

*Expressions  
of Good  
Pt. 7*

*A Church Of Tov  
Nurtures  
Righteousness and  
Justice!*

**Amos 5:24 (NIV)**

*But let justice roll on like a river,  
righteousness like  
a never-failing stream!*

An Introduction To Amos  
From  
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# Justice and Righteousness

- The Hebrew word for Justice is a courtroom term that goes beyond legality, to doing kind or loving actions toward others, as a correction for injustice.
- The Hebrew word for Righteousness describes a relationship or community that allows a kindness and fairness about life, regardless of social status.
- These two, often used together virtues, describe the kind of society God sought in Israel. .

# The First Lament

## Amos 5:1-3 (NIV)

*Hear this word, O house of Israel, this lament I take up concerning you:*

*"Fallen is Virgin Israel, never to rise again, deserted in her own land, with no one to lift her up."*

*This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "The city that marches out a thousand strong for Israel will have only a hundred left; the town that marches out a hundred strong will have only ten left."*

# The First Admonition Is...

## *“Seek The Lord And Live”*

*This is what the LORD says to the house of Israel: "Seek me and live; Amos 5:4 (NIV)*

*(Don't go to Bethel, Gilgal, or Beersheba.)*

*Seek the LORD and live, or he will sweep through the house of Joseph like a fire; it will devour, and Bethel will have no one to quench it.*

*Amos 5:6 (NIV)*

# The First Accusation

Amos 5:7-8, 10-13 (NIV)

*You who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground... you hate the one who reproves in court and despise him who tells the truth.*

*You trample on the poor and force him to give you grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine.*



*For I know how many are your offenses and how great  
your sins. You oppress the righteous and take bribes  
and you deprive the poor of justice in the courts.  
Therefore the prudent man keeps quiet in such times,  
for the times are evil.*

## Second Admonition Is... Seek Good (Tov)

*Seek good, not evil, that you may live.*

*Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as  
you say he is.*

*Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts.*

*Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on  
the remnant of Joseph.*

Amos 5:14-15 (NIV)

# The Second Lament

*Therefore this is what the Lord, the LORD God Almighty, says:*

*"There will be wailing in all the streets and cries of anguish in every public square. The farmers will be summoned to weep and the mourners to wail.*

*There will be wailing in all the vineyards, for I will pass through your midst," says the LORD.*

*Amos 5:16-17 (NIV)*

# Two Woe Oracles Are Pronounced (Amos 5:18-27; Amos 6:1-14)

Woe oracles were common among the prophets  
and were a pronouncement that said...

*“You are in trouble, this is why and here  
is what is going to happen to you.”*

# Woe Oracle Number One – Amos 5:18-27

## The Day of the Lord

*Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be darkness, not light.*

*It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him.*

*Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light--pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?*

*"I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand  
your assemblies. Even though you bring me burnt  
offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them.  
Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will  
have no regard for them.*

*Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to  
the music of your harps.*

*But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a  
never-failing stream!*

*"Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings forty years  
in the desert, O house of Israel?*

*You have lifted up the shrine of your king, the pedestal  
of your idols, the star of your god--which you made  
for yourselves.*

*Therefore I will send you into exile beyond  
Damascus," says the LORD,  
whose name is God Almighty.*

# What God Wanted From His People

- Justice and righteousness
  - Fairness in the court and in the marketplace
  - Kindness toward one another in every area of life.
- In a land of few rivers and constant water problems, Amos imagines justice as deep and plentiful as a river that rolls on and on.
  - He dreams of righteous relationships among people, relationships that are as wide as a stream that never dries up.



## Woe Oracle Two – Amos 6:1-14...

...Is Similar To The First One. But, It Includes A Message To Judah And Ends The Same!

*But you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into bitterness--you who rejoice in the conquest of Lo Debar and say, "Did we not take Karnaim by our own strength?" For the LORD God Almighty declares, "I will stir up a nation against you, O house of Israel, that will oppress you all the way from Lebo Hamath to the valley of the Arabah." Amos 6:12-14*

# Our God Desires And Demands That His People Are For Justice and Righteousness.

- Through Amos, God called out those who subverted Justice and Righteousness in Israel.
- He named their sins, he spoke for the oppressed.
- Amos knew it was not prudent or popular to speak out against the power structures of his time.
  - He knew he would be rejected.
  - He spoke anyway!

# A Church Of Tov Will Be Neither Prudent Nor Silent

We will Stand up and Speak out....

- Against the Injustice of Prejudice toward anyone.
- For the Righteousness of Fairness for everyone.
- Against Bullying, both in person and on social media.
  - Against Evil and For Good.
- We will be Salt and Light in a Foul Tasting and Ever Darkening World.

# A Church of Tov Will

- Seek Good, not Evil.
- Hate Evil and Love Good.
- Work for “Justice” – Seek to correct injustice through our kind or loving actions.
- Foster “Righteousness” – Create relationships and a community that is kind and fair to all, regardless of social status.
- Realize that no worship of God is acceptable without there also being Justice and Righteousness.

# Our Calling Is Still To...

*“Let justice roll on like a river,  
righteousness like a never-failing  
stream!”*

# Our Assignment:

Be informed about the injustice that is still in our world. Read, listen and ask questions.

Make your relationships and this community of God's people a place that is kind and fair.