



desert breeze community church

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December 07, 2008
The Promised Messiah

(CHRISTMAS 2008)

“A Just God”

Christmas is about peace on earth (Luke 2:14). The biblical word for peace is shalom. Shalom is not just the absence of hostilities but the presence of justice.

Amos, the country farmer turned prophet, prophesied during a period of national optimism in Israel. Business is booming and boundaries are bulging but greed and injustice are festering. Amos speaks against this injustice saying that the nation is like a basket of rotting fruit that stands ripe for judgment.

Amos 1-2 Amos denounces the sins of six Gentile nations before pronouncing judgment on Judah (2:4-5) and Israel (2:6-16). If God judges lost people for their sins what will He do to those who know Him? Privilege brings responsibility which leads to accountability.

Amos 3-6 Amos preaches three sermons. Chapter 3 - Privilege brings responsibility. Chapter 4 - God has given Israel repeated opportunities to repent, all to no avail. Chapters 5/6 - Amos makes one final plea, urging his people to repent.

Amos 7-9 Amos's visions of the future of God's people.

Amos 8:1-10

WHAT IS INJUSTICE?

It is an inequitable distribution of resources and opportunities in the world.

Western idea of justice is individual rights. I can do whatever I want to do with my time, talent and treasures. I don't have to worry about family, friends or neighbors.

Biblical idea of justice is individual responsibility. We owe each other what we have. If I have been given money, education, and skill I owe it to my community to spread it around otherwise I am destroying the social fabric of society (life).

- All that I have has been given by God. (1 Cor. 4:7)
- All that I need is promised by God. (Phil. 4:19)

- All that I give is rewarded by God. (Luke 6:38)
- All that I do is responsible to God. (Rom. 14:12)

It is a characteristic of the wicked in contrast to the righteous Biblically.

Wicked are those who put their own economics, social and personal needs ahead of the community.

Righteous are those who are willing to disadvantage themselves for the advantage of the community.

Pro. 11:10-11; 29:7

WHY IS JUSTICE IMPORTANT?

The root of injustice is pride. (v7)

- Formalism (vv5-6)
- Materialism
- Secularism

The root of Justice is grace. (Matt. 25:31-46)

- Do I give faithfully? (10%) (Pro. 3:9-10; Luke 11:42)
- Do I save systematically? (10%) (Pro. 21:5; 13:11)
- Do I spend strategically? (80%) (Pro. 25:28; 27:23-24)

WHEN WILL JUSTICE REIGN?

Amos 9:11-15 (Acts 15:14-18)

1st Coming of Jesus:

- He came not to bring judgment but to bear judgment. (John 3:16-17)
- People who believe in Him have hearts that have been changed from injustice (Pride) to justice (grace).

2nd Coming of Jesus:

- He will come to bring judgment and justice to this planet earth.
 - ✓ Social Healing (No racism) v12
 - ✓ Physical Healing (No poverty, disease, death) vv13-15

If you don't receive Christ's 1st coming work bearing our judgment you'll never be a part of his 2nd coming work of bringing justice to this planet.

Jesus who deserved justice was condemned so that we who deserve to be condemned can receive justice.



Growing

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1) Christmas is about peace on earth (Luke 2:14). The biblical word for peace is shalom. Shalom is not just the absence of hostilities but the presence of justice.

Explain. What is the context of Amos?

2) What is injustice? What is the difference between the Western idea and the Biblical idea of justice? As it relates to justice how are the righteous different from the wicked (Pro. 11:10-11; 29:7)?

3) From a Biblical idea of justice what are the four Biblical principles as it relates to our responsibilities? What is the root of injustice (Amos 8:7)? From our study what are the three ways pride is seen in our life?

4) Why is the root of justice grace? What is the inevitable sign that you are a sinner saved by grace and have a real connection with God (Matt. 25:31-46)?

5) Check yourself against the three Biblical guidelines for generosity and wise resource management. What is the difference between the 1st and 2nd coming of Jesus Christ? When will justice finally reign (Amos 9:11-15)? Take a moment & reflect on what that day will be like.