JUSTICE IS A DIVINE ORDER

God’s vision and voice through the Prophet Amos.

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The Original Blueprint

God created a covenant nation to model a beautiful way to live. This vision of justice is profoundly simple and perfectly ordered:

Love God, love people.
(Matthew 22:35-40)

- Relationships in perfect harmony.
- Not a modern political invention.
- A divine ordering of society.

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The Disordered Reality

Injustice reigns. People reject the Creator and exploit each other.

The Reality	The Response
Idolatry, empty worship, and the exploitation of the poor and weak.	God is not passive. He is angry, but He is hopeful.

The Minor Prophets serve as God's voice delivering judgment, mercy, and a call to restore the vision.

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The Outsider Prophet

Amos was an unexpected messenger. A well-off Southern rancher sent by God into the spiritual darkness of the divided Northern tribes to speak against extreme corruption.

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God’s Four Verdicts on Injustice (Amos 5:1-15)

1. Unjust Nations Cannot Hide

2. Religion Cannot Cover Abuse

3. People Deserve True Justice

4. A Turnaround is Possible

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Unjust Nations Are Doomed

Amos sings a funeral dirge for Israel before the nation even dies. Unjust nations may persist for a time, but they can never hide from God’s hammer.



Takeaway: Injustice never prevails indefinitely.

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Rituals Without Righteousness Are Useless

The people performed rituals at Bethel, Gilgal, and Beersheba as “insurance” in case their carved idols failed. Their hearts were entirely disconnected from God. (Verses 4-5)



You cannot hurt people and expect religion to save you. God is Yahweh, the self-existent eternal Creator.

“The one who made the Pleiades and Orion, who turns darkness into dawn… He brings destruction on the strong, and it falls on the fortress.” (Verses 8-9)

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People Deserve Justice

The Charges - Verses 10-13

- Corrupting the law courts at the city gate.
- Oppressing the righteous and silencing truth.
- Accepting bribes to deny fair hearings.
- Exacting heavy grain taxes from vulnerable poor farmers.

Because they shredded God's vision, they will never live in the houses of cut stone they built, nor drink wine from their lush vineyards.

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The Call to Turn Around

"Hate evil and love good; establish justice at the city gate." (Amos 5:14-15)

God urges a return to the covenant.
He desires to protect and bless, not destroy.

Tragic History: Israel ignored the plea. Nothing changed. Assyria invaded and destroyed them in 722 BC.

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The Justice Engine

Neutrality is not an option. Passivity is not on the table.
God demands we feel deeply enough about justice to take action.



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Two Spheres of Application

Personal Justice	Communal Justice
Scope: The Individual.	**Scope:** The System.
Question: What kind of reputation do I have?	**Question:** How do our systems protect the vulnerable?
Application: Telling the truth. Treating people with dignity in daily interactions. Living in a way that makes God's vision a reality locally.	**Application:** Institutional integrity. The ethics of schools, legal systems, and government authorities. Ensuring laws reflect a love for people.

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The Blueprint for Loving People

The Second Half of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:12-17) reframed as load-bearing columns for a just society.



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Authentic Faith is Active

Christianity is more than religion or ritual; it is “faith working through love.” (Galatians 5:6)

We are saved for good works (Ephesians 2:10).

Faith without works is useless (James 2:15-17).

The ultimate mark of a follower is love (John 13:35).

The Mark of a Christian

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The Call to Imitation

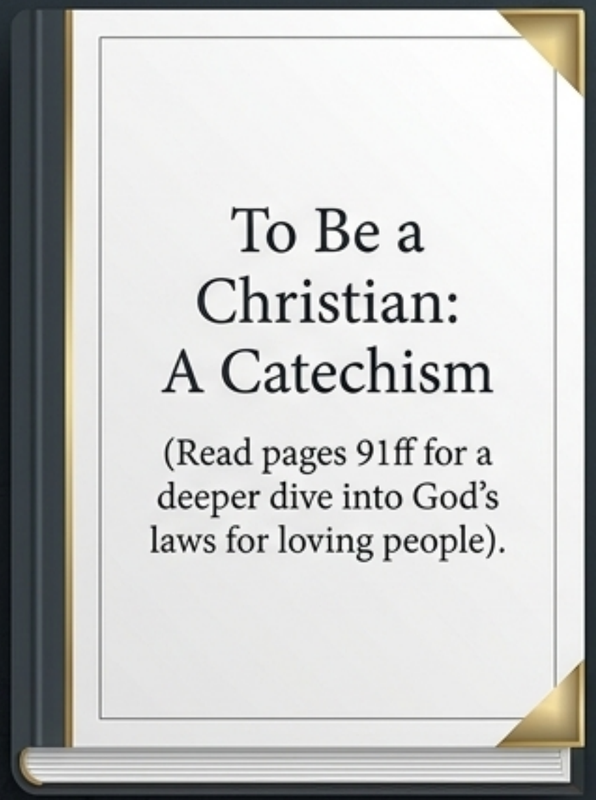
"...be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God." (Ephesians 5:1–2)

Commit to live justly. Decide today to love God and love people.

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Double Down on Justice

The Resource



The Action Steps

There is so much more to say. Let's continue the conversation.

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