

"But they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph." Amos 6:6.

Sunday, December 17, 2006.

"Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall. The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him. But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel;) Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep." Gen. 49:22-25.

"He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant. Whose feet they hurt with fetters; he was laid in iron; Until the time that his word came; the word of the Lord tried him. The king sent and loosed him; even the ruler of the people, and let him go free. He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his substance; To bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom." Psalm 105:17-22.

"Woe to them that are at ease in Zion (or, that despise Zion, or hold Zion in contempt)."

"...That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments; BUT THEY ARE NOT GRIEVED FOR THE AFFLICTION OF JOSEPH." Amos 6:1-6.

The message of Amos to ancient Israel was the same as WBC's message to modern America; to wit: Whatever else you have going for you – in the way of both temporal and spiritual power and prosperity – if you are not truly, deeply grieved for the affliction of WBC, you have nothing and you are nothing and you know not God nor the Bible and you are lost and headed for Hell.

America's case is especially hopeless and America's doom is irreversible – because – not only is America not grieved for the affliction of WBC, America is CAUSING THE AFFLICTION OF WBC. "They (America) hate him (WBC) that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly...For I know your (America's) manifold transgressions and your mighty sins; they (America) afflict the just (WBC), they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor (WBC) in the gate (America's courts) from their right." Amos 5:10-12.

The Lord God hath sworn on His oath that 1) He abhors America, 2) He hates her pomp, and, 3) therefore she is doomed. Amos 6:8.

Israel (America) is reprov'd and threatened with destruction by the Lord God for her carnal security and self-confidence – at Amos 6:1-8. She is charged with wantonness, luxury, intemperance, arrogance and atheism. But worse than all these things combined, America is charged with contempt and spite and mistreatment of God's elect.

John Gill: “For the certainty (of Israel's – and America's – doom) of it, God not only said, but swore to it. Amos 6:7-8. And a great mortality (dead bodies in great number) in every house, and the destruction of all houses, both great and small, ver. 9-11, and since a reformation of them seemed impracticable, and not to be expected, but they gloried in their wealth, and boasted of their strength, therefore they should be afflicted by a foreign nation raised against them, which affliction should be general, from one end of the country to the other, ver. 12-14.”

Here is God's description of the leaders of ancient Israel and modern America – in the last days just before final doom: To wit: Amos 6:1-6:

1. *Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came! ver. 1*

Zion – i.e., the true house of God holding forth the true word of God – no longer has any power to terrify these leaders so as to bring them to repentance and obedience to God. They have so corrupted and perverted the truth of God in the earth, that their conscience is seared with a hot iron. 1 Tim. 4:2. Their trust is now only in idols which is sheer atheism – they trust in the mountain of Samaria – apostate Israel's (10 northern tribes) counterpart to Jerusalem (2 southern tribes).

2. *Pass ye unto Calneh, and see; and from thence go ye to Hamath the great:*

then go down to Gath of the Philistines: be they better than these kingdoms? or their border greater than your border? ver. 2.

Calneh – a great and flourishing ancient city near Babel in the land of Shinar. Gen. 10:10. Now disappeared from the face of the earth.

Hamath the great – ditto Calneh, ancient capital of ancient Syria. Vanished. Num. 13:21 and 34:8.

Gath of the Philistines – greatest of ancient Philistine cities, from which came the famous giant: Goliath of Gath. 1 Sam. 17:4 and 23.

These named three cities of antiquity – Calneh, Hamath and Gath – stand for all man-made governments – all headed for oblivion – all forsaking God and doomed to Hell: *“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”* Psa. 9:17.

Even so, America has forsaken God and is irreversibly doomed for Hell.

3. Ye that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near. ver. 3.

Several ways to put far away the evil day – referring to the Great Day of Judgment, often called the Day of the Lord; to wit: *“The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord; the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord; and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord’s wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy; for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.”* Zeph. 1:14-18.

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” 2 Per. 3:10. *“For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”* Rev. 16:14.

“For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low...And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low; and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day...In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.” Isa. 2:12-22.

The primary way to put far away the evil day is to violently persecute to death the faithful messengers of God who expound, preach and warn of it.

Read the verse again: *“Ye that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near.”* Amos 6:3. The seat of violence means the seat of intelligent planning and teaching the use of legalized persecution and prosecution of God’s prophets as a means of silencing them. As seat is used in these two places: *Nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful* (Psa. 1:1), and *The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat; all therefore that they bid you observe, that observe and do, but do not ye after their works; for they say, and do not* (Mat. 23:1-2).

The faithful, bold, intelligent, expository preaching with full details about the Great Day of Judgment, *“tormented them that dwelt on the earth.”* Rev. 11:10. How do you put far away the evil day? Fight and kill these witnesses. That’s how. Rev. 11:7. At least that may help the wicked minds not to think of the coming certain doom quite so often and in quite so much painful detail.

These last of the last days are those referred to by Paul at 2 Tim. 4:3-4; to wit: *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”*

The leaders of ancient Israel and modern America are all greedy and covetous men, rolling in luxury, drowning in destruction & perdition.

4. and 5. That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall; That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick like David. verses 4. and 5.

Beware of rich men! Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called? Jas. 2:6-7. Weep and howl, ye rich men. Jas. 5:1. Read also: 1 Tim. 6:9.