

HOLY LIT
Part Six: Prophetic Literature
Pastor Rick Henderson **July 5-6, 2025**

The Bible is a **TIMELESS** message that's always **TIMELY**, even though it's not written about our **TIME**.

AMOS 5:18-27 *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 festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. 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 wilderness, people 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.*

SERIES THESIS: There's a **BACKSTORY** to the story.

BACKSTORY

- King Jeroboam II: He was successful militarily and economically. Yet, he tolerated idolatry and injustice for the poor.
- The surrounding nations were accused of injustice. Yet, the harshest condemnation was reserved for Israel.
- God rejected their hypocrisy and pronounced judgment for their unrighteousness and injustice.
- God promised restoration.

AMOS 2:6-16 *This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not relent. They sell the innocent for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals. They trample on the heads of the poor as on the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed. Father and son use the same girl and so profane my holy name. They lie down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge. In the house of their god they drink wine taken as fines. "Yet I destroyed the Amorites before them, though they were tall as the cedars and strong as the oaks. I destroyed their fruit above and their roots below. I brought you up out of Egypt and led you forty years in the wilderness to give you the land of the Amorites. "I also raised up prophets from among your children and Nazirites from among your youths. Is this not true, people of Israel?" declares the LORD. "But you made the Nazirites drink wine and commanded*

the prophets not to prophesy. "Now then, I will crush you as a cart crushes when loaded with grain. The swift will not escape, the strong will not muster their strength, and the warrior will not save his life. The archer will not stand his ground, the fleet-footed soldier will not get away, and the horseman will not save his life. Even the bravest warriors will flee naked on that day," declares the LORD.

UNRIGHTEOUSNESS & INJUSTICE

- Exploitation of the poor
- Denial of justice and legal representation for the oppressed
- Sexual immorality
- Corrupt religious leaders, institutions, and practices
- Ingratitude and forgetting what God did for them

Religious hypocrisy perpetuates **INJUSTICE** by divorcing the **SPIRITUAL** from the **PHYSICAL**.

PROVERBS 31:8-9 *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.*

JEREMIAH 22:3 *This is what the LORD says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.*

PSALM 146:7-9 *He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.*

AMOS 5:24 *But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!*

When you do justice, you are upholding righteousness...Righteous (tsedaqah) at its core is a relational term meaning a standard of right relationships...it's an ethical standard that consists of people in right relationships... Justice (meshpat) is the actions you stake to display that standard. -Tim Mackie

Trusting the Bible should lead us to think **PROPHETICALLY**, not **POLITICALLY**.

RIGHTEOUSNESS & JUSTICE

1. Universal Dignity
2. Deliberate Care
3. Radical Generosity

JOB 29:11-17 *Whoever heard me spoke well of me, and those who saw me commended me, because I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to assist them.*

*The one who was dying blessed me; I made the widow's heart sing. **I put on righteousness as my clothing; justice was my robe and my turban.** I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. I was a father to the needy; I took up the case of the stranger. I broke the fangs of the wicked and snatched the victims from their teeth.*

JOB 31:16-22 *"If I have denied the desires of the poor or let the eyes of the widow grow weary, if I have kept my bread to myself, not sharing it with the fatherless— but from my youth I reared them as a father would, and from my birth I guided the widow— if I have seen anyone perishing for lack of clothing, or the needy without garments, and their hearts did not bless me for warming them with the fleece from my sheep, if I have raised my hand against the fatherless, knowing that I influenced court, then let my arm fall from the shoulder, let it be broken off at the joint."*

The righteous are willing to disadvantage themselves to advantage the community; the wicked are willing to disadvantage the community to advantage themselves. —Tim Keller

AMOS 9:11-15 *"In that day "I will restore David's fallen shelter— I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins— and will rebuild it as it used to be, so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name," declares the LORD, who will do these things. "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills, and I will bring my people Israel back from exile. "They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them," says the LORD your God.*

The goal of justice is not to bring anyone **DOWN**, but to lift everyone **UP**. This was accomplished by the one at the **TOP** putting himself on the **BOTTOM**.