

AMOS 6:1 – 14

^{6:1} “Woe to those who are at ease in Zion,

and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria,

the notable men of the first of the nations,

to whom the house of Israel comes!

² Pass over to Calneh, and see,

and from there go to Hamath the great;

then go down to Gath of the Philistines.

Are you better than these kingdoms?

Or is their territory greater than your territory,

³ O you who put far away the day of disaster

and bring near the seat of violence?

⁴ “Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory

and stretch themselves out on their couches,

and eat lambs from the flock

and calves from the midst of the stall,

⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp

and like David invent for themselves instruments of music,

⁶ who drink wine in bowls

and anoint themselves with the finest oils,

but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile,

and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.”

⁸ The Lord God has sworn by himself, declares the Lord, the God of hosts:

“I abhor the pride of Jacob

and hate his strongholds,

and I will deliver up the city and all that is in it.”

⁹ And if ten men remain in one house, they shall die. ¹⁰ And when one's

relative, the one who anoints him for burial, shall take him up to bring the

bones out of the house, and shall say to him who is in the innermost parts of

the house, “Is there still anyone with you?” he shall say, “No”; and he shall

say, “Silence! We must not mention the name of the Lord.”

¹¹ For behold, the Lord commands,

and the great house shall be struck down into fragments,

and the little house into bits.

¹² Do horses run on rocks?

Does one plow there with oxen?

But you have turned justice into poison

and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood—

¹³ you who rejoice in Lo-debar,

who say, “Have we not by our own strength

captured Karnaim for ourselves?”

¹⁴ “For behold, I will raise up against you a nation,

O house of Israel,” declares the Lord, the God of hosts;

“and they shall oppress you from Lebo-hamath

to the Brook of the Arabah.”

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright
© 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Take time to read the passage carefully for yourself. Notice and mark down its structure, repeated words, key movements, and anything that stands out or raises questions. The questions below are offered as tools to help you notice, reflect, and respond to the text—use those that are most helpful for you or your group.

EXPLORING THE PASSAGE

- Amos begins this section with another “Woe.” What are the reasons he gives here for Israel to be pitied and mourned? How does this connect to earlier messages in Amos?
- Why are the people living with such ease and a sense of security? According to this passage, how does God view their confidence and lifestyle?

- Amos challenges the people to “pass over” to Calneh, Hamath, and Gath. What would visiting these cities have shown them? Why is this a powerful warning?
- In verses 4–6, Amos describes their lavish feasting and revelry. What stands out to you in this picture? How do the themes of these parties echo earlier critiques in Amos? What makes these celebrations so tragic or offensive in God’s eyes?
- In verse 8, God makes a solemn oath—just as He did in 4:2. What does God now swear to do, and what has led Him to this decisive action?
- Verses 9–11 offer a haunting, hypothetical story. What do these verses reveal about the devastation of judgment—and about Israel’s relationship with God at this point?
- Throughout this section, Amos asks a series of rhetorical questions. Each one exposes something absurd. What effect would this style have on the hearers? What false beliefs or behaviors is Amos confronting?
- Chapters 3–6 form a sustained section of warning and indictment. In what ways do verses 12–14 function as a fitting summary of Israel’s sin and the certainty of God’s judgment?
- Summary:
 - What do we learn about God in this passage?
 - Write a one or two-sentence summary of the main point of this text. What is God’s word for you from this passage? How will you respond?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- In what areas of your life are you tempted to ignore or downplay God’s Word? Are there ways you, like Israel, put off the thought of God’s judgment as something far away?
- What comforts or distractions—such as entertainment, busyness, or the pursuit of ease—might be dulling your ability to hear God clearly?
- What “strongholds” or systems are you tempted to trust for your security instead of God—whether financial, political, relational, or cultural?
- In what ways might you—or your community—be neglecting or distorting God’s call to justice, especially in how the vulnerable are treated?
- How can you actively seek justice and righteousness in your daily life—at work, in your neighborhood, church, or relationships?