

The

ENGAGING GOSPEL DOCTRINE 112.2

Lesson 35 (Study Notes): [God Reveals His Secrets to His Prophets](#)

Class Member Reading: Amos 3; 7; 8; 9; Joel 2; 3; D&C 1:37-38

Amos 3; 7; 8; 9

Amos 3; 7; 8; 9

Israel's Guilt and Punishment

3 Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt:

² You only have I known

of all the families of the earth;

therefore I will punish you

for all your iniquities. (This is a powerful and challenging reversal of the core principle of covenant and election—instead of saying “You of all nations I have chosen/known, therefore you will be blessed among all nations” as God said to Abraham, Amos emphasizes the responsibility that accompanies covenant.

³ Do two walk together

unless they have made an appointment?

⁴ Does a lion roar in the forest,

when it has no prey?

Does a young lion cry out from its den,

if it has caught nothing?

⁵ Does a bird fall into a snare on the earth,

when there is no trap for it?

Does a snare spring up from the ground,

when it has taken nothing?

⁶ Is a trumpet blown in a city,

and the people are not afraid?
Does disaster befall a city,
unless the LORD has done it?

⁷ Surely the Lord GOD does nothing,
without revealing his secret (The Hebrew word “sowd”, “secret” means a confidential discussion. Specifically, the discussion of the divine council, which the prophet is then made privy to)
to his servants the prophets.

⁸ The lion has roared;
who will not fear?
The Lord GOD has spoken;
who can but prophesy?

⁹ Proclaim to the strongholds in Ashdod,
and to the strongholds in the land of Egypt,
and say, ‘Assemble yourselves on Mount Samaria,
and see what great tumults are within it,
and what **oppressions** are in its midst.’

¹⁰ They do **not know how to do right**, says the LORD,
those who store up **violence and robbery** in their strongholds.

¹¹ Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD:
An adversary shall surround the land,
and strip you of your defence;
and your strongholds shall be plundered.

¹² Thus says the LORD: As the shepherd rescues from the mouth of the lion two legs,
or a piece of an ear, so shall the people of Israel who live in Samaria be rescued, with
the corner of a couch and part of a bed.

¹³ Hear, and testify against the house of Jacob,
says the Lord GOD, the God of hosts:

¹⁴ On the day I punish Israel for its transgressions,
I will punish the altars of Bethel,
and the horns of the altar shall be cut off
and fall to the ground.

¹⁵ I will tear down the winter house as well as the summer house;

and the houses of ivory shall perish,
and the **great houses** shall come to an end,

says the LORD.

Locusts, Fire, and a Plumb-Line

7 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: he was forming locusts at the time the latter growth began to sprout (it was the latter growth after the king's mowings). ² When they had finished eating the grass of the land, I said,

'O Lord GOD, forgive, I beg you!

How can Jacob stand?

He is so small!'

³ The **LORD relented** concerning this;

'It shall not be,' said the LORD.

4 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: the Lord GOD was calling for a shower of fire, and it devoured the great deep and was eating up the land. ⁵ Then I said,

'O Lord GOD, cease, I beg you!

How can Jacob stand?

He is so small!'

⁶ The LORD relented concerning this;

'This also shall not be,' said the Lord GOD.

7 This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. ⁸ And the LORD said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb-line.' Then the Lord said,

'See, I am setting a plumb-line

in the midst of my people Israel;

I will never again pass them by;

⁹ the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,

and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,

and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.'

Amaziah Complains to the King

10 Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, 'Amos

has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said,

“Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.” ’

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, ‘O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.’

¹⁴ Then Amos answered Amaziah, ‘**I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son;** (Fascinatingly, Amos here is saying “I am not a prophet, nor of the prophetic class” He was fully an outsider to the power structures. In this way Amos emphasizes that he did not choose to be a prophet, but God called him, and he was compelled to preach) but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycomore trees, ¹⁵and **the LORD took me** from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, “Go, prophesy to my people Israel.”

¹⁶ ‘Now therefore hear the word of the LORD.

You say, “Do not prophesy against Israel,
and do not preach against the house of Isaac.”

¹⁷ Therefore, thus says the LORD:

“Your wife shall become a prostitute in the city,
and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword,
and your land shall be parcelled out by line;
you yourself shall die in an unclean land,
and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land.” ’

The Basket of Fruit

8 This is what the Lord GOD showed me—a basket of summer fruit. ²He said, ‘**Amos, what do you see?**’ (God teaches the prophet in object lessons, and then the prophet passes along the message) And I said, ‘A basket of summer fruit.’ Then the LORD said to me,

‘The end has come upon my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by.

³ The songs of the temple shall become wailings on that day,’

says the Lord GOD;
'the dead bodies shall be many,
cast out in every place. Be silent!'

⁴ Hear this, **you that trample on the needy,**
and **bring to ruin the poor of the land,**

⁵ saying, 'When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practise deceit with false balances,
⁶ **buying the poor** for silver (**debt slavery**)
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.'

⁷ The LORD has sworn by the **pride** of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

⁸ Shall not the land tremble on this account,
and everyone mourn who lives in it,
and all of it rise like the Nile,
and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?

⁹ On that day, says the Lord GOD,
I will make the sun go down at noon,
and darken the earth in broad daylight.

¹⁰ I will turn your feasts into mourning,
and all your songs into lamentation;
I will bring sackcloth on all loins,
and baldness on every head;
I will make it like the mourning for an only son,
and the end of it like a bitter day.

¹¹ The time is surely coming, says the Lord GOD,

when I will send a famine on the land;
not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water,
but of hearing the words of the LORD. (Israel will be bereft of both physical and spiritual resources, without prophets—perhaps linked to 7:12-13; Amaziah and by extension the Northern religious body gets what it wants—silence)

¹² They shall wander from sea to sea,
and from north to east;
they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD,
but they shall not find it.

¹³ In that day the beautiful young women and the young men
shall faint for thirst.

¹⁴ Those who swear by Ashimah of Samaria,
and say, 'As your god lives, O Dan',
and, 'As the way of Beer-sheba lives'—
they shall fall, and never rise again.

The Destruction of Israel

9 I saw the LORD standing beside the altar, and he said:
Strike the capitals until the thresholds shake,
and shatter them on the heads of all the people;
and those who are left I will kill with the sword;
not one of them shall flee away,
not one of them shall escape.

² Though they dig into Sheol,
from there shall my hand take them;
though they climb up to heaven,
from there I will bring them down.

³ Though they hide themselves on the top of Carmel,
from there I will search out and take them;
and though they hide from my sight at the bottom of the sea,
there I will command the sea-serpent, and it shall bite them.

⁴ And though they go into captivity in front of their enemies,
there I will command the sword, and it shall kill them;
and I will fix my eyes on them
for harm and not for good.

⁵ The Lord, GOD of hosts,
he who touches the earth and it melts,
and all who live in it mourn,
and all of it rises like the Nile,
and sinks again, like the Nile of Egypt;

⁶ who builds his upper chambers in the heavens,
and founds his vault upon the earth;
who calls for the waters of the sea,
and pours them out upon the surface of the earth—
the LORD is his name.

⁷ Are you not like the Ethiopians to me,
O people of Israel? says the LORD.

Did I not bring Israel up from the land of Egypt,
and the Philistines from Caphtor and the Arameans from Kir? (A radical subversion
of core Israelite beliefs [and challenges 3:2]—Israel is not the only chosen, special
people led and cared for by God)

⁸ The eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom,
and I will destroy it from the face of the earth—except that I will not utterly
destroy the house of Jacob,

says the LORD.

⁹ For lo, I will command,
and shake the house of Israel among all the nations
as one shakes with a sieve,
but no pebble shall fall to the ground.

¹⁰ All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword,
who say, 'Evil shall not overtake or meet us.'

The Restoration of David's Kingdom

¹¹ On that day I will raise up (There
the booth of David that is fallen,
and repair its breaches,
and raise up its ruins,
and rebuild it as in the days of old;
¹² in order that they may possess the remnant of Edom
and all the nations who are called by my name,
says the LORD who does this.

¹³ The time is surely coming, says the LORD,
when the one who ploughs shall overtake the one who reaps,
and the treader of grapes the one who sows the seed;
the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
and all the hills shall flow with it.

¹⁴ I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel,
and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine,
and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.

¹⁵ I will plant them upon their land,
and they shall never again be plucked up
out of the land that I have given them,

says the LORD your God. (This wording reverses the judgments of earlier
in the book; images of peace and plenty replace those of terror and
destruction) Talk about Messianic Era

Joel 2; 3

Joel **2** Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the **day of the LORD** is coming, it is near—

² a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
nor will be again after them
in ages to come.

³ Fire devours in front of them,
and behind them a flame burns.
Before them the land is like the garden of Eden,
but after them a desolate wilderness,
and nothing escapes them.

⁴ They have the appearance of horses,
and like warhorses they charge.
⁵ As with the rumbling of chariots,
they leap on the tops of the mountains,
like the crackling of a flame of fire
devouring the stubble,
like a powerful army
drawn up for battle.

⁶ Before them peoples are in anguish,
all faces grow pale.

⁷ Like warriors they charge,
like soldiers they scale the wall.

Each keeps to its own course,
they do not swerve from their paths.

⁸ They do not jostle one another,
each keeps to its own track;
they burst through the weapons
and are not halted.

⁹ They leap upon the city,
they run upon the walls;
they climb up into the houses,
they enter through the windows like a thief.

¹⁰ The earth quakes before them,
the heavens tremble.
The sun and the moon are darkened,
and the stars withdraw their shining.

¹¹ The LORD utters his voice
at the head of his army;
how vast is his host!
Numberless are those who obey his command.
Truly the day of the LORD is great;
terrible indeed—who can endure it?

¹² Yet **even now**, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³ **rend your hearts and not your clothing.** (This is a profound and powerful
comment. Don't rely on the outward rituals, confessing to a bishop for example, but
do the inner work of true repentance)

Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in **steadfast love**,
and relents from punishing.

¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and **relent**,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain-offering and a drink-offering
for the LORD, your God?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶ gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, 'Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
"Where is their God?" '

God's Response and Promise

¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land,
and had pity on his people.

¹⁹ **In response to his people** the LORD said:

I am sending you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a mockery among the nations.

²⁰ I will remove the northern army far from you,
and drive it into a parched and desolate land,
its front into the eastern sea,
and its rear into the western sea;
its stench and foul smell will rise up.
Surely he has done great things!

²¹ Do not fear, O soil;

be glad and rejoice,
for the LORD has done great things!
²² Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit,
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

²³ O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the LORD your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.

²⁴ The threshing-floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵ I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.

²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put
to shame.

²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again
be put to shame. (This is a touching message of hope and restoration)

God's Spirit Poured Out

²⁸ Then afterwards
I will **pour out my spirit on all flesh**;
your **sons and your daughters** shall prophesy, (The Hebrew very specifically and

explicitly mentions both sons and daughters, a rare and important inclusion)

your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days, I will pour out my spirit. (The strong emphasis is that *everyone* will have access to God)

³⁰ I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. ³² Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

3 For then, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, ² I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat, and I will enter into judgement with them there, on account of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations. They have divided my land, ³ and cast lots for my people, and traded boys for prostitutes, and sold girls for wine, and drunk it down.

⁴ What are you to me, O Tyre and Sidon, and all the regions of Philistia? Are you paying me back for something? If you are paying me back, I will turn your deeds back upon your own heads swiftly and speedily. ⁵ For you have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried my rich treasures into your temples. ⁶ You have sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks, removing them far from their own border. ⁷ But now I will rouse them to leave the places to which you have sold them, and I will turn your deeds back upon your own heads. ⁸ I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the people of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, to a nation far away; for the LORD has spoken.

Judgement in the Valley of Jehoshaphat

⁹ Proclaim this among the nations:
Prepare war,
stir up the warriors.

Let all the soldiers draw near,
let them come up.

¹⁰ Beat your ploughshares into swords,
and your pruning-hooks into spears;
let the weakling say, 'I am a warrior.'

¹¹ Come quickly,
all you nations all around,
gather yourselves there.

Bring down your warriors, O LORD.

¹² Let the nations rouse themselves,
and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat;
for there I will sit to judge
all the neighbouring nations.

¹³ Put in the sickle,
for the harvest is ripe.
Go in, tread,
for the wine press is full.
The vats overflow,
for their wickedness is great.

¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes,
in the valley of decision!
For the day of the LORD is near
in the valley of decision.

¹⁵ The sun and the moon are darkened,
and the stars withdraw their shining.

¹⁶ The LORD roars from Zion,
and utters his voice from Jerusalem,
and the heavens and the earth shake.
But the **LORD is a refuge for his people,**

a stronghold for the people of Israel.

The Glorious Future of Judah

¹⁷ So you shall know that I, the LORD your God,
dwell in Zion, my holy mountain.
And Jerusalem shall be holy,
and strangers shall never again pass through it.

¹⁸ On that day
the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
the hills shall flow with milk,
and all the stream beds of Judah
shall flow with water;
a fountain shall come forth from the house of the LORD
and water the Wadi Shittim.

¹⁹ Egypt shall become a desolation
and Edom a desolate wilderness,
because of the violence done to the people of Judah,
in whose land they have shed innocent blood.

²⁰ But Judah shall be inhabited for ever,
and Jerusalem to all generations.

²¹ I will avenge their blood, and I will not clear the guilty,
for the LORD dwells in Zion.

D&C 1:37-38

37 Search these commandments, for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies
and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled.

38 What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the
heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled,
whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same. [This last little](#)

sentence sounds so nice, but it is theologically impossible and contradicts other scriptures. Or at least, it needs to be properly interpreted to make sense in the context of lived experience and other scriptures. My proposed interpretation would be that God's word *will be fulfilled* whether spoken by God directly or through God's servants, though even that isn't always the case (one could point out that everything God's prophets say isn't "God's word".... No matter how you solve the problem it remains messy)

Additional Reading: Joseph Smith--History 1:41; D&C 1:14-28

Joseph Smith--History 1:41

41 He also quoted the second chapter of Joel, from the twenty-eighth verse to the last. He also said that this was not yet **fulfilled**, but was **soon to be**. And he further stated that the fulness of the Gentiles was soon to come in. He quoted many other passages of scripture, and offered many explanations which cannot be mentioned here.

D&C 1:14-28

14 And the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people;

15 For they have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant;

16 They seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god (**I have always found this wording strikingly apt**), whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall.

17 Wherefore, I the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, **called upon my servant Joseph Smith, Jun.**, and spake unto him from heaven, and gave him commandments;

18 And also **gave commandments to others**, that they should proclaim these things unto the world; and all this that it might be fulfilled, which was written by the prophets—

19 The weak things of the world shall come forth and break down the mighty and strong ones, that man should not counsel his fellow man, neither trust in the arm of flesh—

20 But that **every man might speak in the name of God the Lord, even the Savior of the world**; **And every woman...** same idea as Joel.

21 That **faith also might increase** in the earth;
 22 That mine everlasting covenant might be established;
 23 That the fulness of my gospel might be proclaimed by the weak and the simple unto the ends of the world, and before kings and rulers.
 24 Behold, I am God and have spoken it; these commandments are of me, and were given unto my servants **in their weakness, after the manner of their language**, that they might come to understanding. (Essential principle taught multiple places in the scriptures [2 Ne. 31:3 is a personal anchor of mine]—God teaches us not as things are, but according to our weakness and after the manner of our language, which could be expanded to culture, context, personal expectations, etc)
 25 And inasmuch as they erred it might be made known;
 26 And inasmuch as they sought wisdom they might be instructed;
 27 And inasmuch as they sinned they might be chastened, that they might repent;
 28 And inasmuch as they were humble they might be made strong, and blessed from on high, and receive knowledge from time to time.

Other Reading: The rest of Amos and Joel

Amos 4-5 for example, which provide more context for Amos' prophecies of judgment:

4Hear this word, you cows of Bashan who are on Mount Samaria, who **oppress the poor**, who **crush the needy**, who say to their husbands, "Bring something to drink!" ²The Lord GOD has **sworn by his holiness**: The time is surely coming upon you, when they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks. ³Through breaches in the wall you shall leave, each one straight ahead; and you shall be flung out into Harmon, says the LORD. ⁴Come to Bethel—and transgress; to Gilgal—and multiply transgression (turning expectations on their head, worship does not bring holiness or forgiveness if we are not caring for each other); bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes every three days; ⁵bring a thank-offering of leavened bread, and proclaim freewill offerings, publish them; for so you love to do, O people of Israel! says the Lord GOD.

⁶I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and lack of bread in all your places, **yet you did not return to me**, says the LORD. ⁷And I also withheld the rain from you when there were still three months to the harvest; I would send rain on one city, and send no rain on another city; one field would be rained upon, and the field on which

it did not rain withered; ⁸so two or three towns wandered to one town to drink water, and were not satisfied; yet you did not return to me, says the LORD. ⁹I struck you with blight and mildew; I laid waste your gardens and your vineyards; the locust devoured your fig trees and your olive trees; yet you did not return to me, says the LORD. ¹⁰I sent among you a pestilence after the manner of Egypt; I killed your young men with the sword; I carried away your horses; and I made the stench of your camp go up into your nostrils; yet you did not return to me, says the LORD. ¹¹I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were like a brand snatched from the fire; yet you did not return to me, says the LORD. ¹²Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel! ¹³For lo, the one who forms the mountains, creates the wind, reveals his thoughts to mortals, makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth— the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!

5 Hear this word that I take up over you in lamentation, O house of Israel: ²Fallen, no more to rise, is maiden Israel; forsaken on her land, with no one to raise her up. ³For thus says the Lord GOD: The city that marched out a thousand shall have a hundred left, and that which marched out a hundred shall have ten left.

⁴For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel: **Seek me and live;** ⁵but do not seek Bethel, and do not enter into Gilgal or cross over to Beer-sheba; for Gilgal shall surely go into exile, and Bethel shall come to nothing. ⁶**Seek the LORD and live,** or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. ⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! ⁸The one who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the LORD is his name, ⁹who makes destruction flash out against the strong, so that destruction comes upon the fortress. ¹⁰They **hate the one who reproves in the gate,** and they **abhor the one who speaks the truth.** ¹¹Therefore because **you trample on the poor** and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. ¹²For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins— you who **afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate.** ¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. ¹⁴**Seek good and not evil, that you may live;** and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you

have said. ¹⁵ **Hate evil and love good**, and **establish justice** in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

¹⁶ Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the Lord: In all the squares there shall be wailing; and in all the streets they shall say, "Alas! alas!" They shall call the farmers to mourning, and those skilled in lamentation, to wailing; ¹⁷ in all the vineyards there shall be wailing, for I will pass through the midst of you, says the LORD. ¹⁸ Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹ as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰ Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹ **I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.** ²² Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴ But **let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.** (Strong, challenging language. Again, God is saying that religious rituals are worthless if not accompanied by justice and righteousness acts. In fact, the plain meaning of the text is that God doesn't care at all about religious rituals, and ONLY cares about proper behavior) ²⁵ Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? ²⁶ You shall take up Sakkuth your king, and Kaiwan your star-god, your images, which you made for yourselves; ²⁷ therefore I will take you into exile beyond Damascus, says the LORD, whose name is the God of hosts.