

Study Aids
Discussion Questions and Suggested Reading
For “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 65

Comment:

The core of prophetic teaching is the Covenant that God initiated with Abraham centuries earlier. It should be quite clear now with the studies we have had previously, that Israel had largely forgotten the covenant. A prophet preaching judgment and doom to a nation who thought of themselves as God’s chosen people, must have been heard with the reaction “he’s a crazy wacko.” Imagine someone standing on a street-corner in one of our major cities, and claiming he had a message from God about the punishment that was about to be afflicted on them. He would be quickly ignored and discarded. Right?

Questions:

Note the sarcasm in Amos 4:4-5. Is outward performance of a religious ritual enough? Is the warning of Amos 5:11-13 still applicable today?

Is the classic cry of Amos in 5:7 still pertinent and meaningful? *“Oh you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth !”*

Can it be that God would really turn His back on His chosen people? Aren’t we His chosen people today? What aspects of His covenant have we ignored and broken? Could He ever desert us?

Suggested reading for further study:

This lesson has excerpted several paragraphs from **The Kingdom of God**, by John Bright, published by Abingdon Press. To get those insights in full context, read Parts III and IV of the chapter, “A Kingdom Under Judgment.”