

Preacher: Rev Dr Lorna Khoo

BOOK OF AMOS (Part II)

1. **The Situation:** Northern Kingdom (Israel) and Southern Kingdom (Judah)- kings, capitals, religious centres, economy and culture.
 - Time of Peace, material prosperity and cultural flowering 4:15,3:15,6:4-5
 - Religion Flourishing but linked with idolatry, immorality and hypocrisy
 - Complacency and insensitivity to sin in their midst 6:6;5:21-24

ISRAEL'S SINS

- a. Oppression of the poor (rich-poor divide, crushing taxes 5:11)
 - b. Injustice 2:6 (unjust legal system, property takeovers, bribery) 5:7,5:10,5:12
 - c. Dishonest scales/ cheating 8:4-6,3:10
 - d. Worship of Mammon covetous materialism, consumerism, self indulgence 4:4
 - e. False worship (idolatry, immorality, divorced from ethics) 5:25-27, 4:4-5
 - f. Complacency(insensitivity to/tolerance of creeping sin in their midst) 6:6;5:21-24
(Exercise: tick whatever is applicable to us today)
2. **The Discipline of the Lord**
 - a. Warnings ignored 4:6-11. 1:1 Famine, Drought, Disease, Plagues, Raids, Volcano Eruption, (Earthquake, Exile). Need to discern if disasters are from the Lord. If it isn't, we can pray against it. If it is- it is a call to repent. Cf Hebrews 12:6 The Lord disciplines those whom he loves. Exercise: Look at not so happy things that has happened to us lately. Is it the work of the enemy or is it God trying to tell us something ie His discipline?
 - b. Mercy taken for granted 7:1-3-6 cf Romans 6:1-2, Hebrews 10:28.
 - c. Appeals on deaf ears 5:4-6. 5:8-9,14-15. God does not leave Himself without a witness 7:12-15,3:3-8. He often uses the least likely instrument (Amos-foreigner, not professional prophet with proper training; a low class businessman).
Exercise: How do we choose leaders? Are we humble enough to hear? Are we looking for those we are comfortable with so that we won't be disturbed? Are we listening?
 - d. Prepare to meet your God:
 - it's time 8:1-3,7:7-9.
 - Encounter with God 4;12-13,5:16-17.
 - The Day of the Lord 5:18-19,8:7-9. Defeat 5:1-3,3:11,9:1-4, Loss of Property 5:10-12,3:15
 - Destruction of places of worship 3:14, 8:10. The Silence of the Lord 8:11-13; Exile 6:2-8, 4:2 - Before it happens: Repent! Change.
 - Mercy 9:8-10, 9:11-15, 3:12 A remnant will be saved.
Exercise: Do a check on the way we are living. Are we testing God's patience? Repent and change
- TODAY.**