

FAMISHED



Prophetic Word of Amos

January - March 2010

This Book Belongs to _____

FEBRUARY 14



Bethel or Beth-aven?

Amos 5:1-17

Introduction

An irony has been pointed out that the “one nation under God,” has become the nation that vigorously claims there is no god. We also have become a nation so independent from God that our children wonder if money is the only place you can find God. What does it say that our nation is taking God from every public place except the money? I wonder.

Israel had a special relationship with God. He chose them. He blessed them. He protected them. He was, in the terms of the Bible, married to them. And, He divorced them. Their unfaithfulness eventually proved too great and He chose to remarry – to enter into a new covenant with a new Kingdom.

God doesn't ask that much of His people. We often make living for God too complex. Living for God is really about being *good* to people, *just* to the oppressed and *loving* to everyone. Yes, we're called to avoid certain behaviors for our own good. But primarily, we are called to love humanity with the passion of our Creator.

How we live during the week is often motivated by what we seek in life. Are we seeking to find the house of God or do we spend our days in the emptiness of a world driven by

materialism? America is not the chosen nation of God like Israel was. But we may have more in common with Israel than anyone wants to admit!

Sermon Notes

- Beth means _____. _____ means _____.
Bethel means _____.
 - The king had relocated the center of worship to Bethel because of personal _____ and _____.
 - Amos renames Bethel, Beth-aven – _____
_____. Any place without God is _____.
- Rather than a Psalm of _____, the people are called into a spiritual _____.
- God gives specifics to the people about how to _____.
 - _____ God.
 - _____ good.
 - Speak what is _____ and _____.
 - Speak _____!
- Pay attention to how often Amos _____
Israel to _____.
 - How often do we need to become _____?

Word of Thought:

People don't like to live in empty houses. Why?

Word of Study

Read Amos 5:1-17. This section of scripture is known as a chiasm. It has a pattern to it (ie. A, B, C, D, C, B, A). See if you can identify the chiasm in this section.

A. (vs. 1-3) _____

B. (4-6) _____

C. (7) _____

D. (8-9) _____

C. (10-13) _____

B. (14-15) _____

A. (16-17) _____

Word of Discussion

1) How can people of God make the house of God a place of nothing? A place of emptiness?

2) In life, we search for many things. We search for meaning. We search for truth. We search for comfort. What does it mean to “seek God and live?” How do you pursue God?

3) Living for God is so simple it’s complex. We are called on to stand up for what is right and just. We are called on to speak up when the temptation is to “go with the flow.” What does it look like when people speak up for what is good and right without coming across as self-righteous? Describe how we should go about being appropriate followers of God in this regard.

4) Knowing God is a mysterious thing. On the one hand, we seek this most in life. On the other hand, we know we can’t know Him fully until we are made like Him and see Him as He is (1 John 3:2). Share with the group what you do know about God. Share with the group ways you get to know God.

Word of Action

What can you do to help the place you worship be a house of God rather than a house of nothing? Since the “church is the people” and you’re a “people” – then you help determine whether the place of worship is a place of God or just a place of programming. What specific thing can you do differently this week to ensure that God is “in the house” and that the house isn’t empty?

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