3. Amos, in clear language declares that the Day of the Lord is coming.
  - a. "Day of the Lord" occurs 25 times in KJV, 14 in the minor prophets alone.
    - i. every time it is a judgement
    - ii. it is different from any other occasion of God's presence.
  - b. Descriptions:
    - i. against the proud and his accomplishments (Isaiah 2:10-20)
    - ii. against all sinners and the heathen (Isaiah 13:6-9 and Obadiah 15)
    - iii. a day of vengeance (Jeremiah 46:10)
    - iv. a day of fear (Joel 2:1,2)
    - v. a secret, unexpected day (1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10)
    - vi. a great conclusion in Zephaniah 1:14-18
  - c. Amos uses language somewhat different from us.
    - i. talks of fleeing from a lion only to run into a bear or seeking safety in a house only to be bitten by a snake.
    - ii. we would say "jumping from the frying pan into the fire."
  - d. Will come quickly, unexpectedly and will not be pleasant.

## II. Even those with an appearance of righteousness will be lost.

- A. Perhaps most frightening is the condemnation upon those that appear Godly.
1. Amos 5:21-23 indicts those who worship in a vain manner.
    - a. Matthew 15:9: “...but in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men...”
    - b. 1 Timothy 1:6, speaking of the pure faith, Paul said some had left that faith and turned aside to “vain jangling” or foolish talking.
    - c. We would say that vain worship is when we “go through the motions.
  2. Others may be guilty of “will worship” or self-centered worship.
    - a. ILLUS: A woman once defended the use of mechanical instruments of music on the grounds that it sounded so good ***to her!***
      - i. Will worship occurs when we replace our will with that of Jehovah.
      - ii. Will worship occurs when we decide that we will change the worship to better suit our perceived needs.
    - b. Genesis 4 we find Cain making an offering not acceptable to God.
      - i. worship was appointed by God and certainly not left to man.
      - ii. Hebrews 11:4 – “*By faith Able offered unto God and more excellent sacrifice than Cain...*”
    - c. Paul makes clear that will worship is for show only and is not pleasing to God (Colossians 2:20-23)
- B. We should appreciate just how strongly God feels about improper worship.
1. “*I hate, I despise your feast days...*” (Amos 5:21)
    - a. Repetition here is significant...intensifies.
    - b. feast days were their holy days, the time when they would come to Jerusalem to worship.

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2. *"I will not smell in your solemn assemblies..."* (Amos 5:21)
  - a. May mean that he will reject the sweet odor of the incense and sacrifices offered to him.
  - b. Can also mean I can not stand your solemn assemblies.
  - c. Reminds us of what Jesus said to the Laodiceans in Revelation 3:16 *"...I will spew thee out of my mouth..."*
  
3. *"I will not accept them...neither will I regard the...offerings...I will not hear the melody..."* (Amos 5:22,23)
  - a. He will refuse to accept our worship
  - b. All that we do comes to naught

**III. Judgment and Righteousness will be the focus at that great day.  
(Amos 5:24)**

- A. Judgement because there must come an accounting.
  1. ILLUS: Food establishments are graded by the authorities for the safety and cleanliness of their food. Hospitals are graded on their safety and schools are rated on their effectiveness in educating students.
    - a. They all know ahead of time what the standard will be.
    - b. They know what the inspectors will be looking for.
    - c. They then prepare.
  
  2. Likewise, we also know what is coming.
    - a. Amos 4:12 ***"...prepare to meet thy God..."***
    - b. Revelation 20:11-15
  
- B. Righteousness because that is the kind of judgement we expect.
  1. Mankind cannot judge, in the sense that God judges, because:
    - a. He has no power to punish
    - b. No prerogative to reward
    - c. No perfect knowledge

Eschatology

2. God, on the other hand:
  - a. can punish (Revelation 6:17; 20:15)
  - b. will reward (Galatians 6:8; Revelation 21)
  - c. has perfect and righteous knowledge (2 Timothy 4:8)

Application