JUSTICE

Part 7 of The Savior King. AMOS 5:1-15.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. October 25, 2026.

More teaching resources are available at: www.famousgod.com/groups

GOD HAS A VISION AND A VOICE

God has a vision for the world.

- He created Israel to make the vision reality.
- God's idea of justice is what Jesus said: love God, love people (Matthew 22:35-40).

Sadly, God's vision of a just world has not yet been realized.

- He has something to say about it. He is angry (Romans 1:18ff.).
- God's voice rings from the Minor Prophets as they call for a just world. For example, Amos 5:1-15.

THE MINOR PROPHETS

The Minor Prophets focus on justice issues

- God's covenant nation Israel failed to love God or people: idolatry, empty worship, corrupt leadership, exploitation of the poor and weak
- The prophets speak for God, delivering judgment and offering mercy and restoration.

Amos lived ten miles south of Jerusalem.

- He was a well-off rancher, not a preacher.
- He spoke to Israel (the northern kingdom) during a spiritually dark time.

WHAT GOD THINKS ABOUT JUSTICE: AMOS 5:1-15

1. GOD THINKS UNJUST NATIONS ARE DOOMED - vv. 1-3.

- Amos sings a lament as he predicts the demise of the northern tribes. Assyrian armies would eventually destroy them.
- Unjust nations may go on for some time, but they can never hide from God. Eventually his hammer falls. Injustice never prevails.

2. GOD THINKS RELIGION CANNOT COVER INJUSTICE - vv. 4-5

- Bethel, Gilgal, and Beersheba were places of worship, but the worshippers went through the motions. They did not seek the Lord.
- God's message: If you're hurting people and ignoring me, your religion cannot save you.
- Verses 8-9 highlight God's power to execute judgment. He is the eternal Creator of the universe, not one of their powerless, lifeless, carved idols.
- God's judgments may be delayed, but they're never late.

3. GOD THINKS PEOPLE DESERVE JUSTICE - vv. 10-13

- In this paragraph, the Lord lists his charges against his people.
- They corrupted the courts, lived by lies, and oppressed the vulnerable.
- But God thinks people deserve justice: safety at home, a fair hearing in court, the truth prevailing, and protection from powerful bullies.

4. GOD THINKS UNJUST NATIONS CAN CHANGE - vv. 14-15

- The Lord urges his people to restore justice and return to their covenant with him. Then, he would protect and bless them.

HOW TO LIVE JUSTLY

Living justly has two parts: 1) hate evil, and 2) love good.

- These are strong words. Neutrality is not an option. Loving good means to choose it and delight in it. Hating evil means to have a strong aversion to it.
- God wants us to care deeply enough about justice to do something.
- Personal justice concerns how individuals hate evil and love good. Ask what kind of reputation we have. Are we making God's vision real?
- Communal justice concerns how communities hate evil and love good. This concerns our institutions, schools, the legal system, governments, etc.

God's framework for justice is the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17).

- The second section of the Ten Commandments contains six laws for loving people. This is how I would summarize them:
  - Respect family.
  - Respect life.
  - Respect marriage.
  - Respect property.
  - Respect truth.
  - Respect contentment.
- That's a great framework for a just individual to live by, and a just society to aim at through its laws and institutions.
- A good summary of the meaning and application of the Commandments is here: https://anglicanchurch.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/To-Be-a-Christian.pdf

Let's commit to live justly (James 2:15-17; Ephesians 2:10; John 13:35; Galatians 5:6; Ephesians 5:1-2).

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Use any or all of the following questions to guide your group's conversation.

Read Amos 5:1-15.

Icebreaker

When you hear the word "justice, " what's the first picture or news headline that pops into your head — and where do you think that picture came from?

Observation

In Amos 5:4-5, God tells the people to stop traveling to the famous worship spots and instead says, "Seek me and live." What does God say will happen to those places, and what is he telling the people to do instead?

Review Amos 5:10-12. Identify their unjust actions. Who does each one hurt?

Discussion

Amos opens the chapter by singing a funeral song over a nation that is still alive and, on the surface, doing fine. Why use funeral language? What does this say about God's vision for a just world?

In verse 15, Amos says, "Perhaps the LORD will be gracious." Why "perhaps"? What does it tell us about the proper posture when we've have offended God?

Application

The sermon said personal justice shows up in our reputation — being known for telling the truth and treating people right. If your coworkers, or your kids, described your reputation honestly this week,

The sermon summed up the second half of the Ten Commandments as: respect family, respect life, respect marriage, respect property, respect truth, respect contentment. It's easy to see that our culture has jumped over these guardrails. What are some practical steps we could take to bring our culture closer to God's vision for justice in these areas?