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Amos 7:14-15

Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

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The end of the Northern Kingdom

Amos 4:12b-13

“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!”

Amos 5:1-3

Hear this word that I take up over you  
in lamentation, O house of Israel:

“Fallen, no more to rise, is the virgin Israel;  
forsaken on her land, with none to raise her up.”

For thus says the Lord GOD:

“The city that went out a thousand  
shall have a hundred left,  
and that which went out a hundred  
shall have ten left to the house of Israel.”

Amos 5:4-5

For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel:

“Seek me and live;  
but do not seek Bethel,  
and do not enter into Gilgal  
or cross over to Beersheba;  
for Gilgal shall surely go into exile,  
and Bethel shall come to nothing.”

Amos 5:6-7

Seek the LORD and live,  
lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph,  
and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel,  
O you who turn justice to wormwood  
and cast down righteousness to the earth!

Amos 5:8-9

He who made the Pleiades and Orion,  
and turns deep darkness into the morning  
and darkens the day into night,  
who calls for the waters of the sea  
and pours them out on the surface of the earth,  
the LORD is his name;  
who makes destruction flash forth  
against the strong,  
so that destruction comes upon the fortress.

Amos 5:10-11

They hate him who reproveth in the gate,  
and they abhor him who speaketh the truth.  
Therefore because you trample on the poor  
and you exact taxes of grain from him,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not dwell in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

Amos 5:12-13

For I know how many are your transgressions  
and how great are your sins –  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and turn aside the needy in the gate.  
Therefore he who is prudent  
will keep silent in such a time,  
for it is an evil time.

Amos 5:14-15

Seek good, and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the LORD, the God of hosts,  
will be with you,  
as you have said.

Hate evil, and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Amos 5:16-17

Therefore thus says the LORD,  
the God of hosts, the Lord:

“In all the squares there shall be wailing,  
and in all the streets they shall say, ‘Alas! Alas!’  
They shall call the farmers to mourning  
and to wailing those who are skilled  
in lamentation,  
and in all vineyards there shall be wailing,  
for I will pass through your midst,”  
says the LORD.”

Amos 5:18-20

“Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!  
Why would you have the day of the LORD?  
It is darkness, and not light,  
as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him,  
or went into the house and leaned his hand  
against the wall, and a serpent bit him.  
Is not the day of the LORD darkness,  
and not light,  
and gloom with no brightness in it?”

Amos 5:21-24

“I hate, I despise your feasts,  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.  
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings  
and grain offerings, I will not accept them;  
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,  
I will not look upon them.

“Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.  
But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

Isaiah 1:11-17

What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?  
says the LORD; I have had enough  
of burnt offerings of rams  
and the fat of well-fed beasts;  
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,  
or of lambs, or of goats.

When you come to appear before me,  
who has required of you this trampling  
of my courts?

Bring no more vain offerings;  
incense is an abomination to me.

Isaiah 1:11-17

New moon and Sabbath  
and the calling of convocations –  
I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly.  
Your new moons 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,  
I will hide my eyes from you;  
even though you make many prayers,  
I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

Isaiah 1:11-17

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;  
remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes;  
cease to do evil, learn to do good;  
seek justice, correct oppression;  
bring justice to the fatherless,  
plead the widow's cause.

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice,  
and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 23:23-24

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!  
For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and  
have neglected the weightier matters of the law:  
justice and mercy and faithfulness.

“These you ought to have done,  
without neglecting the others.  
You blind guides, straining out a gnat  
and swallowing a camel!”

Matthew 9:13

“Go and learn what this means,  
‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’  
For I came not to call the righteous,  
but sinners.”

Genesis 18:19

“For I have chosen him,  
that he may command his children  
and his household after him  
to keep the way of the LORD  
by doing righteousness and justice,  
so that the LORD may bring to Abraham  
what he has promised him.”

# WHAT IS JUSTICE

*Mishpat* = judgments, justice, just, Judgment

Judgments

- rules, decisions, according to law

Justice

- the administration of the law
- conforming to the law (“legal”)
- the quality of being just (“fair”)
- conforming to truth, reason (“right”)
- the rendering unto each what is due
- thus, what is *legal, right, fair, due*

JUSTICE rooted in:

Creation:

We are God's image-bearing family on earth,  
sons and daughters of '*adam*,  
with obligations to one another  
(we ARE our brother's keepers!)

The Ten Commandments (the Moral Law)...

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Judgment

- God’s evaluation of us, per the law

JUSTICE rooted in:

Creation:

We are God's image-bearing family on earth

Fall:

We are all sinners; none are worthy, no, not one!

Seeing that is due you is not the reward you think!

Seeing ourselves as undeserving recipients of God's grace and love, THEN we can begin to address the issue of justice in a deeper way

JUSTICE rooted in:

Creation:

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Fall:

We are all sinners; none are worthy, no, not one!

Redemption:

Only Christ brings true reconciliation.

His death on the cross and his resurrection,  
this is our peace

Matthew 12:18-20

Behold, my servant whom I have chosen,  
my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.  
I will put my Spirit upon him,  
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.  
He will not quarrel or cry aloud,  
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets;  
a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not quench,  
until he brings justice to victory;  
and in his name the Gentiles will hope.

JUSTICE:  
The rendering unto each what is due?

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however dimly, however imperfectly,  
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caring for the weak and the vulnerable  
not transgressing God's moral laws  
seeking, loving, and doing good

Amos 5:24

But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness  
like an ever-flowing stream.

Amos 4:13

Careful! He listened!  
Amos a regular man

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