

The God of True Justice

Romans 3:25

“God presented Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice..”

April 1st

God’s Justice and the Nations

Amos 1

GETTING THE BIG PICTURE

“God bless America”!! How often we hear the refrain. But we seldom seem to ask—“why would God bless America (or any other nation)?” We live in a day where nation after nation declares its independence from God. Some secularized countries like those in Europe don’t have a place for God in the public arena. Others use the name once in a while, but God surely has nothing to do with how the country is governed. So what does God think of nations that don’t think of Him? Is He OK with national spiritual apathy or outright disobedience? Or is the holy God watching carefully to see what nations will honor Him and which will not? Today Amos reminds us of the fate of those nations who trample the holiness of God. It was a warning to them; it is a warning to us.

Optional Readings

Revelation 6-19

God’s final judgment on the nations of the earth

GETTING INTO THE TEXT

Study Day(s)

READ & OBSERVE: Amos 1-2

Write down anything you find interesting or unique about this passage.

ANSWER

1. The prophecy of Amos begins with a series of judgments against Israel’s neighbors (who were often their enemies). What would the general reaction of the people be to these pronouncements from 1:1-2:3? How does this all change when you come to 2:4 and 2:6?

2. List the first six nations (or cities) judged and why God was judging them. Which sins seem particularly terrible to you?
 - a. Name Reason for Judgment

2. Update Amos. Single out one nation that exists today that God would pronounce a judgment on. Who is it, and what is their sin?

3. Beginning in 2:4 the judgment goes from “them” to “us”. Why is God angry at His people, Judah?

4. The final judgment is concerned with the northern tribes of Israel. What is God’s complaint against them?

5. In the judgment of 2:7-16, God describes some of the great things He has done for Israel. What are they, and how did the people respond?

6. What does God say He will do to His people because of their many sins (“for three sins, even for four”)?

GETTING TO THE HEART

Application Day

It is easy to pick on those awful “other” nations. But think of America for a moment (and think of the church in America). Name some ways in which we have taken the blessings of God and rejected them just like the Israelites of old did. What are the “3 sins, even 4” that we commit against God regularly?

As you think of the words of Amos, what do you believe the future of our country looks like? What would God have us to do as believers in Jesus?