

WHEN GOD HAS WORK TO DO, HE FINDS SOMEONE WHOLLY DEDICATED TO HIS WILL. A PERSON THAT...

- ✓ Is **DIVINELY** called Amos 7:15; Isaiah 6:8; Acts 26:16
- ✓ Has a **BURDEN** for people James 5:20
- ✓ Has a **MESSAGE** from God Jeremiah 20:9; Acts 4:20; Amos 4:2

FIVE OFFENSES AGAINST THE POOR

1. Despise those who tell the truth
2. Trample the poor and force them to give what little they have to the rich
3. Oppress the righteous—accept and give bribes
4. Deprive the poor of justice in the courts
5. Stand by silently while injustices persist

PERTINENT PRINCIPLES

- ☞ Social injustice results from the sins of people. **When we are not right with God we cannot be right with men.**
- ☞ Unfortunately, the weak, the sick, and the helpless become victims of those who lust for riches and power.
- ☞ We are not chosen because we are wise & strong, but because we are fit instruments for the exhibition of God’s wisdom and power.
- ☞ If we are speaking God’s word in God’s name, then leave it to God to make His message bring forth results.
- ☞ Disobeying God and rejecting His mercy will lead to judgment. **God expects his people to live with justice, honesty, and integrity.**

A. RIPE FOR JUDGMENT—

1. Ways in which God judges those who disobey Him
 - **BLOTS** out offender’s name from heaven Deuteronomy 29:20
 - **WITHDRAWS & ABANDONS** man to his own ways Hosea 4:17
 - He sends **PESTILENCE & FAMINE** Deuteronomy 28:21-22; 28:38-40
 - **TAKEN INTO CAPTIVITY** for failing God Deuteronomy 28:41; Ezekiel 29:23
 - **COMPLETE DESTRUCTION** Job 31:3; Isaiah 11:4b
2. Sins for which judgment was sent
 - **DISOBEDIENCE** to God’s commandments Leviticus 26:14-16
 - **COMPLAINING** against God Numbers 14:28-29
 - **IDOLATRY**—worship/allegiance to money, power, fame, “toys” instead of God 2 Kings 22:17
 - **EVIL DOING** Isaiah 26:21; Ezekiel 24:13,14
 - **MISTREATMENT** of God’s people Deuteronomy 32:43

B. CAUSE OF JUDGMENT—

1. What happens when people forget God?
 - Open door to endless stream of corrupting influences
2. **SIN MANIFESTATIONS:**
 - ☐ **Social injustice:** *bribery flourishes, innocent penalized, denial of legal rights (voter suppression, etc.)*
 - ☐ **Insincere worship:** hypocrites go through the motions, “having a form of godliness, but denying the power”—have nothing to do with them. 2 Timothy 3:5; Isaiah 1:13,14; Jeremiah 7:21-23
 - ☐ **Ungodly people:** God is second place in their lives James 1:15; Amos 5:4
3. **Man may forget the poor & disenfranchised, but God doesn’t!**
 - ✓ God regards the poor the same as the affluent Job 34:19
 - ✓ God hears the groaning of the poor & doesn’t ignore them Isaiah 41:17
 - ✓ God is their refuge Psalm 14:6

C. JUDGMENT FORETOLD—

1. Wicked shall not go unpunished & the righteous shall be rewarded Psalm 103:6; Matthew 5:45b; Acts 10:34-35; Romans 10:12
2. How can God be “just” & loving simultaneously? 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:24; 1 Corinthians 1:9
3. Aspects of God’s faithfulness
 - Faithful in counseling Isaiah 25:1
 - Affliction & judgments are other manifestations of faithfulness Psalm 119:75; Jeremiah 23:20
 - Faithful to forgive the repentant sinner 1 John 1:9
 - Faithful to fulfill His promises 1 Kings 8:20a; Hebrews 10:23-24
 - Trust the faithfulness of God 1 Peter 4:19
 - Speak of God’s great faithfulness Psalms 89:5; 92:1,2

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

1. Is the message of Amos a warning to America in 2020?
2. What can Christians do to help promote the cause of equal justice for all?
 - Follow the teachings of Jesus... Matthew 25:41-43; 22:36-39
3. Remember—
 - ➔ **Your political persuasion should not define your Christian perspective**
—and likewise—
 - ➔ **Your Christian perspective should not dictate your political persuasion.**
 - ➔ **Everything needs to ALIGN to God’s Word – the Bible**
4. As a devoted “believer” (Christian) you have a duty to not only follow God’s commandments, but allow them to change your attitude and behavior. Romans 12:2a; Philippians 3:10-12

What would Jesus do?

BOTTOM LINE: We need to measure everything to God’s standard – The **Bible!**

God’s “Basic Instruction Book for Leaving Earth”