

Amos 4:1-13 'Come to Church and Sin'

Bashan was noted for its fat, sleek cattle. What does this say about the lifestyle of the wealthy Israelites? Amos 4:1

What about us?

What are the dangers of affluence and self-centredness today? Compare Revelation 3:14-22

Swearing by his holy character the LORD adds weight, urgency and certainty to the coming judgement. How does the wealthy Israelite's current lifestyle contrast with the judgement God guarantees to bring? Amos 4:2-3

Bethel and Gilgal were unauthorized centers of worship for the Northern Kingdom (1 Kings 12:26-33; Hosea 4:15).

What was sinful about Israel's prolific worship at these places? Amos 4:4-5

What about us?

What are the judgements the LORD brought on Israel and what was the purpose of these judgements? Amos 4:6-11

What can we learn about the character of God from this sequence of judgements upon Israel? [Hint: See Numbers 14:18; 2 Peter 3:8-9]

Israel needs to be prepared to meet God. How does Amos 4:13 describe Him? Compare John's vision of Jesus in Revelation 1:12-18

Amos 5:14-20 'How to Avoid Spiritual Loss'

What does the LORD God Almighty desire from his people? Amos 5:14-15

What flows from pursuing God's ways? Amos 5:14-15
What about us?

What might 'seeking and loving good' look like?

In Amos 5:16-17 what will be the result of God's 'passing through Israel's midst'?
What about us?

God's judgement is devastating and comprehensive. It touches both city and rural communities. Therefore, how should we respond?

It would appear that Israel is blind to their sin and therefore confidently they say, the LORD is with us' (5:14) and they naively 'long for the Day of the LORD' (5:18). But what will the Day of the LORD actually bring to Israel? Amos 5:18-20
What about us?

Psalms 139:23-24 reads 'Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.' Take the time right now to stop and pray this prayer for your own life, your group's life and the life of St Matthew's. Write down those things the LORD brings to mind, items in our lives and our community, which we may have been blind to.

Christians, and even Churches, can proclaim to be disciples of Jesus but live in ways which contradict this claim. What can cause such spiritual blindness? [Recall the couple in 1 Corinthians 5:1-2 and the church in Laodicea mentioned in Revelation 3:17.]

Knowing the Day of the LORD is coming should make a difference to our walk of faith. How?

- Matthew 28:18-20
- 1 Corinthians 3:11-15
- 2 Corinthians 5:9-10
- 2 Peter 3:11-14