

Is the Day of the Lord Unjust to Some?

International Bible Lesson

Amos 6:1-14

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“For, behold, the LORD commandeth, and he will smite the great house with breaches, and the little house with clefts”
(Amos 6:11—KJV).

“See, the LORD commands, and the great house shall be shattered to bits, and the little house to pieces”
(Amos 6:11—NRSV).

Those who read Amos might think the LORD is unfair or unjust, because when He sent an earthquake to destroy homes in the Kingdom of Israel as a forewarning of greater judgments yet to come if the nation did not repent, He shattered great and little houses, houses of the rich and the poor, and houses of the just and the unjust just as Amos had foretold two years before the earthquake (Amos 1:1). For many reasons, God is not unjust. Jesus reminded people that our Father in heaven “makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous” (Matthew 5:45). Furthermore, God made the way possible for us to prepare ourselves spiritually for inevitable earthquakes and other disasters. If people build their spiritual houses on rock, the words of Jesus, when bad things happen they will not fall spiritually (Matthew 7:24-27). Amos also preached to the rich and the poor, and to the just and the unjust. When he preached that God was sending certain destruction upon Israel if the nation did not repent, he spoke words of hope to every individual who heeded his message and sought the LORD. Though some of the righteous who sought the LORD with sincere faith in God may have died in the earthquake, God was with them. They became like angels and could not die anymore. Similar to Lazarus, they went to live with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and God is “God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive” (Luke 20:36-38; Luke 16:19-31). — © Copyright 2015 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

1. What were the names of the capital cities of the Kingdom of Judah and the Kingdom of Israel?
2. What did Amos say would happen to the Kingdom of Israel? What would reign?
3. Who would be the first to go into exile?
4. What would happen to many of the wealthy people who did not go into exile?
5. Explain who or what God swore an oath by and why.