

“Powerful Pairs”

Amos & Hosea

July 8, 2012

Amos Outline:

I. 1:1 Superscription... author, audience, & timetable

II. **Oracles of Judgment** (1:2 – 6:14)

A. Judgments on Israel’s neighbors (1:2 - 2:5)

1. “Others” = 1:2-2:3

2. Judah = 2:4-5

B. Judgments on Israel (2:6 – 6:14)

1. Introductory announcement of judgment on Israel (2:6-16)

2. Detailed announcement of judgments on Israel (3:1-6:14)

a. An oracle of **WARNING** (3:1-15)

b. An oracle of **DOOM** (4:1-13)

c. An oracle of **PETITION** (5:1-17)

d. An oracle of **WOE** (6:1-14)

III. **Visions of Judgment** (7:1 – 9:11)

A. Vision of **INESCAPABLE JUDGMENT** (7:1-17)

1. The vision itself (vv.1-9)

2. An experience reinforcing the vision (vv.10-17)

B. Vision of Israel’s **TERRIBLE END** (8:1-14)

C. Vision of the Lord **STANDING BESIDE the ALTER** (9:1-15)

1. The thresholds/foundations shaken (vv.1-10)

IV. Vision of the “**Remnant being Restored/Redeemed**”

1. God’s unwavering love & promise upheld...

2. The “booth of David restored” (9:11-15)

“The **THEME of AMOS** is the **UNIVERSAL JUSTICE of GOD** - ESV Study Bible

A. The LORD (Yahweh) is the Creator of the universe; therefore His ethical norms are universal, and all people are subject to judgment in light of them

B. Justice & righteousness in the treatment of other people are the key evidences of a right relationship to the LORD.

C. Religious ritual in the absence of just and righteous treatment of others is disgusting to God.

D. Israel’s covenant with the LORD did not guarantee special protection for them when they broke the covenant. Rather, it meant that they would be held to a higher standard of obedience and would be subject to more scrutiny in judgment.

E. Thus, the “day of the LORD” would NOT be a time of miraculous deliverance for unrepentant Israel. Rather, it would be a time of terrible destruction.

F. Yet a faithful remnant would be preserved and would someday see a day of glorious restoration and blessing.

- ESV Study Bible (Amos Intro)

Hosea helps us understand BOTH... our hurting & our healing realities.

Hosea paints a powerful portrait of Israel's unfaithfulness toward God through a number of parallels & metaphors, including the most blatant example of Gomer, Hosea's promiscuous and adulterous wife...

Hosea contrasts the inherent difference between sinful man's covenant-breaking nature and God's perfect, covenant-keeping love.

KEY: Thus, God's wrathful consequences must therefore be seen, accepted, and understood to be "love's building blocks." God's wrath is not a divine tantrum, but rather, a respectful, tool-of-inspiration to align one's actions and attitudes to that of our King's missional instructions. Those who respond faithfully to God's initiatives will rest, having been rescued, restored, & ultimately redeemed – Amen!

By contrast, those who resist God's loving and grace-filled, conditional invitations will have their wishes respected. Sadly, the Lord will leave them in their sins... in the family of Satan, eternally separated from the Savior they rejected.

- 3:1-5 = See an Old Testament parallel to the New Testament gospel!
4:5-9 = See yet another example of corrupt prophets & priests... Beware!
4:14c = *"a people without understanding will come to ruin!"*
5:4 = Notice... hard hearts harden...
6:4-5 = Fickle, faithless love is no love at all... and begets God's wrath.
7:8a = Mixing with the wrong crowd makes you a part of the wrong crowd!
7:13 = *"Woe to them, because they have strayed away from Me!"*
"Destruction to them, because they have rebelled against Me!"
"I long to redeem them but they speak lies against Me."
7:14 = *"They do not cry out to Me from their hearts..."*
8:1 = *"An eagle hovers over the house of the LORD"* – an attack is looming!
8:10 = *"Tho they sold themselves amongst the nations... I will gather them..."*
9:7 = ***"The days of punishment are coming, the days of reckoning are at hand. Let Israel know this."***

Refusing clearly about was to hear the truth from prophets who spoke out so its sins, the nation did not hear God's warnings about what soon to happen. We all listen and read selectively – focusing on what seems to support our current lifestyle, ignoring what demands a radical reordering of our priorities. In doing this, we are likely to miss the warnings we need most."

- *Life Application Study Bible*

- 10:7 = Israel will soon find that they are easily displaced... *"like a twig..."*
10:12 = A message for our day... 10:13 = A cancer in our culture.
11:2 = The more grace given... the greater the gap between God & the godless
11:7 = A direct, non-disputable prophetic prediction... actualized in 722BC
12:6 = *"You must return to God; maintain love & justice, & wait for your God..."*
13:6-9 = The sad and deadly progression of perverted grace...
ch. 14 = We RETURN & REPENT; God RESTORES; We REALIZE & REMEMBER!

S AMERICA FACING A "JONAH" MOMENT, OR A "NAHUM" MOMENT?

Joel C. Rosenberg

(Washington, D.C., July 2, 2012) -- Last month, I had dinner with a group of Protestant and Catholic Christian leaders just outside of Washington, D.C. I was asked to briefly explain the research and analysis I had done while writing *Implosion* and share my conclusions with the group. I tried to summarize the book with this question: "Is America facing a 'Jonah' moment, or a 'Nahum' moment?" As we approach the July 4th holiday and the celebration of the founding of our dear country, let me explain.

In the Old Testament book of Jonah, the Hebrew prophet was sent by the Lord to the wicked city of Ninevah -- the capital of the Assyrian empire -- in order to preach a message of imminent judgment. I asked the leaders to set aside for a moment the fact that Jonah didn't want to obey the Lord and preach this message, and thus fled on a ship headed in the other direction. The point I wanted to make that night was that when Jonah finally did obey the Lord and did start preaching in Ninevah, he didn't call the people to repentance. Rather, Jonah declared, "Forty days and Ninevah will be overthrown." (Jonah 3:4) However, even though Jonah never called the people to plead to the One True God of Israel to have mercy on their souls and on their city, even though Jonah never called on the people to beg for forgiveness and turn away from their wickedness, that is, in fact, exactly what the Ninevites did.

The text says: "Then the people of Ninevah believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them. When the word reached the king of Ninevah, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat on the ashes. He issued a proclamation and it said, 'In Ninevah by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water. But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands. Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we shall not perish?'" (Jonah 3:5-9)

Sure enough, the Lord heard the earnest prayers of the people -- and their king -- as they repented, and He relented. "When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it." The promised judgment did not come. The people and their city were spared from God's wrath. What an extraordinary moment. The pagan people heard the word of the Lord and it burned in their hearts. They believed God's word, pleaded for mercy, and the Lord gave them mercy, even though He had never indicated that He would do so.

But this was not the only time the word of the Lord came to the people of Ninevah.

About 100 years or so later, the next generation of Ninevites had abandoned the Lord and fallen back into tremendous evil, violence, bloodshed, lies, sorcery and

other wickedness. In the Old Testament book of Nahum, we read that the Lord again spoke to the people of Ninevah, this time through a different Hebrew prophet, this one named Nahum. Yet this time the people of Ninevah did not repent. They did not listen to God's word. They did not plead for mercy. They did not turn from their wicked ways and start praying, fasting and begging God for mercy. And thus, mercy did not come. Instead, the judgment of God came upon the people, and in 612 B.C. the city of Ninevah was utterly destroyed.

Today we as Americans -- especially those here in the capital, but all of us really -- must confront this question: Is America in a "Jonah" moment, or a "Nahum" moment? That is, will we hear the word of the Lord that we have strayed far from the teachings of the Bible and allowed our land to become polluted with abortions and pornography and violence and wickedness of all kinds? Will we admit how far we are from God's plan and purpose for our lives? Will we confess that our hearts are far from Jesus Christ and plead with the Lord for His mercy and grace and forgiveness? Will we fast and pray and earnestly seek God's face, and implore Christ to give us a Third Great Awakening? Or will we ignore the word of the Lord and continue in our sins and watch our nation continue to decline, or even implode?

Twice in American history we have seen sweeping spiritual revivals known as the Great Awakening and the Second Great Awakening, respectively. Millions of Americans repented of their sins during those seasons, became devout followers of Jesus Christ, began to read the Bible voraciously and to obey the word of the Lord. Nowhere in Scripture, however, has America been promised a spiritual revival in the 21st century, much less one that would be so sweeping, so game-changing that it would qualify as a Third Great Awakening. But who knows? Perhaps the Lord will show us tremendous mercy and forgiveness if we all humble ourselves and pray, and seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways? However, if we don't repent and turn back to the Lord Jesus Christ, we may very well consign ourselves to suffer the fate of the Ninevites during the time of Nahum.

These are sobering thoughts, I realize. But these are perilous times.

Overview of Uzziah:

UZZIAH – From Royalty To Leprosy

2 Chronicles 26

1. Our lesson focuses on one of the most successful Kings of the Southern Kingdom. His name literally means "Jehovah is strength" and his life illustrates the meaning of his name. Uzziah became Judah's eleventh King at age 16 and held the second longest tenure as Judah's monarchy (52 years). NOTE: He is called "Azariah" in the historical record of 2 Kings.

a. Early in his career he was victorious over all enemies. He strengthened his kingdom and improved the economic status of his nation.

b. An interesting fact about Uzziah is revealed in 2 Chron 26:15. The King was an intelligent military tactician. He was able to conceive and construct weapons. He became famous for these inventions.

c. He was a superb organizer and his fame spread even to the Egyptian Dynasty.

d. During his monarchy the nation enjoyed a bright spot in the world's history.

e. There cannot be a better success story than King Uzziah. Tragically his biography does not end on the note of success but of failure. Instead of being buried in the sepulcher of the Kings in Jerusalem, he was buried in a field outside of the city. It is this ironic twist in Uzziah's career that deserves our concentration. One would expect a marvelous accolade to be chiseled into the grave marker of Uzziah. However, the eulogy is stated with four simple words, "He is a leper."

f. Consider the history of this "successful failure."

2. Uzziah in his YOUTH (2 Chron 26:1-5).

a. His early years were marked by the significant influences surrounding him.

1) His father was King Amaziah (2 Chron 26:4). The inspired historian notes that Amaziah "did right in the sight of the Lord" (2 Chron 25:2). He was a father who was concerned with what God commanded. He would thus be a father whose example would be influential in guiding his son in God's will. "Right" refers to one recognizing that God's commands must be followed. An interesting illustration of this decision to follow God's will is found in 2 Chron 25:6-9. Amaziah had organized a military expedition against Edom. He had gathered a large army from Judah but had also hired 100,000 Israeli mercenaries. God's prophet confronted Amaziah about this fellowship and bluntly told him it was unacceptable to God (25:7). The King dismissed those whom God refused to recognize (this situation is a valuable lesson itself and deserves study).

Amaziah's influence upon young Uzziah was important. However, there is a somber footnote to Amaziah's dedication to God – "yet not with a whole heart." Even though he knew that God expected wholehearted devotion, he did not offer such to the Almighty. This inconsistency revealed that Amaziah did not recognize God's total sovereignty and this would have a drastic impact upon his son. NOTE: How many fathers since Amaziah have also admitted the need to "do right in the sight of the Lord" BUT they have not done so with their whole heart? Consequently their children have been impacted for the worse! Historical tragedies are often repeated by those who refuse to learn. (Cf. Dt 6:5). Fathers, have you allowed God's sovereignty to control all of your life?

2) His respect for God's messenger (2 Chron 26:5). A key to Uzziah's success is his desire to seek God. It seems that the influence for this is attributable to a prophet or priest named "Zachariah." This unknown prophet was able to know, understand, and explain God's will so the King (and others) would understand and obey.

b. As long as Uzziah was influenced by these forces to follow God's will, he knew success and happiness. It was a good time for Judah!

3. Uzziah in his role as STATESMAN (2 Chron 26:6-15). No politician could dream of a better tenure as a chief executive of a nation. Prosperity was enjoyed in all areas of life.

a. POLITICALLY Uzziah's leadership resulted in amazing successes. His armies were victorious (v. 6-8). His projects and programs were successful (v. 9-10). He could do nothing wrong! What an enviable position he had!

b. MILITARILY Uzziah's leadership was superb (v. 11-15). He was an amazing military mind – organized, prepared, and inventive. Everyone studied his maneuvers and learned brilliant strategies of warfare.

c. PERSONALLY Uzziah's fame spread throughout then entire known world. He was famous and recognized. His "strength" was envied by other Kings (v. 8b, 15b).

4. Uzziah as a REBEL (2 Chron 26:16-18). One would expect King Uzziah's biography to continue with listing amazing accomplishments and citing renown achievements. What else would we expect from one with such an amazing beginning? But it would not be!

a. The slippery slope of decline began when Uzziah allowed his father's "heart problem" to interfere with his devotion to God. What happened? The King's eyes were taken from God and placed on self. Maybe Zechariah died and the godly instruction ceased. Whatever initiated the problem the result is one cited by ancient history (cf Dt 8:11-18a). Prosperity and success blurred the King's vision and he failed to see that God was the Cause for success. Uzziah began to think he was personally responsible!

b. The tragedy is stated in 26:15b – "until" is the point of apostasy. The King lost consciousness that Jehovah God was responsible for his success. The King's pride blinded him to the need of humility (v. 16a).

c. What caused him to enter into the Temple and offer incense? (v. 16b). We are not told and it is not necessary to know. What we do know is that the King knew he was doing wrong. The priests knew the King was doing wrong. The entire nation knew their King was doing wrong. Pride could not make a wrong action "right"!

1) All of his godly obedience was erased! All of his successes were eclipsed by folly!

2) Why? Because he thought he could modify God's expressed commands! He thought he was superior to God in deciding how the worship was to be conducted.

3) It was all due to his PRIDE! "It was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind . . . As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you" C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity).

4) Great successes, world renown, fantastic prosperity all were lost because Uzziah refused to follow God's commands!

5. Uzziah as a LEPER (2 Chron 26:19-23).

a. Uzziah believed himself to be bigger than God. God was fashioned in the King's mind to be a convenient object, not the controlling focus!

b. And so his eulogy does not read of success, prosperity, military genius, or one who followed God's commands. It is short – "He is a leper."

c. His pride prevented him from being buried with the previous Kings of Judah.

6. What does King Uzziah's biography mean for modern believers?

a. True Success is found in following God's commands.

b. Genuine Success comes from the Almighty God, not the "almighty dollar."

c. Lasting Success comes to those who refuse to compromise God's clear commands.

d. Blessed Success can be lost by the subtle sin of pride, self-sufficiency, and self-willed religion.

e. Godly Success can be sacrificed for Self...

7. What instruction from God will prevent us from ruining success as King Uzziah did? Joshua 1:7-8. Notice how repulsed our Father in Heaven is by arrogant pride (cf Pr 6:16-19).

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