



Amos

A Prophet
for Today

You Did Not Return To Me

Amos 3:1-8

Proclaim to the strongholds in Ashdod and to the strongholds in the land of Egypt, and say, "Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria, and see the great tumults within her, and the oppressed in her midst." "They do not know how to do right," declares the LORD, "those who store up violence and robbery in their strongholds." Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:

“An adversary shall surround the land and bring down your defenses from you, and your strongholds shall be plundered.” Thus says the LORD: “As the shepherd rescues from the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear, so shall the people of Israel who dwell in Samaria be rescued, with the corner of a couch and part of a bed. “Hear, and testify against the house of Jacob,” declares the Lord GOD

, the God of hosts, “that on the day I punish Israel for his transgressions, I will punish the altars of Bethel, and the horns of the altar shall be cut off and fall to the ground. I will strike the winter house along with the summer house, and the houses of ivory shall perish, and the great houses shall come to an end,” declares the LORD.

Proclaim to the strongholds in **Ashdod**
and to the strongholds in the land of
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Important Cities of Ancient Israel *



* City spelling taken from King James Bible

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Thus says the LORD: "As the shepherd rescues from the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear, so shall the people of Israel who dwell in Samaria be rescued, with the corner of a couch and part of a bed.

Isaiah 17:4

And in that day the glory of Jacob will be brought low, and the fat of his flesh will grow lean.

I will punish the altars of Bethel, and the **horns of the altar** shall be cut off and fall to the ground. I will strike the winter house along with the summer house, and the houses of ivory shall perish, and the **great houses** shall come to an end," declares the LORD.

Exodus 27:2

And you shall make horns for it on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it, and you shall overlay it with bronze.

1 Kings 1:50

And Adonijah feared Solomon. So he arose and went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

“Hear this word, you **cows of Bashan**,
who are on the mountain of Samaria,
who oppress the poor, who crush the
needy, who say to your husbands,
‘Bring, that we may drink!’

Psalm 73:3-4

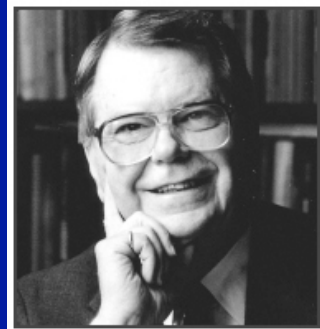
For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek. They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.

Song of Solomon 7:1-2

How beautiful are your feet in sandals, O noble daughter! Your rounded thighs are like jewels, the work of a master hand. Your navel is a rounded bowl that never lacks mixed wine.

The robustness that the women and their men viewed as beauty and blessing was evidence of their crimes. Such prosperity was purchased at incredible cost: cruel oppression and relentless harassment of the poor and needy.

– David Allan Hubbard

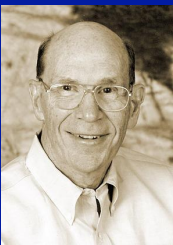


The Lord GOD has sworn by his holiness that, behold, the days are coming upon you, when they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks. And you shall go out through the breaches, each one straight ahead; and you shall be cast out into Harmon," declares the LORD.

“Come to Bethel, and transgress; to Gilgal, and multiply transgression; bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes every three days; offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened, and proclaim freewill offerings, publish them; for so you love to do, O people of Israel!” declares the Lord GOD.

I believe that human morality, rather than flagrant sin, is the greatest obstacle to the gospel today. If you ask the average law-abiding person why he expects to go to heaven, the answer will be some form of “because I’ve been good.” The rich young ruler, the prodigal son’s older brother, and the Pharisee praying in the temple all had this in common: They were confident of their own goodness. The more religious a person is, the more difficult it is for that person to realize his or her need for the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

– Jerry Bridges



“I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities,
and lack of...” **yet you did not return to me**

I also withheld the rain from you... **yet you did
not return to me**

I would send rain on one city, and send no rain
on another city...**yet you did not return to me**

I struck you with blight and mildew... **yet you
did not return to me**

I sent among you a pestilence...**yet you did not
return to me**

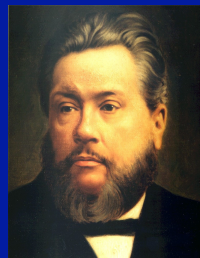
I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew
Sodom... **yet you did not return to me**

Isaiah 9:13

The people did not turn to him who struck them, nor inquire of the LORD of hosts.

Losses and adversities are frequently the means which the great Shepherd uses to fetch home His wandering sheep. There is no making lions tame if they are too well fed; they must be brought down from their great strength, and their stomachs must be lowered, and then they will submit to the tamer's hand; and often have we seen the Christian rendered obedient to the Lord's will by lack of bread and hard labour.

– Charles Spurgeon



“Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, **prepare to meet your God**, O Israel!” For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth—**the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!**

Nehemiah 9:6

“You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.