

Prepared by Pastor Heike based on the Lutheran Study Bible

Chapter 3 – Israel’s guilt and punishment

- While reading chapter 3 – do you have the feeling that the Israelites are aware of their transgressions?
- V. 15 aims at the wealthy Israelites, those who possess summer and winter residences. Why do you think does Amos especially points out this group of people? What does he criticize?

Chapter 4 – Israel rejects correction

- Amos reminds the Israelites of the punishments which God had formerly used to recall his people from sin. The Israelites were warned that the only course which they can follow to avert the imminent disaster is to see the Lord and to take the ways of justice and righteousness. In these verses the relationship between God and his people seems to be described like the relationship between a parent and a misbehaving child. How do you feel about this relationship between God and his chosen people? Would you describe your relationship to God this way, too?

Chapter 5 – A Lament for Israel’s Sin

- Worshipping other gods and oppression of the poor and the weak are the immoral acts that are most criticized by Amos. Unfaithfulness to God is all the same.
- V. 23-24 God rejects the gifts of sacrifice and songs of praise when offered by those who oppress weaker persons in society. If we don’t live what we preach on Sunday, then there is not much sense in participating in worship. If we say ‘All Are Welcome’, but actually only welcome those who are similar to us, then something is wrong. We need to be mindful that we welcome everyone unconditionally. How would a welcoming church look like then?

Chapter 6 – Complacent Self-Indulgence will be punished

- The prophet especially criticizes the ways of the wealthy people – like, well I’m doing fine, why should I bother about others? Do we see a behavior like this in our time, too? Do you feel that this is a behavior that should be criticized as an unfaithful behavior? (compare: Matthew 25:31-46).