

Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

Amos: The Radical Justice of God

Message 4: The Day of the Lord

Amos 5:6 (ESV)

⁶Seek the LORD and live ...

Why?

Amos 5:18-20 (ESV)

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, ¹⁹as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

The Day of the Lord

"The Day of the Lord" is a period of time during which God _____ His enemies and _____ His kingdom on earth.

It's the _____, "Thy kingdom come" and is described in Revelation 6-20 and many passages in the books of the prophets.

The people Amos was addressing saw "the Day of the Lord" as a time of great deliverance for the Jews and terrible punishment for the Gentiles (Joel 2:28-32), but the prophets had a clearer vision of this momentous event. They realized that "the Day of the Lord" was also a time of testing and purifying for Israel (see Isa. 2:10-21; 13:6-13; Jer. 46:10; Joel 3:9-17; Zeph. 2:1-2), when God's people would go through tribulation before entering the kingdom of God.

The people of Israel thought the Day of the Lord would be another _____ for them. But instead of being in their former role, their sins had placed them in the role of _____!

In what ways do we in **America** think of ourselves sometimes as Old Testament **Israel** when we are really far more like Old Testament **Egypt** or **Babylon**?

The Day of Jesus Christ in the New Testament:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (ESV)

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Matthew 24:40-42 (ESV)

⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

How is this **different** than ...

Isaiah 13:6-9 (ESV)

⁶ Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come! ⁷ Therefore all hands will be feeble, and every human heart will melt. ⁸ They will be dismayed: pangs and agony will seize them; they will be in anguish like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at one another; their faces will be aflame. ⁹ Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it.

Ezekiel 30:2-3 (ESV)

² "Son of man, prophesy, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: "Wail, 'Alas for the day!' ³ For the day is near, the day of the LORD is near; it will be a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations.

Joel 2:1-2 (ESV)

¹ Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near, ² a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.

Joel 2:11 (ESV)

¹¹ The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it?

Joel 2:30-32 (ESV)

³⁰ "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ³² And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

Zephaniah 1:14-15 (ESV)

¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵ A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

Conclusion: These are _____ 'days' with _____ purpose.

Dies Irae ... The Day of God's Wrath

1st characteristic: _____ (Amos 5:18)

Matthew 8:12 (ESV)

¹² ... while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the **outer darkness**. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Physical darkness or something more?

When people are in total darkness, they are without _____!

Note: No one alive today is totally without God.

Why?

2nd characteristic: _____ (an effect of darkness)

C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce* ...

Heaven, on the other hand ...

Revelation 5:13 (ESV)

¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

3rd characteristic: _____ (5:19)

Who is the Lion?

Who can run from God?

Why is this judgment called a "day"?

4th characteristic: _____ (5:20)

The only sane response:

Amos 5:14-15 (ESV)

¹⁴ Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said. ¹⁵ Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Next week: Vivid Judgment