

# ONE LAST CHANCE

## (Amos 5:1-20)

### INTRODUCTION

**Amos 3** - God pleads with Israel to repent.

**Amos 4** - Amos recounted the many times the Lord had sought to call Israel back to himself, but Israel just refused to repent.

***“Prepare to meet {their} God” (4:12)***

**“One Last Chance”**



## 1. The Lament (v.1)

**1** *Hear this word, O house of Israel,  
this lament I take up concerning you:*

The word, “**lament**,” is a **funeral hymn**



## **2. The Calamity of The Nation**

**(vv.2–3)**

***V.2 – “Fallen is Virgin Israel, never to rise again, deserted in her own land, with no one to lift her up.”***

***V.3 - This is what the Sovereign Lord says to Israel: “Your city that marches out a thousand strong will have only a hundred left; your town that marches out a hundred strong will have only ten left.”***



**Leviticus 26:7-9**

**7** *You will pursue your enemies,  
and they will fall by the sword  
before you.*

**8** *Five of you will chase a hundred,  
and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand,  
and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.*

**9** *I will look on you with favor and make you fruitful and increase  
your numbers, and I will keep my covenant with you.*



*“Your city that marches out a thousand strong will have only a hundred left; your town that marches out a hundred strong will have only ten left” (Amos 5:3)*

*“Yet you have not returned to Me”  
(Amos 4: 6, 8, 9,10 & 11)*

*“Seek Me and live”  
(Amos 5: 4, 6 & 4)*



### **3. The Call to Seek God (vv.4-6)**

**5:4** - *“This is what the Lord says to Israel:  
‘Seek me and live’”*

**5:5** - *“do not seek Bethel, do not go to  
Gilgal, do not journey to Beersheba.  
For Gilgal will surely go into exile, and Bethel will be reduced to  
nothing.”*

**5:6** - *“Seek the Lord and live, or he will sweep through the tribes of  
Joseph like a fire; it will devour them, and Bethel will have no one  
to quench it.”*



**The people** went to **Bethel**,  
**Gilgal**, and **Beersheba** to worship God.  
**God says**, *“Don’t go to those places,  
come to Me!”*

The people were seeking **religion...**  
the **performance of sacrifices...**  
the **temple worship...**

**But they were not seeking God.**



## **There is a difference between...**

- seeking the church and seeking the Lord
- simply singing songs and engaging the hearts
- hearing the words of a sermon and seeking to know God through his word

**Seek to encounter the Lord in worship**

**What makes a church a church?**

**It is the presence of God**





- God was not present at the temple of ***Bethel*** any longer.
- God had long departed from the temple of ***Gilgal***.
- He was no longer holding services at ***Beersheba***.

God said, ***“Look at your community.  
See how you treat people.”***



## **4. The Consequences of Injustices and Unrighteousness (Amos 5:7-17)**

- They turned justice into bitterness.
- They cast righteousness to the ground.
- They hated those who upheld the court system.
- They despised those who told the truth.
- They trampled on the poor and made them pay unfair taxes.
- They oppressed the righteous.
- They took bribes and deprived the poor of justice in the courts.



## **Deuteronomy 24:17-18**

**17** Do not deprive the alien or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge.

**18** Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this.

**“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).**



## J.A. Motyer

*The last twenty years of the kingdom of Israel saw its domestic policies in ruins, one political coup after another until in 722 B.C.*

*Sargon II of Assyria put an end to the kingdom of Israel for ever, deporting the remnant who survived the siege and slaughter and sowing the land with an alien population.*

*It is against this backdrop of realism—the realism of historical fulfillment—that we read the words of Amos. (Motyer, J.A., *The Message of Amos*. pg. 109)*



## **Isaiah 55:6-7**

**6 - 'Seek the LORD while He may  
be found, Call upon Him while  
He is near'**

**7 - 'Let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
Let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him;  
and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon'.**



## **5. The Condemnation against False Security (vv.18-20)**

***18 Woe to you who long for the day  
of the Lord! Why do you long for  
the day of the Lord?***

***That day will be darkness, not light.***

***19 It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as  
though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only  
to have a snake bite him.***

***20 Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light—pitch-dark,  
without a ray of brightness?***



**The people were saying:**

***“The day of the Lord will come,  
and when the day of the Lord comes  
then all our enemies will be defeated,  
and God will deliver us!”***

**Amos was saying:**

***“...you don't realise that the day of the Lord, it's going to be for  
you.”***

***'Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!'***



## Are we ready?

- Make sure we are genuinely born-again
- Make sure we are prepared to appear before the judgement seat of Christ

1 John 2: *'Now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming'*.

## Second coming of Jesus

...a joyful anticipation

...a great motivation for holy living





**'True Discipleship'** by [William MacDonald](#)

*'Luxury living abounds on every hand while souls are dying for the want of the Gospel.*

*Christians are wearing crowns instead of bearing a cross. We become more emotionally stirred over sports, politics, television, than*

*we do over Christ. There is little sense of spiritual need, there is little longing for true revival. We give the best of our lives to the business world, and then we turn over the remnants of a wasted career to the Saviour. We cater to our bodies, which in a few short years will return to the dust. We accumulate, instead of forsake. We lay up treasures on earth instead of heaven. The general attitude is, 'Nothing too good for the people of God! If I don't pamper myself, who will? Let's get ahead in the world and give our spare evenings to the Lord'.*



## CONCLUSION

- Disobedience...
- Rebellion...
- Indifference...
- Indulgence...
- Idolatry...

*God is still giving us chance to return to Him –  
perhaps, it may be the Last Chance –*

*“**One Last Chance!**”*

**Seek the Lord and live!**

