

### *Israel admonished in present to depart from iniquity (Chapter 6)*

*Amos 6:1-3: Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and to those who feel secure in the mountain of Samaria, the distinguished men of the foremost of nations, to whom the house of Israel comes. 2 Go over to Calneh and look, and go from there to Hamath the great, then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are they better than these kingdoms, or is their territory greater than yours? 3 Do you put off the day of calamity, and would you bring near the seat of violence?*

God warns Israel, who was living it up, of their avariciousness, slothfulness and being self-absorbed; things looked like they were going great (*who are at ease in Zion*), but their hearts were dead and cold towards God. They lived to feed their flesh (sensual pleasures and delights) and trusted in the national military might and resourcefulness (*who feel secure in the mountain of Samaria*) to stave off any problems – domestic or foreign (security) and believed God would not judge THEM (pride). *Jeremiah 7:4-12; 1 Samuel 4:3-11; Zephaniah 3:11; Ecclesiastes 9:11-12*

*Jeremiah 7:4-12: "Do not trust in deceptive words, saying, "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD." 5 "For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly practice justice between a man and his neighbor, 6 if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, nor walk after other gods to your own ruin, 7 then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever. 8 "Behold, you are trusting in deceptive words to no avail. 9 "Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery and swear falsely, and offer sacrifices to Baal and walk after other gods that you have not known, 10 then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name, and say, "We are delivered!" -- that you may do all these abominations? 11 "Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of robbers in your sight? Behold, I, even I, have seen it," declares the LORD. 12 "But go now to My place which was in Shiloh, where I made My name dwell at the first, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of My people Israel.*

*1 Samuel 4:3-11: When the people came into the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us take to ourselves from Shiloh the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that it may come among us and deliver us from the power of our enemies." 4 So the people sent to Shiloh, and from there they carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts who sits above the cherubim; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. 5 As the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth resounded. ... 10 So the Philistines fought and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent; and the slaughter was very great, for there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers. 11 And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.*

*Zephaniah 3:11: "In that day you will feel no shame because of all your deeds by which you have rebelled against Me; for then I will remove from your midst your proud, exulting ones, and you will never again be haughty on My holy mountain.*

*Ecclesiastics 9:11-12: I again saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is bread to the wise nor wealth to the discerning nor favor to men of ability; for time and chance overtake them all. 12 Moreover, man does not know his time: like fish caught in a treacherous net and birds trapped in a snare, so the sons of men are ensnared at an evil time when it suddenly falls on them.*

Israel's downfall was her belief that God would not judge her – that she could continue to live as she pleased today because judgment was not going to come tomorrow. Therefore, Israel continued to seek to improve on her national sins: wine, women, and song. The sins were the symptom of another, greater, sin: pride. *2 Kings 20:16-19; Ezekiel 16:49-50; Luke 12:40; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; 2 Peter 3:3-9*

*2 Kings 20:16-19: Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD. 17 "Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day will be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left," says the LORD. 18 "Some of your sons who shall issue from you, whom you will beget, will be taken away; and they will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon." 19 Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good." For he thought, "Is it not so, if there will be peace and truth in my days?"*

*Ezekiel 16:49-50: "Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy. 50 "Thus they were haughty and committed abominations before Me. Therefore I removed them when I saw it.*

***Luke 12:40: "You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect."***

***1 Thess 5:1-6: Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.***

***2 Peter 3:3-9: Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." 5 For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, 6 through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. 7 But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.***

Their pride had blinded them to some very poignant points in their own backyard. God calls on the people to consider the neighboring countries, some of which Amos had condemned in the opening of his message to Israel. God points to the city of Calneh (Isaiah 10:9) in the land of Shinar or Babylon, situated upon the Tigris; Hamath, the capital of the Syrian kingdom, situated upon the Orontes River; and Gath, one of the five capitals of Philistia and, in David's time, the capital of all Philistia<sup>1</sup>. Amos confronts the nation of Israel by drawing a comparison with three other powerful capitals: Calneh, Hamath, and Gath. His challenge is poignant: How is Israel any better than these heathen nations, all of which are larger both in land mass and population? These nations lack the revelation of God, yet Israel, having the ordinances of God, has even less reason to expect exemption from the consequences of their sins. With greater revelation comes greater responsibility. ***Matthew 23:14-36; Romans 3:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; James 3:1***

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<sup>1</sup> Keil & Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament: New Updated Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1996 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.

*Matthew 23:14-17: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you will receive greater condemnation.] 15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. 16 "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, "Whoever swears by the temple, that is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple is obligated.' 17 "You fools and blind men! Which is more important, the gold or the temple that sanctified the gold? 23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. 24 "You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! ... 27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. 28 "So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. ... 32 "Fill up, then, the measure of the guilt of your fathers. 33 "You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?"*

*Romans 3:1-3: Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? 2 Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God. 3 What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it?*

*2 Timothy 3:13-17: But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

*James 3:1: Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.*

## Amos

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*Amos 6:4-7: Those who recline on beds of ivory and sprawl on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, 5 who improvise to the sound of the harp, and like David have composed songs for themselves, 6 who drink wine from sacrificial bowls while they anoint themselves with the finest of oils, yet they have not grieved over the ruin of Joseph. 7 Therefore, they will now go into exile at the head of the exiles, and the sprawlers' banqueting will pass away.*

Amos now goes through the sins that consumed Israel, sensuality, heathen music, and drunkenness. Israel's sensuality was revealed in their open sexual immorality and feasting. As with sex and food, they took music and perverted it from what God had intended – instead of using music to glorify God, they used it to enhance their sins. Their appropriation of vessels customarily used for sacrificial purposes revealed their immorality and drunkenness. They equated their sinfulness to worship. In all their listed sins, they took that which God gave/created/commanded and perverted the holy and made it unholy. ***Job 21:12-15; 2 Chronicles 5:11-14, 29:26-28; Isaiah 5:11-12, 22:12-14; Luke 16:19-22; Romans 13:13-14; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; 1 Peter 4:1-5***

***Job 21:12-15: "They sing to the timbrel and harp and rejoice at the sound of the flute. 13 "They spend their days in prosperity, and suddenly they go down to Sheol. 14 "They say to God, "Depart from us! We do not even desire the knowledge of Your ways. 15'Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him, and what would we gain if we entreat Him?"***

***2 Chronicles 29:26-28: The Levites stood with the musical instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. 27 Then Hezekiah gave the order to offer the burnt offering on the altar. When the burnt offering began, the song to the LORD also began with the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David, king of Israel. 28 While the whole assembly worshiped, the singers also sang and the trumpets sounded; all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.***

***2 Chronicles 5:11-14: When the priests came forth from the holy place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without regard to divisions), 12 and all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, and their sons and kinsmen, clothed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps and lyres, standing east of the altar, and with them one hundred and twenty priests blowing trumpets 13 in unison when the trumpeters and the singers were to make themselves heard with one voice to praise and to glorify the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice accompanied by trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and when they praised the LORD saying, "He indeed is good for His lovingkindness is everlasting," then the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, 14 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.***

*Isaiah 5:11-25: Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may pursue strong drink, who stay up late in the evening that wine may inflame them! 12 Their banquets are accompanied by lyre and harp, by tambourine and flute, and by wine; But they do not pay attention to the deeds of the LORD, nor do they consider the work of His hands. 12 Therefore in that day the Lord GOD of hosts called you to weeping, to wailing, to shaving the head and to wearing sackcloth. 13 Instead, there is gaiety and gladness, killing of cattle and slaughtering of sheep, Eating of meat and drinking of wine: "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we may die." 14 But the LORD of hosts revealed Himself to me, "Surely this iniquity shall not be forgiven you Until you die," says the Lord GOD of hosts.*

*Luke 16:19-25: "Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. 20 "And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, 21 and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. ... 25 "But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.*

*Romans 13:13-14: Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.*

*1 Corinthians 6:12-20: All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. 13 Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.*

*1 Peter 4:1-5: Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. 4 In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you; 5 but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*

## Amos

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The culmination of Israel's sins was evident in their disregard for the collapse of the nation around them (*not grieved for the affliction of Joseph*), while the leaders pampered and comforted themselves, anointing themselves *with the best ointments*. The sins of the leaders had dragged the nation downward to the point they were destined to lead to their conquest and destruction by external forces. Those who survived would face captivity, irrespective of their status, both great and small, as a divine judgment. The impending judgment signaled the end of Israel's party life. *Lamentations 5:15-16; Galatians 6:7-10; Ephesians 5:1-12; Philippians 3:18-19; James 1:22-27; 1 John 3:7-10*

*Lamentations 5:15-16: The joy of our hearts has ceased; our dancing has been turned into mourning. 16 The crown has fallen from our head; woe to us, for we have sinned!*

*Galatians 6:7-10: Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*

*Ephesians 5:1-12: Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. 3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; 4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ... 11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; 12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.*

*Philippians 3:18-19: For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things.*

*James 1:22,27: But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. ... 27 Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.*

***1 John 3:7-10: Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; 8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.***

***Amos 6:8-10: The Lord GOD has sworn by Himself, the LORD God of hosts has declared: "I loathe the arrogance of Jacob, and detest his citadels; therefore I will deliver up the city and all it contains." 9 And it will be, if ten men are left in one house, they will die. 10 Then one's uncle, or his undertaker, will lift him up to carry out his bones from the house, and he will say to the one who is in the innermost part of the house, "Is anyone else with you?" and that one will say, "No one." Then he will answer, "Keep quiet. For the name of the LORD is not to be mentioned."***

Despite continuous warnings from God, the people of the nation of Israel persisted in their sins, placing their trust in themselves—relying on their resourcefulness, fortifications, and economic power. God detested everything they had become; they had devolved into a godless nation. In a solemn oath by Himself, God declares that judgment, in the form of a military invasion, is imminent. Their best-laid plans will fail, and their mighty citadels will not withstand the invasion. Pulling together to fight as one will not deliver them from the judgment that is coming—at the command of the Lord. ***Isaiah 45:21-24, 55:11; Jeremiah 51:15-18; Lamentations 2:5-7; Hebrews 6:13***

***Isaiah 45:21-24: "Declare and set forth your case; indeed, let them consult together. Who has announced this from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none except Me. 22 "Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. 23 "I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance. 24 "They will say of Me, "Only in the LORD are righteousness and strength.' men will come to Him, and all who were angry at Him will be put to shame.***

***Isaiah 55:11: So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.***

***Jeremiah 51:15-18: It is He who made the earth by His power, Who established the world***



*by His wisdom, and by His understanding He stretched out the heavens. 16 When He utters His voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and He causes the clouds to ascend from the end of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain and brings forth the wind from His storehouses. 17 All mankind is stupid, devoid of knowledge; every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols, for his molten images are deceitful, and there is no breath in them. 18 They are worthless, a work of mockery; in the time of their punishment they will perish.*

*Lamentations 2:5-7: The Lord has become like an enemy. He has swallowed up Israel; He has swallowed up all its palaces, He has destroyed its strongholds and multiplied in the daughter of Judah mourning and moaning. 6 And He has violently treated His tabernacle like a garden booth; He has destroyed His appointed meeting place. the LORD has caused to be forgotten the appointed feast and sabbath in Zion, and He has despised king and priest in the indignation of His anger. 7 The Lord has rejected His altar, He has abandoned His sanctuary; He has delivered into the hand of the enemy the walls of her palaces. they have made a noise in the house of the LORD as in the day of an appointed feast.*

*Hebrews 6:13: For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself*

They maintained a pretense of godliness, but to them, God was politically incorrect. The nation engaged in the worship of various false gods and embraced false religious forms, dismissing true worship as tiresome and unacceptable. Those who will survive the military conquest, will not return to the Lord and will subsequently perish by the plague.

Their separation from God was so profound, and the impending destruction so complete, that even if a person survives the invasion and subsequent plague(s), they would find no cause for praising God ("*Keep quiet. For the name of the LORD is not to be mentioned.*") – *all appointed to death will die.*

While their fathers had, at one point, trusted in 'the name of the Lord,' the people, by this time, were totally devoid of any idea of serving the true and living God. They had abandoned all thoughts of God and lost all desire to seek deliverance or help from Him. *Joshua 23:6-7; Jeremiah 9:21-22; 16:1-21; Amos 5:10, 13; Habakkuk 1:5, 2:20; Zephaniah 1:7-13; Revelation 6:15-17*

## Amos

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*Joshua 23:6-7: "Be very firm, then, to keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you may not turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left, 7 so that you will not associate with these nations, these which remain among you, or mention the name of their gods, or make anyone swear by them, or serve them, or bow down to them.*

*Jeremiah 9:21-22: For death has come up through our windows; it has entered our palaces to cut off the children from the streets, the young men from the town squares. 22 Speak, "Thus says the LORD, 'The corpses of men will fall like dung on the open field, and like the sheaf after the reaper, but no one will gather them.'"*

*Jeremiah 16:3-4: For thus says the LORD concerning the sons and daughters born in this place, and concerning their mothers who bear them, and their fathers who beget them in this land: 4 "They will die of deadly diseases, they will not be lamented or buried; they will be as dung on the surface of the ground and come to an end by sword and famine, and their carcasses will become food for the birds of the sky and for the beasts of the earth."*

*Amos 5:10: They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks with integrity. ... 13 Therefore at such a time the prudent person keeps silent, for it is an evil time.*

*Habakkuk 1:5: "Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days – you would not believe if you were told.*

*Habakkuk 2:20: "But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him."*

*Amos 6:11-14: For behold, the LORD is going to command that the great house be smashed to pieces and the small house to fragments. 12 Do horses run on rocks? Or does one plow them with oxen? Yet you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood, 13 you who rejoice in Lodebar, and say, "Have we not by our own strength taken Karnaim for ourselves?" 14 "For behold, I am going to raise up a nation against you, O house of Israel," declares the LORD God of hosts, "and they will afflict you from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of the Arabah."*

***Revelation 6:15-17: Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; 16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"***

The Lord gives another warning of the coming captivity for both nations (the great house could be Israel and the small house Judah). The judgment will lead to the complete destruction of the Northern Kingdom and seventy years of captivity and thousands of years of subservience to the Gentile nations – until the return of the Lord to establish His kingdom – for the Southern Kingdom (Judah). ***Isaiah 46:9-10; Nahum 1:14; Hosea 13:16; Daniel 9:26-27; Luke 13:34-35, 21:20-24***

***Isaiah 46:9-10: "Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, "My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure";***

***Nahum 1:14: The LORD has issued a command concerning you: "Your name will no longer be perpetuated. I will cut off idol and image from the house of your gods. I will prepare your grave, for you are contemptible."***

***Hosea 13:16: Samaria will be held guilty, for she has rebelled against her God. They will fall by the sword, their little ones will be dashed in pieces, and their pregnant women will be ripped open.***

***Luke 13:34-35: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it! 35 "Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, "BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!"***

***Luke 21:20-24: "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. 21 "Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; 22 because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled. 23 "Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people; 24 and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.***

Israel had turned justice into poison and righteousness was bitter and noxious; justice and righteousness were as perverse as to expect horses to run upon rocks, or for oxen to plow upon rocks. Throughout the entire land, the object of the people's confidence only existed in their imaginations – there was nothing they could trust in that God could not/would not overrule. *Isaiah 5:11-12, 9:14-16; Jeremiah 5:2-3; Zechariah 7:11-12; Micah 3:11-12*

***Isaiah 5:11-12: Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may pursue strong drink, who stay up late in the evening that wine may inflame them! 12 Their banquets are accompanied by lyre and harp, by tambourine and flute, and by wine; but they do not pay attention to the deeds of the LORD, nor do they consider the work of His hands. Isaiah 9:14-16: So the LORD cuts off head and tail from Israel, both palm branch and bulrush in a single day. 15 The head is the elder and honorable man, and the prophet who teaches falsehood is the tail. 16 For those who guide this people are leading them astray; and those who are guided by them are brought to confusion.***

***Jeremiah 5:2-3: "And although they say, "As the LORD lives," surely they swear falsely." 3 O LORD, do not Your eyes look for truth? You have smitten them, but they did not weaken; You have consumed them, but they refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to repent.***

***Zechariah 7:11-12: "But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears from hearing. 12 "They made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.***

***Micah 3:11-12: Her leaders pronounce judgment for a bribe, her priests instruct for a price and her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the LORD saying, "Is not the LORD in our midst? Calamity will not come upon us." 12 Therefore, on account of you Zion will be plowed as a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the temple will become high places of a forest.***