

## ISRAEL'S INGRATITUDE

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### TEXT:

“Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes; That pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek: and a man and his father will go in unto the same maid, to profane my holy name: And they lay themselves down upon clothes laid to pledge by every altar, and they drink the wine of the condemned in the house of their god. Yet destroyed I the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars, and he was strong as the oaks; yet I destroyed his fruit from above, and his roots from beneath. Also I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and led you forty years through the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite. And I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites. Is it not even thus, O ye children of Israel? saith the LORD. But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophecy not. Behold, I am pressed under you, as a cart is pressed that is full of sheaves. Therefore the flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not strengthen his force, neither shall the mighty deliver himself: Neither shall he stand that handleth the bow; and he that is swift of foot shall not deliver himself: neither shall he that rideth the horse deliver himself. And he that is courageous among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day, saith the LORD” (Amos 2:6-16).

### INTRODUCTION:

- 1) Amos was called of God to go to Israel to prophesy against them. (Apostasy).
- 2) He was from Tekoa (town six miles south of Bethlehem).
- 3) Occupation, “But prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court. Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit: And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel” (Amos 7:14-15).
- 4) Conditions of the time:
  - (1) rich got richer by treading upon poor
  - (2) had turned to idols
  - (3) were corrupt morally, yet gave "lip service" to God.
- 4) God warns them of their doom. (Assyrians would take them away.)
- 5) Note: Amos' approach to Israel.
  - (1) Chapter 1 - Damascus, Gaza, Edom, Ammon.
  - (2) Chapter 2 - Moab, Judah, then Israel.
- 6) This lesson will center in on our text in Amos 6:9ff.
- 7) Notice what God had done for them .

- (1) their response
- (2) application to us

## **I. WHAT GOD DID FOR ISRAEL**

1) Destroyed the Amorites before them.

- (1) "Yet"- connects the previous verses (1-8).
- (2) God drove out their enemies.
- (3) Amorites were strong, two were giants, "And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight" (Numbers 13:33).
- (4) Sun stood still - "Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. Jos 10:13 And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day" (Joshua 10:12-13).
- (5) God destroyed them, "That pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek: and a man and his father will go in unto the same maid, to profane my holy name:" (Amos 2:7).

2) Brought them out of the land of Egypt.

- (1) They had been in great servitude, "But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?" (Exodus 1:17-18).
- (2) God brought them out!
- (3) Destroyed enemies (plagues, Red Sea.)

3) Led them forth years through the wilderness, "Also I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and led you forty years through the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite" (Amos 2:10).

(1) Provided for their needs, "For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the LORD thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing." (Deuteronomy 2:7).

(2) Did not bring them out & forget them! "All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers. And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years." (Deuteronomy 8:1-4).

(3) Older ones died because of their unbelief.

4) Allowed them to possess the land of the Amorites, "Also I brought you up from

the land of Egypt, and led you forty years through the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite" (Amos 2:10).

(1) This a great contrast to their bondage.

(2) "And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites" (Exodus 3:8).

5) Raised up of their sons for prophets, "And I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites. Is it not even thus, O ye children of Israel? saith the LORD" (Amos 2:11).

6) Raised up Nazarites of their young men, (Amos 2:11).

(1) Nazarite was one separated - devoted to God.

(2) Again - great privilege!

## **II. THEIR INGRATITUDE**

1) They showed their ingratitude by their unfaithfulness.

2) They gave the Nazarites wine to drink, "But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink," (Amos 2:12a).

(1) Nazarites were to be separated from juice of the grape.

(2) "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the LORD: He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried. All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk" (Numbers 6:1-4).

(3) Corrupted them!

3) They commanded the prophets to "prophecy not", "...and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophecy not" (Amos 2:12b).

(1) Did not want to hear God's message.

(2) "That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits:" (Isaiah 30:9-10).

4) Results - their downfall, "Behold, I am pressed under you, as a cart is pressed that is full of sheaves. Therefore the flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not strengthen his force, neither shall the mighty deliver himself: Neither shall he stand that handleth the bow; and he that is swift of foot shall not deliver himself: neither shall he that rideth the horse deliver himself. And he that is courageous among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day, saith the LORD" (Amos 2:13-16).

### **III. WHAT HAS GOD DONE FOR US**

1) Brought us out of sin (bondage).

2) Provided for our spiritual life, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

3) Promised us heaven, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3).

4) Many have sacrificed before us.

(1) Churches have been planted.

(2) Some sacrificed financially, etc.

5) What is our response?

(1) Grateful to God?

(2) Do we want to hear- or are we saying "prophecy not?"

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1) God has done wonderful things for us. Let us be grateful to God.

2) Demonstrate this by our actions.

(1) "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

(2) walk in truth, "Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing" (Philippians 3:16).