

The Sins of America
Amos 5:1-27

Comparison between the condition in ISRAEL (750 BC) and AMERICA (2009AD)

- I. The Point of No Recovery. Amos 5:1-6
 - A. 5:2. *“Virgin Israel”* - poetic designation of what Israel should have been before the Lord
 - B. *“Never to rise again”*
 - C. 5:3 Military destruction. (Deuteronomy 28:62) *“You who were as numerous as the stars in the sky will be left but few in number, because you did not obey the Lord your God.”*

 - D. **5:4-6, 14 “Turn back to me!”**
 1. BETHEL - site where Rehoboam established **golden calf** worship (1 Kings 12:28-29) *“After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.” One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan.”*
 2. GILGAL - idolatrous worship
 3. BEESHEBA - Amos 8:14

- II. The Indictment Against Israel. 5:7-15
 - A. **Pervert Justice. 5:7-9**
 1. Turn justice to bitterness - cast righteousness to the ground
 2. They KNEW what was right but ignored it
 3. They could not make a MOCKERY of God (Pleiades, Orion) (Galatians 6:7) *“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.”*

 - B. **Reject the Truth. 5:10**

 - C. **Mistreat the Poor. 5:11**
 1. Build stone mansions - at the expense of the poor
 2. Would not live in them

 - D. **Greed and selfishness. 5:12-13**

- III. The Verdict - Undisclosed judgment. 5:15-27
 - A. Reminder of God’s mercy. 5:15

B. 5:16-17. Disaster EVERYWHERE

C. Spiritual Deception. 5:18-23

1. They cried for God's coming judgment! But they were the guilty ones! 18
2. *Illus - when judgment comes, things will go from BAD to WORSE!*
5:19
3. God HATED their false worship! (Proverbs 15:8) *"The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him."*

(Proverbs 21:27) *"The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable— how much more so when brought with evil intent!"*

(Isaiah 1:11-16) *"The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?" says the Lord. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations— I cannot bear your evil assemblies. Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood; wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong,"*

(Jeremiah 7:21-23) *"This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Go ahead, add your burnt offerings to your other sacrifices and eat the meat yourselves! For when I brought your forefathers out of Egypt and spoke to them, I did not just give them commands about burnt offerings and sacrifices, but I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in all the ways I command you, that it may go well with you."*

D. God's Demand for Obedience. 5:24-27

1. They worshiped God begrudgingly. 5:25 build idols
2. "Amos is charging Israel with observing the ritual of the Mosaic law at the same time that they followed idols" (Feinberg, 107)
3. The Result - BACK to DAMASCUS! (Cf AMOS 1:3 *where the judgments began!*)

IV. The Sins of America

A. Baal Worship - *we have sacrificed our children to a false god.*

1. (Jeremiah 32:30-35) "*The people of Israel and Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight from their youth; indeed, the people of Israel have done nothing but provoke me with what their hands have made, declares the Lord. From the day it was built until now, this city has so aroused my anger and wrath that I must remove it from my sight. The people of Israel and Judah have provoked me by all the evil they have done—they, their kings and officials, their priests and prophets, the men of Judah and the people of Jerusalem. They turned their backs to me and not their faces; though I taught them again and again, they would not listen or respond to discipline. They set up their abominable idols in the house that bears my Name and defiled it. They built high places for Baal in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to sacrifice their sons and daughters to Molech, though I never commanded, nor did it enter my mind, that they should do such a detestable thing and so make Judah sin.*"

2. 35 years, 50 million children

B. Immorality

1. Baal worship included pagan sexual ritual

C. Abuse of the poor. TWO WAYS

1. Disregard for the needs of the poor. (Education, housing, health care, opportunity for jobs, equality)
2. Abusing the poor for political power - enticing their votes with minimal programs designed to keep them enslaved to poverty
3. NOW we have a corporate welfare mentality!

D. False religion. People Speaking for God!

1. Religious humanism (WCC, NCC, main denominations)
2. Faith movement
3. Emergent church

E. We are exactly where Israel was, 2700 years ago!