

Amos 5:18–27

Deadly Religion of Deluded Believers

Wednesday, November 27, 2024 ▫ Read Amos 5:18-27

Questions from the Scripture text: What is v18 pronouncing upon whom? How is the Day going to compare to their expectations? What sort of “safety” can they expect to have in that day (v19)? What sort of day will it be for them (v20)? Why (v21)? By what sort of bringings-near (offerings) were they worshiping (v22; cf. Lev 1–3)? How else were they worshiping (v23, cf. 2Chr 5:12–13)? But what was missing (v24)? Where else had they mixed God’s true worship with false worship (v25–26)? So, what is God doing to them (v27, cf. 1Ki 12:28–33, 13:33–34; 2Ki 17:22–23)?

What will the day of the Lord be like for those who think God loves whatever worship they decide for Him? Amos 5:18–6:14 looks forward to the hearing of God’s Word, publicly read, in the holy assembly on the coming Lord’s Day. In these twenty-four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the day of the Lord will be death and darkness for those who think they are coming to God, but are doing so apart from Christ**.

From the three “Hear this word” sections of Amos, we come into two woe-pronouncement sections. Often, people who think things are good between them and God are actually under His wrath. They desire the coming of the kingdom, because they think it will be happiness and light for them. That’s what Israel thought in the days of Amos (v18). But God has called them to lamentation (cf. v16–17) because His day is going to be certain death for them, like those who think they are safe, only to be mauled by a bear or bitten by a venomous snake (v19). It will be their darkest day (v20).

Israel had sacrifices and offerings (v22) like those the Lord commanded in Lev 1–3. But they offered them at Bethel (cf. 4:4, 5:5) on a calendar that Jeroboam had invented (cf. 1Ki 12:28–33). Although their traditional worship (going back to Aaron, at Sinai) “celebrated” redemptive history, God HATED it (v21) and exiled them for it (v27, cf. 2Ki 17:22–23). Such manmade worship goes hand-in-hand with injustice (v24) and gross idolatry (v26), and no amount of “true” worship (v25) can make these acceptable. The worship that God has commanded has Christ Himself as its substance; to come in additional ways is to come without Him. Many think that they want an experience of God. If that experience does not include repentance from all sin, including manmade religion, then they are in for a great shock when the Great Day comes.

What are some manmade feast days/holy assemblies that incorporate parts of true biblical worship? How much do people look forward to them? How do they presume that God thinks about them? But what does God think of them?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for providing Christ to be our ascension, our tribute, and our peace. Forgive us for when we give in to the temptation to approach You in ways that we have invented instead. We have seen in Amos that invented worship goes hand-in-hand with invented gods and invented moral values. Grant unto us repentance. Grant that we may come to You only in the manner that You have commanded, so that we would come to You only through Christ, into whom You have made us believe, and in whose Name we ask it, AMEN!

Suggested Songs: ARP98 “O Sing a New Song to the LORD” or TPH440 “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Wretched”

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Amos chapter 5, verses 18-27. These are God's words. Woe to you who desire the day of Yahweh. For what good is the day of Yahweh to you. It will be darkness and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion and a bear man.

Or so, he went into his house, leaned his hand on the wall and the serpent bit him. It's not the day of Yahweh darkness and not light. Is it not very dark with no brightness in it? I hate I despise Your feast days. And I do not Savor your sacred assemblies.

Though, you offer me burnt offerings, enter grain offerings. I will not accept them nor will I regard your fattened? Peace offerings. Take away from me. The noise of your songs for, I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments. But let Justice run down like water. And righteousness, like a mighty stream.

Did you offer me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness? 40 years. O House of Israel. You also carried secouth your king And she earn your Idols. The star of your Gods, which you made for yourselves. Therefore, I will send you into captivity Beyond Damascus, as Yahweh. Whose name? Is the God of hosts.

Amanda sends this reading of God's inspired, and in Aaron toward There are many who think that they belong to God. There are many, who use The Covenant name of God, maybe not Yahweh or Jehovah but The great Covenant Name by which he has now made himself known to us.

Jesus And whom Yahweh. Has ultimately communicated himself and whom we call Lord. Which matches and Takes over. judaistic. Superstition not. Say Yahweh, where does Yahweh in the Old Testament, but they would say Adonai, they would say Lord, And then the Lord Jesus has come. And, now we we use the word Lord, not just in the general sense of sir, or Master as it sometimes is in scripture, but especially to talk about Jesus Christ.

As Yahweh As Jehovah as the Lord there are many. Who think they know the Lord who think that the return of the Lord will be a good thing for them. Who think that? Are going to the Lord with. When they leave this world. And they are disastrously mistaken. This passage teaches us.

That thinking that you are safe in the Lord. Without giving evidence of having been saved by the Lord, By living, and especially, worshiping, according to the word of the Lord. May leave you. In for a disastrous surprise. When the day of Yahweh comes, We're coming out of. Um three sections in the Book of Amos started with hear this word, God makes a case against them.

And in those three sections, he especially highlighted the worship at Bethel. And you remember, Bethel was at the southern end of the northern kingdom in Jeroboam very carefully. put worship centers, first and foremost, in Bethel. And then also in Dan so that anyone from the northern kingdom, who wanted to worship Yahweh, could be told here, is this ancient tradition and he even used the golden calf which was an ancient tradition By that time, he if we went back to First Kings and looked at the institution of it, he used the same language as Aaron at Sinai.

Your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt? And so he had set up that Worship Center, there it was a Yahweh Worship Center, it was to attract the ones who

were going up to Jerusalem. So that they wouldn't go there and then also cleverly. He put one at the Northern end of the Northern Kingdom, so that it was always convenient to go to wherever Was.

Nearest to you. While not only did they did he set that up but he made a feast. like the great feast. In Jerusalem, except for instead of the seventh month is in the eighth month. And there might be implication of that there that he might have done similar with.

The other two feasts. And then, He ordained. Priests First Kings tells us from whatever tribe he wished, Not from among the Levites. So in the northern kingdom, and as Three hear this word portions that preceded. This one particularly focus on Bethel. And apparently there was a worship center at gilgal.

You remember gilgal, which got his name from the circumcision of the generation, that was entering the land and the Lord rolled away their reproach at gilgal. And so they had set up these worship centers, these feasts

They had. They had used many of the things that belonged to True Religion. They had used the name of the Lord and They loved them. These are not. Ah, pagans. These are quote, unquote, Yahweh worshipers, professing Believers.

And God draws an analogy between. When they're coming with joy to their feast days and their offering sacrifices. If you look at verses, verse 22. The sacrifices are the same as in the first three. Chapters of Leviticus ascensions, tributes and peace. Well, burnt offerings grain, offerings and peace offerings.

And so there's a lot that they're doing. That's from the Bible in celebration of God, unto the name of God as members of the Church of God. But God says, I hate. I despise your feast days and I do not favor. Your sacred assemblies. Not only did they have imitations of?

The worship that the Lord had Instituted mosaically but See in verse 23, there's also imitations and things that came in with the temple worship. Take away from me, the noise of your songs. Well, they didn't have levitical choir, they had a priesthood from whomever. And they don't have levitical instrumentalists.

They had instrumentalists from. Whomever. So, they had things that Imitated. Gave you the experience of maybe even Skillfully or enjoyably or according to the, the tastes of the people. But they had things that imitated and seemed to them. if we can say it this way to be, right?

They had.

Seemed to them. If you can say it this way to be right out of their Bibles, And God said, he hated it. And that's bad enough to be bringing worship to God. That you love that you feel is very worshipful. You feel like you're drawing near to him or maybe you think you are because you've rationalized whatever the observance is And, Your feeling and your idea is exactly the opposite of the reality.

That God hates it. God, does not like worship. Because we like it. That has no bearing. On whether or not the worship is good. And he draws an analogy between that which is happening in in their lives. To that, which will happen at the end of their lives. Woe to you, who desire?

The day of Yahweh. What good is it to you? And he Likens it to those who tell themselves that they have escaped when they are actually in the last moment of their life. Telling themselves. Oh, I got away from the lion. They come around the tree. And there's the grizzly.

And they're done. They get the race home tell themselves. Oh, I'm safe in the house and he even adds the detail of leaning on the wall. But there's a serpent in the wall. A venomous snake. And it bites at me. Thought he was safe. But he thought he was safe in the moment that he was.

About to die.

And in doing so. They were children of their parents. Children of their forefathers. Versus 25 and 26. You know, they thought that they were offering sacrifices to Yahweh and this is something especially for us. because In the wilderness, there was worship, that was presided over. By Aaron and his family.

There was right worship. But they should have known that they were doing their right worship with the wrong heart, Tau Because they were also worshiping Idols. So, There's three great dangers, here, he spends most of the time. On the false worship Instituted by jeroboam So there's worshipping the right God in the wrong way.

There's worshipping. The right God in the right way. With a wrong heart. And you can know that you're worshipping with the wrong heart. If You're also satisfied in addition to worshipping the right God. To worship other gods as well. To find the core of your identity. In something other than him as well.

To have as your Chief pleasure, which governs all of your other Pleasures something other than him as well. To have as your Chief, hope the thing that you're resting on and makes you feel secure, makes you feel safe. Something other than him. As well, these things That belong to him alone.

To use the language of verse 26. If? Lugging along for 40 years in the wilderness. And the star of your God, which you made for yourself. Then it doesn't actually matter. How sincere you think you are? When you attend the Yahweh worship at the Tabernacle, does it? Because you're not.

Just deceiving yourself. You can easily deceive yourself. And even more does he easily deceive others? Which can't deceive God. There's no such thing. And so it was on account of those things, especially, That the northern kingdom. Was going to be carried Beyond Damascus. Damascus is what the capital of what we call Syria.

And, Past them, not really. relation was usyria the ones who were going to come and and carry them out. But one of the things that they had done late, The life of the northern kingdom is starts to really imitate the Syrian worship in Damascus. And so, Played the Syrian worship games and they were going to win.

Syrian worship prizes, Assyria was going to come and get both Nations. Syria, and the northern kingdom. Ephraim Israel. What may the Lord give us then? Not to give to anything or anyone else the place in our heart that belongs to him alone. But to give us a right heart towards him.

That when we worship Him. We will worship from the heart. And may, he have mercy on, And keep us from coming to him with anything that we have invented. Because as we learn from the Bible, as a whole, The substance of the things. That God has commanded for his worship, whether the Old Testament or the New Testament is Jesus.

And so adding anything to that. Is attempting to come to God in part. Without Jesus. And may, the Lord prevent us. Spare us, keep us. From doing such a thing. Let's pray. Our Father in Heaven. We pray that you would help us not to do anything in worship that you.

Have not commanded but for us. Lord, it is the other two cases in which The text spent less time but are greater dangers for us. That we would be worshipping you. In the right way. But with an insincere heart, Or that we would be. Adding other things to our lives and the place that belongs to you.

And so we pray that you'd forgive us our sin and we pray that your spirit would help us against it. Before we ask these things through Christ. Amen.