

What Would Amos Say?

In light of the recent mass of emails concerning the anti-Christ, I thought we would spend an evening discussing a few of the prophecies about the end-time. One strange email said the Bible predicts the anti-Christ will be a Muslim. The only problem with that is that Islam came into being 600 years after Jesus and therefore isn't mentioned in the Bible.

What do we know about the end time? There are a lot of details in Daniel and Revelation, but I think we should begin with this word to Daniel about the ability to understand in detail what will happen. Daniel 12:4 Many have tried to explain the details of Daniel, but the one that gave the revelation told him it would be sealed until the time of the end.

The only clue we have to source of the anti-Christ is the prophecy that he will come from the ten end time powers. Those powers came out of the two branches of the Roman Empire. So some conclude that he will come out of that ancient Roman Empire. That doesn't seem to be so clear to me. Daniel 2:40-44; 7:7-8

One thing I often see overlooked is the words of the Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians in chapter 2. The church had been concerned about some false teaching that Christ had already returned and they missed it. Though the early church had the expectation that Christ could return at any moment, Paul told them that the rebellion (falling away) would take place and the anti-Christ (lawless one) would be revealed.

There have been many times in history we could say that there was a falling away from faith. We could say that now for our country. But the world is seeing revival in China, India, Africa, and South America. The seeds of rebellion are firmly planted in the industrial world. We are witnessing a growing anti-Christian sentiment. That is offset by the developing world that is receiving the gospel.

The anti-Christ hasn't been revealed. 2Thess 2:4 describes how he is revealed. He sets himself up in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Since the Temple was torn down shortly after this, some thought Paul was mistaken. Today, the Temple Institute has prepared everything that is necessary to re-establish Temple worship, but the Muslim Dome of the Rock is over the footings of the ancient Holy of Holies. Clearly, a number of things must take place before the anti-Christ is revealed and before we are gathered to be with Jesus (the rapture). But don't think that means we can get casual about our spiritual life. We don't know how long we have. Any of us could be called home tonight. Are you ready?

Let's switch to the title of tonight's study. As I was thinking about sharing tonight, the Lord put this title on my heart. I began studying Amos and am still in the middle of the book. Amos was a shepherd (breeder) who prophesied for a short time to Israel. His prophecy began by describing the judgment of the nations that surrounded Israel because of their brutality and callous attitude toward human life. Then he zeroed in on Israel.

It begins in 2:6. Money was more important than human life. People were sold to pay debts. Though we do not have the same practice, the spirit behind this is the devaluing of human life. We outlawed slavery but now we permit the murder of innocents in the womb and often for financial reasons. Whether you like the choice our country made for president or not, we just elected a president that is an ardent supporter of Planned Parenthood and has promised to repeal all state laws that hinder abortion in any way. If selling people to pay a debt incurred the wrath of the Lord, what does our slaughter of millions of unborn deserve?

7-8 Exploiting the poor and sexual immorality. When we hire illegal foreign workers so we don't have to workman's comp and benefits, are we exploiting the poor? When every other show on our entertainment system encourages sexual immorality, are we a sexually immoral nation? When marriage has to be defined and the traditional marriage definition passes by a slim margin are we an immoral nation?

9-11 Has God preserved us through WW1 and WW2? Did God give us voices like Jonathan Edwards, Bill Bright, and Billy Graham?

12-16 If God removed His hand of protection, what would happen to this nation?

3:3 Does America still want to walk with God?

15 Summer and winter home luxury.

4:4-5 Religion but not worship according to spirit and truth. Pride in spirituality is rampant today.

6-8 The dust bowl, Vietnam, 9-11, hurricanes, tornadoes, and aids, but have we returned to God?

12-13 Prepare to meet God!

5:4-6 As I studied this passage, fires were devouring 1000 homes in California. Will the nation turn or continue its moral decline?

5:13 People are starting to just stay quiet about the truth rather than to face the mockery of many.

8:11 In a recent survey only 30 percent of church attendees were satisfied that they were fed the Word of God.

9:8 The eyes of the Lord are on the USA. It was 40 years after Amos prophecy was delivered that the words came to pass.

9:11-15 The Davidic kingdom restored. God is not opposed to abundance. It is the abuse of others to gain wealth that He punishes.